



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 2024 Newsletter

The Home, School, and Parish

Dear Families,

During this Easter season, we are reminded of how Jesus fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, and healed the sick. Jesus lived and ministered alongside His disciples, welcoming, teaching, learning, healing, reconciling, serving, celebrating, and praying with each other and the larger community. Their relationship served as a marvellous example of collaboration and love.

As we approach Catholic Education Week in May, we recall their special relationship and consider for ourselves how this connection might translate today, particularly among the home, school and parish in the formation and education of our children.

The home is where values and beliefs begin. It is within the family that children learn about love, respect, and responsibility. As parents, you are the first and primary teachers in your children's lives. Your guidance, support, and example help shape their moral character and lay the foundation for their future.

At the same time, the school plays a crucial role in complementing the values taught at home and providing students with a holistic Catholic education. Teachers, administrators, and staff members not only impart knowledge through religious education programs and the permeation of faith in all subject areas, but also instill in students a sense of curiosity, critical thinking, and compassion.

Additionally, the parish community serves as a spiritual anchor, providing opportunities for worship, service, and fellowship. It is within the parish that children deepen their faith and develop a sense of belonging to the larger family of God. Through sacramental preparation and youth programs, the parish nurtures the spiritual growth of our children and strengthens their connection to their Catholic identity.

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When the home, school, and parish work together in harmony, the impact on our children's lives is profound. As Archbishop, I invite you to embrace this partnership wholeheartedly, recognizing the unique role each plays in the formation of our children.

May God bless our efforts as we strive to build a strong and vibrant community of faith, knowledge and love.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton