



THE ARCHBISHOP OF REGINA

MESSAGE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF SASKATCHEWAN ON WORLD CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK MAY 29 – June 5, 2011

The Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan are pleased to recognize Thursday, June 2, 2011 as World Catholic Education Day. On this day we celebrate the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic Education in the lives of people around the world.

In Saskatchewan we are blessed with a constitutional right to publicly funded Catholic Education. Through our eight Catholic school divisions we educate over 34,000 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in 121 Catholic schools.

This year's theme is "Catholic Education: Celebrating the Spirit". The Spirit of the Lord inhabits, infuses and inflames Catholic Education. In the everyday running of our Catholic schools; in the everyday encounters with human frailty and human despair, we may sometimes wonder if the Spirit is truly with us, if the Spirit continues to breathe life and hope into us. But we are assured by the words of Jesus: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mt 28:20) Catholic Education, grounded in the person of Jesus and in the values by which we live as His disciples, has reason to celebrate the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit breathes life into all our efforts and guides us in all truth.

We set aside this week to focus our attention on the value of Catholic Schools in providing a holistic education in a faith filled environment to nurture the faith of our children. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all the partners in Catholic Education including trustees, administrators, teachers, support staff, pastors, parish ministers, parish teams and parents for supporting our children in their journey home to God through the gift of Catholic Education.

We invite all members of the Catholic community to a greater awareness of the contribution of Catholic schools to the mission of the Church. We ask each of you to pray for the continued success of our Catholic schools and indeed, wherever there is need, to add your voice in support of Catholic Education as we strive to support our students in their life long faith journey.

We urge all people in the Catholic community of Saskatchewan to recognize the week of May 29 - June 5, 2011 as a time of prayer and thanksgiving for the wonderful gift of Catholic Education.

Most Rev. Daniel J. Bohan,
Archbishop of Regina

Most Rev. Donald Bolen
Bishop of Saskatoon

Most Rev. Albert Thevenot
Bishop of Prince Albert

Most Rev. Bryan Bayda
Ukrainian Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon