



Jubilee Year of Hope
May 2025

For Educators

HEROES OF HOPE

Heroes of Hope is a monthly newsletter from the Diocese of Hamilton, shining a light on the extraordinary individuals and ministries who inspire hope and transform lives in our communities.

#HEROESOFHOPE

Rooted in the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, **Catholic education in the Diocese of Hamilton proclaims the good news of God’s enduring love to staff, students, and their families.** Our Catholic schools foster environments where faith and learning grow together, nurturing the development of the whole person. In partnership with families, parishes, and the broader community, our Catholic schools continue the Church’s mission of forming compassionate, faith-filled individuals who strive to serve others and live out the Gospel message. This ministry of Catholic education remains a vital expression of hope for future generations.



Catholic Educators

Catholic educators are dedicated to promoting Catholic values and fostering their students’ spiritual growth. Through a well-developed pedagogy, they address students’ academic, spiritual, and moral learning needs. They enhance programs by offering outreach opportunities for students to engage with the community and contribute to social justice projects. It is common to see high school students assisting with local food kitchens and food/clothing drives for the marginalized.

The relationship between learning and believing is fundamental in Catholic Schools. Catholic educators take on the responsibility of not only teaching essential skills and knowledge but also teaching Catholic virtue through careful attention to the Catholic Graduate Expectations of Ontario.



Catholic Trustees

In the province of Ontario, the Catholic education system is governed by locally elected officials called Catholic School Trustees. Our trustees hold an important role in Catholic Education, overseeing policies and procedures that guide the school boards in their operation. Catholic School Trustees are servant leaders, dedicated to representing the wider Catholic community in faith.



In a school community of nearly 2,000 students, we know that hope is built when each person feels welcomed, valued, and supported.

By building a culture of compassion and justice, we are showing the next generation that hope is not just a feeling — it is something we create together, through faith, courage, and love.

- Deb and Ella, Assumption College School, Brantford.



Chaplaincy



In the Diocese of Hamilton, we are blessed with Chaplaincy Leaders in our Catholic High Schools, alternative learning centres, and some elementary schools as well.

Chaplains play a vital role in fostering the spiritual growth of students and staff. They assist in deepening the understanding and practice of faith, provide emotional and spiritual support, offer guidance during difficult times, and work to create a nurturing environment.

Chaplains help build community within the school by promoting values such as compassion, respect, and service. They often collaborate with teachers to integrate faith-based perspectives into the curriculum, enriching the educational experience. Faith experiences are not limited to the classroom; chaplains provide enriching retreats and opportunities to engage with the community, supporting social justice and Catholic social teachings.



I love my Catholic school because it's so diverse and beautiful. We have students from all different walks of life, but we come together out of love for Jesus. - *Ayomide, Grade 6*

Catholic education gives me the opportunity to open my heart to God and to others. - *Jolene, Grade 6*

Administration and Support Staff

Support staff in our schools play a vital role in fostering a holistic environment for students. They provide specialized support for learning disabilities, mental health issues, and other challenges. Trained to offer assistance, support staff ensure all students have access to the resources they need to thrive. Additionally, they contribute to school operations through administrative duties and enhance the sense of community in our Catholic schools. It is not uncommon to see custodial staff helping students when they need a caring adult.



Did you know?
Each year in the month of May we celebrate **Catholic Education Week** in Ontario. Learn more about our Catholic Schools in the Diocese here:
www.hamiltondiocesecew.com



HEROES OF HOPE PRAYER FOR EDUCATORS

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism, you have given us new life in Christ and called us to serve as pilgrims of hope.

We pray in thanksgiving for those who have responded to your call to serve in our many education communities. We praise you for the witness of their faith and the gifts of wisdom and knowledge they generously share with their students, inspiring them to be missionary disciples, who love and care for one another and for our common home.

Through their varied ministries, may they touch the hearts of all in our community who long for the hope, born of our Christian faith, that never disappoints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



As a Catholic educator I am fortunate to work within a Catholic school in which I can celebrate and teach the faith every day. The privilege to work alongside other Catholic educators to witness the faith allows our young people to feel and experience the love of Christ.

As pilgrims of hope we are on a journey to help each other encounter the Lord, and what better way to do this, but than as a Catholic School community growing in holiness.
- *Rachel, Educator HCDSB*

