



The **Catholic Bishops**
of **Alberta** and the
Northwest Territories

Les **évêques catholiques**
de l'**Alberta** et des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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October 5, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Our theme for Catholic Education Sunday this year is: “Courage to Lead”. Parents, educators, administrators, trustees, and clergy are all invited to engage their responsibility of leadership to strengthen and promote Catholic education, through which we lead the children entrusted to our care to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ.

Publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta is a unique and cherished historical gift, for which we are grateful. It is an invaluable offering to both the Catholic community and wider society, carrying growing responsibility in an increasingly secular world. In the face of many societal changes and challenges, we share the responsibility of ensuring that our faith-based education remains steadfast in its fidelity to the teachings of the Church. We are all called to lead with courage, secure in God’s love.

Leadership within Catholic Education involves guidance with a sense of purpose, driven by the mission to nurture in our young people a joyful reliance upon the Holy Spirit, unwavering trust in the words of the Lord Jesus, and abiding confidence in the providence of our Heavenly Father. Beyond academic excellence, dedicated educators will permeate all aspects of school life with the Catholic faith. Parents and clergy have their role to play by strengthening the relationship of our schools with both home and parish. In addition, all Catholics exercise their responsibility by offering the support of their prayers and advocating strongly for our schools. Every effort counts in the promotion of our Catholic education system.

For our part, we Bishops pledge our leadership and support in the service of our schools. We look forward to our continuing engagement with parents, trustees, administrators, teachers, and clergy to ensure that our schools are places of authentic Catholic community, in which our beloved students come to know the joy of friendship with Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

May God bless our Catholic schools.

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, starting with a cross and the name 'Richard'.

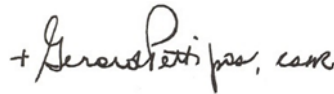
Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross and the name 'William McGrattan'.

Most Reverend William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross and the name 'Gary Franken'.

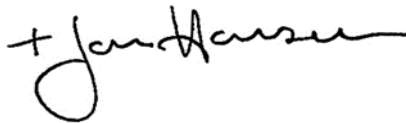
Most Reverend Gary Franken
Bishop of St. Paul

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross and the name 'Gerard Pettipas'.

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross and the name 'David'.

Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of
Edmonton

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross and the name 'Jon Hansen'.

Most Reverend Jon Hansen, CSsR
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith