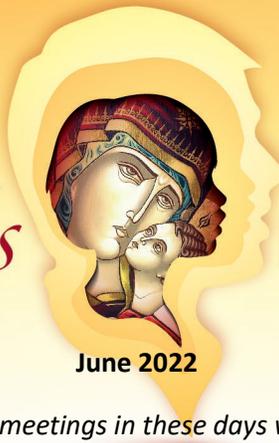


# God Calls Us



## EACH BY NAME

June 2022

*Dear brothers and sisters, it is my hope that our meetings in these days will point out new paths to be pursued together, instil courage and strength, and lead to greater commitment on the local level. Any truly effective process of healing requires concrete actions. In a fraternal spirit, I encourage the Bishops and the Catholic community to continue taking steps towards the transparent search for truth and to foster healing and reconciliation.*

(Pope Francis, [Address: Meeting With Representatives of Indigenous Peoples of Canada](#), 01/04/2022)

The month of June is National Indigenous History Month, so it is very timely for us to consider the historic meeting at the beginning of April between our Holy Father and a delegation of Indigenous Peoples from Canada, and the subsequent apology for the Church's role in the tragedy of Residential Schools. The eyes of the world were turned to the Vatican in hopes of a formal apology. Pope Francis shared his indignation and shame and committed to coming to Canada to meet with Indigenous Peoples to better express his closeness. We now eagerly await his visit this summer from July 24-29. You can visit [www.papalvisit.ca](http://www.papalvisit.ca) to learn more about the visit and to sign up for a newsletter to keep you informed.

Students, staff, and families can visit [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net) to explore our National Indigenous History Month webpage. One of the resources available is a virtual calendar that will reveal a new video each school day leading up to National Indigenous Peoples' Day on Tuesday, June 21. The videos will share information about Indigenous history, languages, cultures, and experiences.

At the May 25 Public Meeting, our Board of Trustees passed the 2022-2023 Division Budget. Highlights include the Division continuing to fund schools on enrolment and provide additional funding allocations for schools based on the assessed needs of students in the classroom, no increases in bus pass fees, a request to Alberta Education to use \$21 million from our Accumulated Surplus from Operations (ASO) to finance a much needed K-9 replacement school in northeast Edmonton, and a further request to use \$5.8 million ASO to address resources being directed towards the new curriculum implementation, staffing cost grid movement, as well as increases in staff benefit rates. You can read our budget document by [clicking here](#).

The Board of Trustees also received the report on the comprehensive, 18-month study of its School Resource Officer Program. More than 5,500 students, 736 parents, and 617 staff from schools where SROs were present offered their opinions on and experiences of the SRO program through an online survey. As well, focus groups with students and parents from diverse backgrounds and staff were conducted, as were interviews with school administrators, Division leaders, and Edmonton Police Service SROs and leaders. The study identified several strengths and clear areas for growth in the delivery of services of the SRO program. Edmonton Catholic Schools and Edmonton Police Service will now take those recommendations and collaborate on improving the SRO program. You can read the report by [clicking here](#).

June also brings us Father's Day. In his Sunday Angelus on March 27, 2022, Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, was reflecting on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. He spoke of the father's response to the indignant son who had stayed at home: "'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours' (v. 31). He tries to make him understand that for him, every child is all of his life. Parents know this well and are very close to feeling like God does." I wish a very Happy Father's Day to all those who lovingly dedicate their lives to loving and caring for our precious children, always and through all things!



**LUMEN CHRISTI Catholic Education Centre**

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It is staggering to realize that this is the last newsletter of the 2021-2022 school year! Time flies in the best possible way when you are focused on the mental, physical, and spiritual growth and development of our students. I am so proud of all that our staff has accomplished in Jesus' name with your children. I wish you all a rejuvenating and restful summer, full of endless moments encountering the glory of God.

I leave you with an excerpt from "At the End of the Year," by John O'Donohue:

*As this year draws to its end,  
We give thanks for the gifts it brought  
And how they became inlaid within  
Where neither time nor tide can touch them.*

*The days when the veil lifted  
And the soul could see delight;  
When a quiver caressed the heart  
In the sheer exuberance of being here.*

*We bless this year for all we learned,  
For all we loved and lost  
And for the quiet way it brought us  
Nearer to our invisible destination.*

Yours in Christ,

Robert Martin  
Chief Superintendent



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