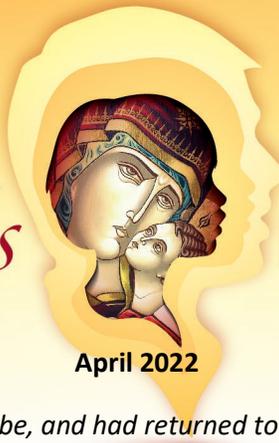


God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

April 2022

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” (John 13:12-15)

We encounter this scripture on Holy Thursday as Jesus prepares for his impending death. He gathers with his disciples and is breaking bread with them for the final time. During the meal, he performs the work of a humble servant by washing their feet. It is a mirror of the way he is about to serve all of God’s children through his death and resurrection. It is also a lesson to us all; ‘serve others in the way that I serve you’. That message of loving one another is one that we encounter over and over again as being that most fundamental tenet of our faith, love God and love one another.

The eyes of the world are turned to the war in Ukraine. A heartrending situation, it touches deeply in our Edmonton Catholic Schools. We have longstanding ties to the Ukrainian community in Edmonton and beyond. The response of our schools and sites to this humanitarian crisis has been humbling. Students and staff alike are engaging in awareness campaigns, fundraising, collecting items, and writing letters. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to serve in any way that they can. This is one of the ways that we wash the feet of others.

We were delighted by and grateful for the announcement of a new K-9 school in Lewis Farms (west) and of construction funding to build the high school in Castle Downs/Dunluce (north). These much-needed schools will ease enrolment pressures in the schools that currently serve those areas and are over-capacity. These two schools were the top priorities on the Capital Plan that we submitted to the Government of Alberta last year. Our 3-year Capital Plan, which is updated and approved annually to indicate what our greatest infrastructure needs are, was approved for the 2023-26 cycle at the March 23 Public Board meeting. You can find it [by clicking here](#).

The results of our own ECSD Assurance Survey were presented to the Board of Trustees at the March 23 Public Board meeting as well. In the upcoming weeks, these results will be populated into our [Division Assurance Dashboard](#). You can check this valuable visual tool throughout the year to see how we are doing as a Division. You can also read the consolidated report [by clicking here](#). We know that there have been many surveys that families have been asked to complete over the past year, but this is at the heart of the Assurance Framework. Whenever possible, we create opportunities for our families to share their thoughts on various aspects of our Division, both so that we can ensure that we are meeting your needs and to assure you that we value your voice and are listening.

As we complete our Lenten journey in the upcoming weeks, I will share a thought from our Holy Father that shines a light on yet another aspect of being humble servants: *#Lent is a favourable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely.* (Pope Francis, Twitter, 03/15/22)

Yours in Christ,

Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent



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