



May 4, 2021

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle parish,

Hope you are doing well and keeping safe during these difficult and challenging days. This week we celebrate **Catholic Education Week**. Catholic education is a gift that we have in Ontario. Let us be grateful to the Lord for this gift. The theme for this year is “**nourishing hope**”. This theme speaks to all of us as we live amidst pandemic. COVID has changed our lives in so many different ways. It has brought so much suffering in the lives of many around the world. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be the beacons of hope to our suffering world. As we celebrate Catholic Education let us in our own ways bring hope to people around us through acts of love and kindness.

The beauty of Catholic Education is that it forms not only the minds of students but hearts as well. I believe this quality of Catholic Education makes students compassionate and integrated human beings. World needs people who are humble, loving, compassionate and people who are willing to bring about a difference in the lives of others. We need today radical disciples of Jesus, disciples who are willing to sacrifice one's comfort for others, disciples who are willing lay one's life for the sake of others and disciples who can love as Jesus loved.

This week let us take time to acknowledge and express our gratitude to our Catholic Educators who carry forward the mission of Jesus in this world. May they be filled with wisdom, kindness and love to form students.

First Communion and Confirmation

Many of you have been emailing/phoning me to ask if there is any change to First Communion and Confirmation celebrations due to STAY-AT-HOME order. The simple answer is... it depends on when the Church will be allowed to open for public Masses. I am hoping that we will be able to gather in Church before May 29. If some reason this does not happen, I will send you new dates for these celebrations. I am hoping to have these celebrations before the school year ends. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We will make sure that we will have wonderful/beautiful celebrations of First Communion and Confirmation at St. Thomas for your children.

Let us continue to pray that this pandemic will end soon. Many God's blessings!

Many thanks,
Fr. Francis Noronha, CSC
St. Thomas the Apostle parish, Waterdown