

## **Easter 2025 Message from the Director of Education to the Community**

It is certain that memories of Easter 2025 will remain with us for a lifetime. Easter is truly the most wonderful time in the Church's liturgical year and the culmination of our faith journey. On Easter Monday, however, our Easter joy was met with profound sadness by the news that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, died. We are grieving the loss of our beloved shepherd, while at the same time we give thanks to God for his remarkable leadership, love and legacy. Pope Francis' life and his death are powerful reminders of Jesus' resurrection and victory over death. Even in our grief, we are affirmed in our hope and God's eternal promise of life everlasting. At Easter, we see countless signs of hope: we welcome new members into the Church giving us a renewed sense of community; we renew our Baptismal promises and recommit ourselves to living out our faith; we are sprinkled with water and sing "Alleluia" with immense joy and gratitude. We go forth to love and serve the Lord secure in the knowledge of life everlasting.

As Catholics, we are called to be missionary disciples. This call to discipleship is lived out in our homes, workplaces, schools, parishes, and communities. It is demonstrated in our service and support of others, through unconditional love, welcome, and care. Pope Francis was an exemplary model of this throughout his life. Even during his recent period of illness, he continued to show us the way of unwavering faith and unconditional love. As a Catholic community, we will undoubtedly move through this year's Easter season with a heightened awareness of the sacredness of life and the importance of committing ourselves to God with all our hearts, minds and souls. We place our trust in the Holy Spirit, knowing that God will guide the Church in its mission, throughout this time of transition and for all time. God will continue to send people into the world to proclaim its mission and to witness to the Gospel of Christ.

Through the inspiring witness of Pope Francis' life and the hope of the Easter promise, our schools remain places where faith is nurtured and shared through the daily learning and work of staff and students. We are called to be living witnesses - signs and symbols of faith, hope, love, and peace. This is evident throughout our hallways, classrooms, and staff rooms. Every member of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board community contributes to who we are, demonstrating our response to Easter: to spread the Good News and live in the light of the Resurrection.

The blessing of Easter is just beginning! During the next 50 days of the Easter season, we journey toward Pentecost, which is the inspiration for our Board's spiritual theme "On Fire with the Spirit: Awaken. Illuminate. Rejoice." Easter invites us to rededicate ourselves: to live our faith with vigour, to share Christ's light abundantly, and to cultivate joy in our relationship with God and each other. We are called to intentionally nurture our faith, which in our schools takes form through Religion and Family Life programs, prayer, the Sacraments, Christian Service, speaking our faith, living the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, and engaging with our Family of Parishes. As we move through this sacred season, let us rise to the challenge of becoming a community truly "on fire with the Spirit" - where every classroom, every interaction, and every act of service reflects the transforming power of the Holy Spirit alive in us.

As members of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board community, united with the broader Church, let us pray that this Easter season and the witness of Pope Francis' life will ignite our efforts to deepen our faith, intentionally grow in our spiritual lives, and share hope and love with all.

Peace,  
Karen Tigani  
Director of Education



Artistic Credit - Jennifer Norton "Pentecost"