



CARFLEO⁺

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF RELIGIOUS & FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS OF ONTARIO

Winter Newsletter



'PEACE BE WITH YOU!': POPE LEO XIV'S FIRST BOOK

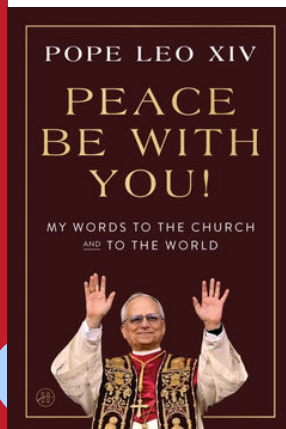
The Vatican has announced that Pope Leo XIV's first full-length book, *Peace Be With You: My Words to the Church and to the World*, will be released on February 24, 2026. The book, to be published by HarperOne, gathers the Holy Father's sermons and addresses since his election on May 8, 2025. Reflecting the title drawn from the Risen Christ's first words, the book captures Leo's central message of peace, unity, and reconciliation — themes he emphasized from his first public blessing at St. Peter's Basilica. According to HarperOne, the collection highlights "the primacy of God, communion within the Church, and the global pursuit of peace." The publisher noted that Leo XIV, the first North American pope in history, speaks with "a humility that bridges cultures and faith traditions," often stressing the call for leaders to "disappear so that Christ remains." *Peace Be With You* is expected to offer a deeply personal expression of the pope's pastoral vision — one rooted in humility and directed toward healing a divided world.



Pope Leo's Monthly Prayer Intentions
January - June 2026

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Pope Leo's book to be released Feb 24, 2026.

Let us help each other discover this encounter with Christ who gives us life, and let us set out on a journey as pilgrims of hope to celebrate that life,"
~Pope Francis



Message from your Chair of CARFLEO, Mike Gundert

Happy New Year! As we begin 2026, we can reflect on the joys and blessings of the previous year as we set new goals and hopes for the year ahead. The previous year was excellent for CARFLEO, and it was great to be able to meet many of you at a variety of Catholic gatherings throughout the province. We were able to interact with many people at When Faith Meets Pedagogy, especially at the CARFLEO table in the vendors area. Thanks for dropping by, for grabbing a giveaway, and for interacting with us!

The CARFLEO executive is once again joyfully planning for the upcoming conference & retreat, which will take place on Tuesday March 24th and Wednesday March 25th, 2026. This year, the theme is We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe, which will have a liturgical focus. We trust that many different educators will benefit from this offering: consultants, faith animators, chaplaincy leaders, teachers, early childhood educators, department heads, administrators, faith ambassadors, special education teams and more! All of the details can be found within the newsletter. Please be sure to register by March 5. We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 conference and retreat!

The annual CARFLEO Award Nominations are live and links available within the newsletter. There are three awards that are recognized:

- Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for Excellence in Religious Education
- Fr. Angus MacDougall Award for Excellence in Family Life Education
- Seeds of Hope New Teacher Award

Please do nominate someone from your board! You likely know many colleagues worthy of each of these awards that recognize the amazing work that takes place every day in Catholic Education in Ontario. Each nomination is limited to 250 words, and please note the deadline of February 10. This will provide the executive with sufficient time to select and notify award recipients, their nominators, and special guests so that they can attend the presentation at the annual conference & retreat.

God Bless and on behalf of the CARFLEO executive, we look forward to seeing you in March!

Mike Gundert, Chair – CARFLEO

“Christian love breaks down every barrier, brings close those who were distant, unites strangers, and reconciles enemies ...”

Pope Leo, Apostolic Exhortation “Dilexi Te” (“I have loved you”), Oct. 9, 2025

Resource Spotlight - page 10



A Time for Reflection

Most Rev. W. L. Lobsinger

Religious Educators: Helping Students Know God

My Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

2026 has gotten off to a rather rocky start. War, the threat of new wars and invasions, violence and with economic uncertainty, this new year doesn't seem destined to be a year of peace and joy. Sadly, at the current time, we live in a world filled with so many tensions and conflicts.

How does one stay sane amid all of this? We know the only answer is by our Faith. Faith gives us the wisdom and courage to keep moving forward even when times are difficult. This is why your role as Catholic Educators, and in particular Catholic Religious Educators, is so important.

Helping our young people to learn to rely on God is so essential, especially today. When everything around them is in flux and changing, the Faith can be and should be the constant in their lives that gives meaning to all things, good and difficult.

