

Catholic Worldview Mark #2

The 5 Marks of a Catholic School remind us that Catholic schools have a visible and tangible Catholic vision evident in their physical space, liturgical celebrations, and prayer life. In other words, Catholic schools will embrace and share a Catholic worldview in all aspects of school life and learning.

Our recent celebration of Lent and Easter are opportunities for Catholic schools to share Christ's passion and resurrection with students, staff and the community at large, and our Alberta Catholic schools embraced this opportunity. Throughout our province schools were praying the Stations of the Cross, taking care of those in need and recognizing the liturgical significance of Lent. As students returned following Easter, the joy and brilliance of Easter were in evidence everywhere!



Students re-enacting the Stations of the Cross, St. Thomas More, Edmonton Catholic Schools.



RS Fowler Jr High bring to life the Way of the Cross at Holy Family Parish, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools



Students from Fort McMurray and Lakeland Catholic schools participating in service projects in Peru and Mexico.



The mission of **GrACE** is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf.



GrACE is growing!

We now have **10** confirmed GrACE groups within the province. Read on for an update of who they are and what they've been doing:

GrACE Groups

GrACE CTR	Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools
GrACE ECSD	Edmonton Catholic School District
GrACE EICS	Elk Island Catholic Schools
GrACE STAR	St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Schools
GrACE CCSD	Calgary Catholic School District
GrACE ECACS	East Central Alberta Catholic Schools
GrACE HFCD	Valleyview Holy Family Catholic Schools
GrACE LCSD	Lakeland Catholic Schools
GrACE ECSRD	Evergreen Catholic Schools
GrACE GPCSD	Grande Prairie Catholic Schools



Trustees, priests, senior leaders and parents gathered for Medicine Hat Catholic's GrACE workshop.

#gottagracegroup



Celebrating the creation of Lakeland Catholic's GrACE group. Welcome!

Medicine Hat Catholic Workshop Participant Comments...

- "I feel right now that what I am doing is insufficient and want to do more with my ability to advocate for Catholic education." (Priest)
- "I feel a lot more confident in moving forward now. Thank you!"

Catholic Education Week – May 6 – 10
World Catholic Education Day – May 30

GrACE Top Toolkit Tips

1. Create an Advocacy Plan. Many have been asking for a GrACE planning template. The templates were emailed to all CCSSA and ACSTA members in March. A link to the document is included here. This spring, make planning your TOP priority. [GrACE Adocacy Plan](#)
2. Engage your communities. Set opportunities to gather, share your stories and learn more about Catholic education. Create opportunities for dialogue. Listen and gather feedback.

GrACE April Updates

Grande Prairie Catholic Schools' Board of Trustees has hosted engagement sessions in three of their communities. The results have been outstanding, with large turnouts and positive energy.



Edmonton Catholic Schools' GrACE committee supported and endorsed an ECSD Board of Trustees led Parent Engagement Evening held April 3 at St Joseph's High School. Over 200 parents and guardians were in attendance.



The highlight of the evening was a presentation by Dean Sarnecki on The Future of Catholic Education.



Over 350 participated in a large-scale GrACE engagement meeting with the **Calgary Catholic Schools District** during the evening of April 25. Participants included Bishop McGrattan, principals, staff and parents from each of our 115 schools, as well as pastors, members of religious orders, representatives from the Knights of Columbus and CWL, trustees and district staff. The CCSD GrACE steering committee presented information about the success, importance and history of Catholic education within Alberta. Table conversation engaged participants in sharing stories and examples about the meaning of Catholic education and ideas for local advocacy plans. This engagement evening will hopefully inspire, invigorate and embolden our advocates to take local actions across our district, parishes and communities.



"The community GrACE consultation felt like a warm hug, as community members gathered to share their experiences in Catholic education."
GPCSD

Holy Family Catholic Regional Schools hosted a very successful engagement night in their Valleyview community. The crowd and support was fantastic and, as a result, they were able to form a GrACE group in the community of Valleyview.



Wow! Celebrating Valleyview's (Holy Family Regional Catholic District) new GrACE group.

STAR Catholic schools hosted three community events in the month of April. They have learned that they need more parents and parishioners to attend, but the staff have been a huge support! One attendee reported: *"My perception has increased of how Catholic education has impacted my life and my family's lives."*



GrACE Facebook page is www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed

GrACE Twitter address is @GrACE4cathed

Celebrating Catholic Schools Hashtag [#ibelieveinCatholic](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ibelieveinCatholic)

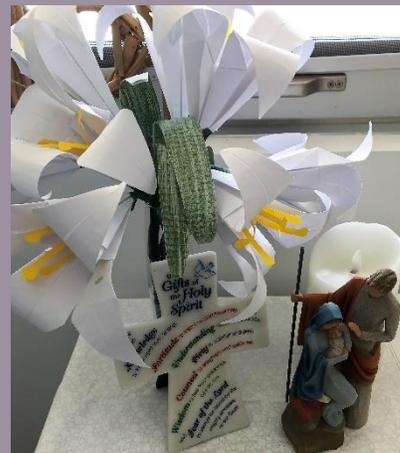
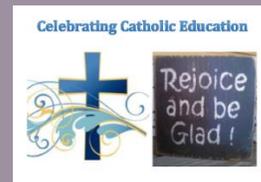
Email GrACE at gracedirector7@gmail.com

advocacy. They have developed an adaptation of the logo for their purpose.



East Central Alberta Catholic Schools GrACE group has made presentations to most of their parent councils and have shared facts about Catholic Education in their newsletters and parish bulletins.

Elk Island Catholic Schools is wrapping up its first annual GrACE Celebrating Catholic Education contest, with winners to be announced in local parishes on the Sunday prior to Catholic Education week. Their next task is to schedule community engagements in their district.



Alleluia!
An Easter welcome back to students at Holy Family Academy in Brooks.

GrACE is a partnership of stakeholders resolutely committed to Catholic education within the province of Alberta.

The gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta is a true blessing. As a community we are called in gratitude, faith and action to ensure that our children and future generations continue to learn and grow in our Catholic schools