



Telling Our Story

November 2018

Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools



District Religious Education Update

On the weekend of November 3 and 4, parishes across Alberta celebrated the gift of Catholic Education. At Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools, we are blessed to have been a part of the legacy of Catholic Education in Alberta for 154 years. Within each of the six Telling Our Story bulletins that will be distributed at the parishes of St. Albert (St. Albert), Holy Family (St. Albert), St. Jean Baptiste (Morinville), St. Emile (Legal), and Our Lady of Loretto (Edmonton Garrison) this school year, GSACRD will share examples of how our Catholic faith is being experienced, shared, and put into action within our 17 schools.

Our district's faith theme this year is *Living Like Jesus; We Are Stewards*. It is through loving service that we live out our faith; sanctifying the world through our model and witness of Jesus Christ. We humbly ask your prayers for continued blessings upon our students, staff, and families, and for Catholic Education.

God Bless,

-Colin Loiselle, Religious Education Consultant,
Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools



École Notre Dame students with some of the 800lbs of food they donated to the Morinville Food Bank.



Sister Alphonse Academy Official Opening

On October 23, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools celebrated the Official Opening and Blessing of this new K-9 school in Jensen Lakes, St. Albert.

Sister Alphonse Academy opened its doors on September 4 and honours the namesake of the founding members of faith-based education in the province, the Sisters of Charity (more commonly known as the Grey Nuns).

"Sister Alphonse was the first teacher in the District who was an exemplary model of community service through witnessing our Catholic faith," comments Board Chair, Joe Becigneul. "The opening of Sister Alphonse Academy will serve as a legacy for many students, families and the community for years to come; much like the Grey Nuns influence in our region for more than 150 years."

This is the first school the District has built since J.J. Nearing Catholic Elementary School opened in 1998. The school will address current and future growth in St. Albert. The building features modern learning spaces that support 21st Century Learning and has the capacity for 400 students in kindergarten to grade nine.

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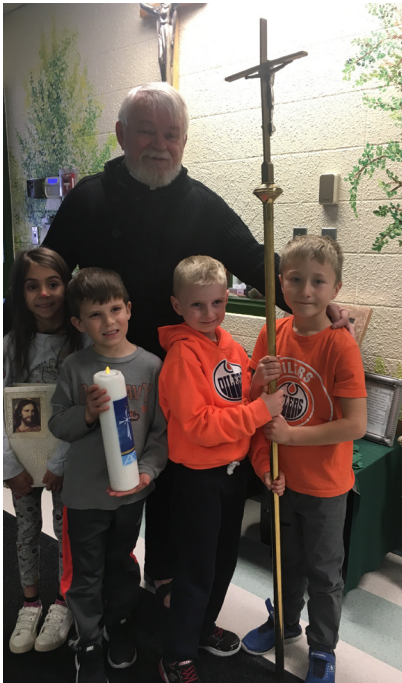
Faith In Action

Blessings abound this new school year at École Notre Dame Elementary School! To date we have had the opportunity to witness to our faith through our whole school opening and Thanksgiving liturgies, presided by Father Trini. We were also blessed to offer our religion students an opportunity to share in an opening mass at St. Jean Baptiste Parish, where our grade four students received Bibles. Our school continues the tradition of social justice through our participation in 'Orange Shirt Day' and thorough our collection of over 800 lbs. of food for the Morinville Food Bank.

As a school community, École Notre Dame has embraced October as the month of the Rosary and have included daily lessons and prayers on the Rosary for our entire student body. We will culminate our celebration of the Rosary by sharing a 'Living Rosary' with all of our Religion students; helping them develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Rosary as it is presented in a faith-filled and interactive manner.



Grade 4 students at Bertha Kennedy received their Bibles at the opening liturgy in September.



The Neil M Ross school family has had a wonderful start to our school year. We were very excited to welcome Fr. Jozef to Holy Family Parish. He was able to join us for our Thanksgiving celebration where he shared stories of how even the littlest of students can share their God given gifts - acts of stewardship. Our grade 4 classes joined the community at the parish for a weekday mass when they received their bibles. It was a very special moment for all of the students and their families. Thank you to the community for being there as a support for them as well.



G.H. Primeau Faculty volunteered on their Retreat Day to help Catholic Social Services prepare for *Uplift: Day of Mercy*. This was their second year to volunteer with this event. The faculty sorted warm clothing, assisted in the set up for Uplift Day, and filled bags with donations that would be given to approximately 1000 people.



Students at MCHS commemorated Orange Shirt Day by unveiling an art piece centred on the theme, Every Child Matters.



Students from Bertha Kennedy, Sister Alphonse, Ecole Father Jan and Albert Lacombe elementary schools made up the student choir that sang at the 11:00 a.m. children's mass at St. Albert Parish.



Students at RS Fowler Junior High reflected on what they are grateful for and celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass by collecting food for the St. Albert Food Bank.