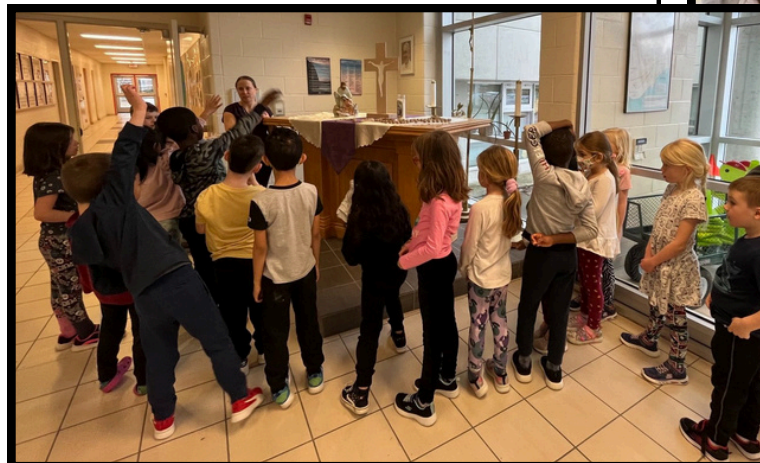
As Religious Educators, you are called not just to teach our students about the dogmas of the Church, but more importantly to help them develop a relationship with the God behind the dogma, with the God who created all things, and by whose grace all things continue in existence. Helping our young people know God, know that He exists and that He wants to be their support and strength is the best gift we can offer to those entrusted to our care.

I pray that each of us will continue to develop our own relationship with and trust in our loving God, so that we can better help our students and co-workers to do the same. We need God now more than ever. Keep trusting in His love for you and keep helping others to grow their own relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May God's grace fill each of us with complete trust in Him and His wisdom, so that we can know His peace even in times of confusion and strife.

May God bless us all,

Bishop W. L. Lobsinger



Catholic Education Prayer

God of grace and love,
Strengthen and sustain us
as we continue to journey
as pilgrims of hope.

Guide us on the path to holiness
with the light of your love.
Inspire us to serve joyfully
in the love of Christ
through the beautiful examples
of the saints.

As we journey together in faith, may
we experience
the peace of Christ
through the presence of one another.

We pray that all young people
in our Catholic schools
may believe,
and become empowered by,
three important Gospel messages:
"God loves you!" "Christ saves you!"
"The Holy Spirit lives in you!"
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen



Catholic Education Week: Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness MAY 3 - 8, 2026



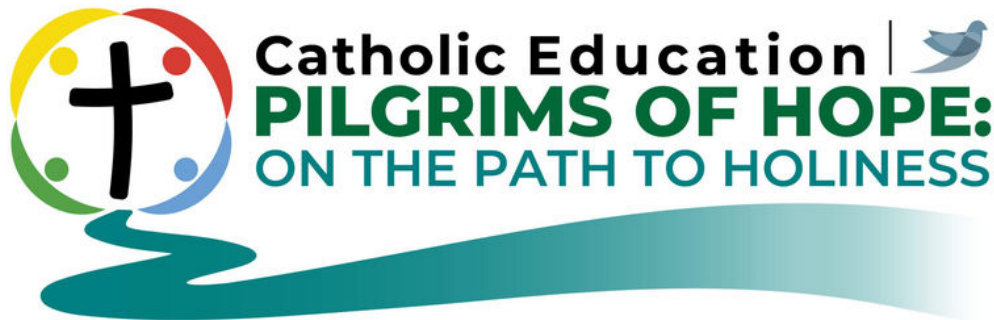
"As God who called you is holy, be holy yourselves." (1 Peter 1:15-16)

The five sub-themes for Catholic Education Week explore ways to live out Pope Francis' call for each one of us to be Pilgrims of Hope, on the path to holiness...

- Peace be with you (Monday)
- God loves you (Tuesday)
- Christ saves you (Wednesday)
- The Holy Spirit lives in you (Thursday)
- Together on the journey (Friday)

goodnewsforall.ca

****We encourage you to use the Catholic Education Week resources throughout the school year.****
CEW 2026 "Pilgrims of Hope" - [Song, Lyrics & Sheet Music](#)
[Catholic Education "Pilgrims of Hope" Monthly Bulletins](#)



Important Dates

- CARFLEO Awards Nominations (due February 10)
- LENT (Wednesday, February 18 – Thursday, April 2)
- CARFLEO Conference & Retreat,
 - Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga
 - (March 24 – 25, [Register](#) by March 5)
- EOCCC [Conference](#), Brookstreet Hotel, Kanata (April 30, 2026)
- EASTER WEEKEND (April 3 - 6)
- CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness (May 3 – 8)
 - CEW Livestream Provincial Mass (May 6, 11:00 am)





2026 ANNUAL CARFLEO⁺ CONFERENCE & RETREAT

We are excited to invite you and your colleagues to attend the
2026 CARFLEO Conference and Retreat:

Theme: Liturgical Celebrations in Schools

Date: Tuesday, March 24 (4 pm) to Wednesday, March 25, 2025 (2:30 pm)

Location: Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga

"How good it is to sing praises to our God!"

Psalm 147:1

Keynote Speakers

Dcn. Jim Panchaud
(Chaplain, R.F. Hall CSS)

Annette Donovan Panchaud
(Director, Ignite Ministry Canada)

Janet Loo
(Mgr of Campus Ministry & Musical
Director, King's University College
and Member, National Council
for Liturgical Music)

Workshops

Effective
Liturgy

Leading
Liturgical
Music

Preparing
for a
School
Mass

Forms
of
Prayer

The
Liturgical
Year

REGISTER HERE

Registration closes March 5.

CARFLEO AWARD NOMINATIONS

The annual CARFLEO Award nominations are now open!
Please find below the links to each of the nomination forms.

The award descriptions are on the nomination forms.

Please note a limit of 250 words per nomination

Due: Tuesday, February 10.

[Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for Excellence in Religious Education](#)

[Fr. Angus MacDougall Award for Excellence in Family Life Education](#)

[Seeds of Hope New Teacher Award](#)

CARFLEO Awards

Do you know a deserving Catholic Educator who exemplifies one of our CARFLEO Awards? Each year CARFLEO recognizes the faith contribution of exemplary Catholic educators through the presentation of three awards. Click on each award link below to access the nomination forms, **due February 10.**

[The Archbishop Philip Pocock Award](#) for Excellence in Religious Education is awarded annually to an Ontario Catholic school religious educator who demonstrates excellence in one or more of the following areas in Religious Education and faith formation:

- Care and commitment to engaging and supporting student learning.
- Knowledge and demonstration of best practices.
- Innovations in practice.
- On-going contributions beyond their own classroom at a provincial level.
- Leadership in initiating and sustaining opportunities for growth with colleagues.
- Continuous updating and improving of personal practice as a religious educator.

[The Fr. Angus MacDougall Award](#) for Excellence in Family Life Education is awarded annually to an Ontario Catholic school family life educator who demonstrates excellence in one or more of the following areas in Family Life Education:

- Outstanding contributions at the provincial level.
- Care and commitment to engaging and supporting student learning.
- Knowledge and demonstration of best practices.
- Innovations in practice.
- On-going contributions beyond their own classroom.
- Leadership in initiating and sustaining opportunities for growth with colleagues.
- Continuous updating and improving of personal practice.

[The Seeds of Hope New Teacher Award](#) for Excellence in Religious and Family Life Education is awarded annually to an Ontario Catholic school religious and/or family life educator who is within the first five years of their teaching career after receiving their Ontario Teaching Certificate. This individual demonstrates excellence in one or more of the following areas:

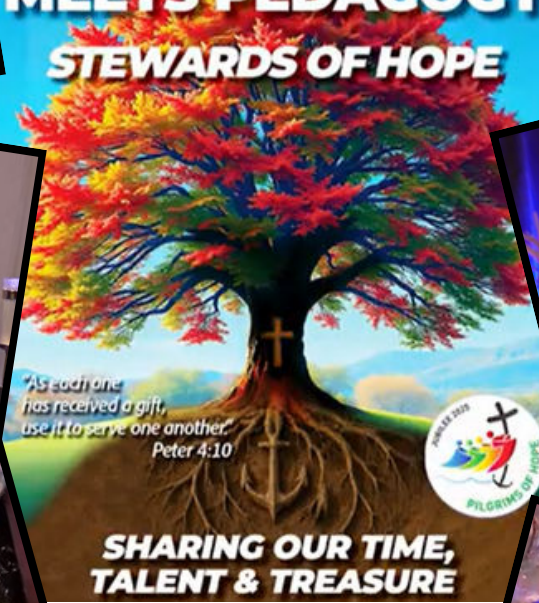
- Care and commitment to engaging and supporting student learning in religious education and faith formation.
- Provides an ongoing and intentional invitation for their students, their families and the staff to hear the invitation and to encounter Christ just as the disciples did on the Road to Emmaus.
- Possesses community-mindedness by involving students in social justice/social engagement.
- Models gratitude and instills hope in the community.
- Exemplifies the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations in their teaching practice.
- Participates in the liturgical life of the school community/parish.
- Seeks out professional and spiritual growth activities.
- Strives to keep Jesus at the centre of their school community and at the centre of their own life.

When Faith Meets Pedagogy

October 2025 Highlights



**WHEN FAITH
MEETS PEDAGOGY**
STEWARDS OF HOPE



WFMP 2026
Conference - Oct 23-24, 2026

Resource Spotlight

Celebrating Black History

Black Saints [slides](#)

Poet Lauret Randall Anjali [video](#)



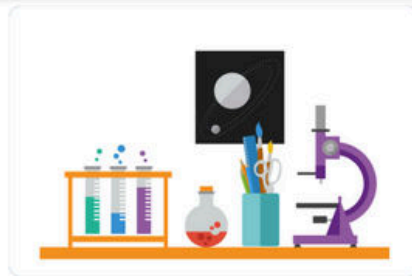
Catholic Curriculum Corporation (CCC) - Variety of great K-12 teaching [resources](#).



Our Organization Gallery Events Resources Contact



Faith in Every Word: A Journey Through Morphology and Meaning



Setting Direction: Faith Framed Intermediate Science and Technology



Rooted And Reaching: Bringing Catholic Faith Into Grade 6 Social Studies

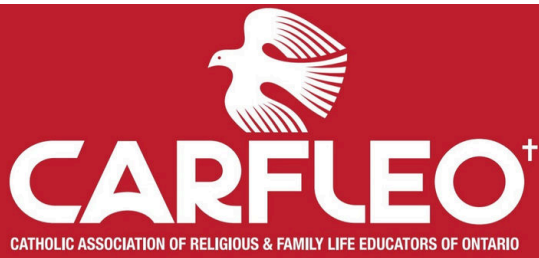
[Formed.org](#) - Catholic streaming service provided by participating parishes.

Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness
L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins d'espérance: sur le chemin de la sainteté



"As God who called you is holy, be holy yourselves". 1 Peter 1:15-16

Catholic Education Week	Book Title & Author	ISBN #
Monday: <i>Peace be with you</i>	Say Something Peter H. Reynolds	ISBN: 9780545865036
Tuesday: <i>God loves you</i>	Mostly What God Does Is Love You Savannah Guthrie	ISBN: 9780310160281
Wednesday: <i>Christ saves you</i>	The Tale of Three Trees Angela Elwell Hunt	ISBN: 9780745917436
Thursday: <i>The Holy Spirit lives in you</i>	The Invisible String Patrice Karst	ISBN: 9780316570879
Friday: <i>Together on the journey</i>	Growing God Karen Kiefer	ISBN: 9781640609082



Our Mission and Vision

CARFLEO, the Catholic Association of Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario, is an organization dedicated to supporting Elementary and Secondary Catholic educators through their boards' Religious and Family Life Education office in their ongoing learning and engagement in the subject areas of Religious Education and Family Life.

Working closely with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO), CARFLEO commits to being partners in education with the many organizations within the province that support the ongoing growth and development of theological thought, religious education and family life.

CARFLEO works to engage educators in Religious and Family Life Education priorities in the province and the world at large. CARFLEO.com offers its members many resources to assist them in their role as Catholic educators. CARFLEO also offers in-person opportunities for educators to learn from one another and to share the Good News across the province.

Our vision for CARFLEO is for the members to continue to renew their promise and commitment to the promotion and growth of Catholic Education in the Province of Ontario and beyond.

CARFLEO Executive 2024-25

Keri Calvesbert, Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB

Rick Frias, Windsor-Essex CDSB

Mike Gundert, Algonquin Lakeshore CDSB (Chair)

Jennifer Koch, PVNC Catholic DSB (Newsletter)

Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger, Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton

Lisa Malcom, Toronto CDSB (Secretary)

John Murphy, Waterloo CDSB

Stephanie Parniak, Huron-Superior CDSB

Caroline Thuss, Huron-Perth CDSB (Treasurer)

Kate Veinotte, CDSB of Eastern Ontario (Newsletter)

Amanda Wagg-Boyer, Niagara CDSB

Julie Webster, Dufferin Peel CDSB

CONNECT WITH US

[CARFLEO.com](https://www.carfleo.com)



Have something you'd like to share for an upcoming CARFLEO newsletter?

Deadline for submissions is 2 weeks prior to publication dates.

Send to: Jennifer Koch at jeatonkoch@pvncdsb.on.ca or Kate Veinotte at kate.veinotte@cdsbeo.on.ca

Upcoming newsletters: Spring - March 15 and Year End - May 15