



**Faith Advisory Committee (FAC)  
Tuesday, June 10, 2025 ♦ 1:30 p.m.  
In person at CEC or Microsoft Teams**

- Present:** Dan Dignard (Vice Chair of the Board), Heather Graham, Tara Williams, Andrew Hall, Michael Lawlor (Superintendent of Education), Keri Calvesbert
- Regrets:** Carol Luciani (Chair of the Board), Fr. Augustine Ogundele, Fr. Rudolph D'Souza, Carlo Fortino, Carole Allen (FACE), Fr. Kevin D'Souza
- 

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

Dan Dignard welcomed members to the meeting.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Dan Dignard opened the meeting in prayer.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the April 17, 2025 meeting were approved.

**4. Information and Discussion Items**

**4.1 New Board Spiritual Theme for 2025-2026 and Faith Day Update**

Keri Calvesbert shared the release of the OCSTA 2026 Catholic Education Week theme. To honour and celebrate the ongoing Jubilee Year, the theme is an extension of our Pilgrims of Hope theme, "Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness," rooted in the Scripture, "As God who called you is holy, be holy yourselves." (1 Peter 1:15-16) The theme is supported by 5 sub-themes which will allow us to explore ways to live out the late Pope Francis' call for each of us to be Pilgrims of Hope: Peace be with you, God loves you, Christ saves you, the Holy Spirit lives in you and Together on the journey. BHNCD SB is planning to adopt this theme as the new Board Spiritual Theme for the 2025-2026 school year. Michael Lawlor will present this to the Board at the June meeting for approval. Keri provided updates to planning for Faith Day scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2025, the Professional Development Day for all staff. The Pastoral Team is working to plan a day that will be meaningful, educational and impactful. Four parishes across the district including St. Pius X, Brantford, St. Mary's, Brantford, St. Patrick's, Caledonia and St. Mary's, Simcoe along with their parish halls have been booked for the morning. Faith day will begin with Mass at all four parishes (schools and sites have been divided into groups by geography) and a time of fellowship. Staff will travel to their schools/sites for lunch and to participate in the afternoon sessions. Planning for activities, options and timelines for the afternoon are still underway. The Pastoral Team will be meeting in June to finalize plans for the afternoon sessions. Once plans are in place, details will be shared with the Administrator and Management Teams. System memos about Faith Day will be sent out in advance of October 7, 2025.

**4.2 Religion and Family Life Curriculum Updates**

Keri Calvesbert noted that BHNCD SB is in the process of purchasing the new Family Life Program, "Blessed & Beloved" for Grades 2 and 3. The program is currently being used in Grade 1. Grades 2 and 3 Educators will receive support to implement a soft launch



implementation of the new program in the Fall of 2025. Also, BHNCD SB is in the process of purchasing the new Religious Education Program, "Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ" for Grade 9 with plans to support Educators in the implementation of a soft launch of the program throughout the duration of the 2025-2026 school year.

#### **4.3 Secondary Feedback on Faith Activities**

Tara Williams provided an update on behalf of Assumption College School. In addition to all the CEW and ongoing activities (*see list below*), Tara highlighted that 9 of the 11 ACS feeder schools participated in the Grade 8 Faith in Action Days hosted by ACS Chaplaincy and the Social Justice class. The program was well received, and they plan to run this program again next school year. The ACS Chaplaincy 180 Team and Social Justice class were notified that they received the Youth Peace Medal Scholarship award from the YMCA of Brant, Halton, Hamilton for a project called *Confidence Closet: Clothes for a Brighter Future* in partnership with SOAR community services youth/young adult shelter services.

Tara also provided an update on behalf of Holy Trinity Catholic High School. In addition to CEW and ongoing activities (*see list below*), Tara highlighted that the final HT Staff Faith breakfast reached 18 staff members in attendance. This is something to celebrate as the focus on adult faith formation has been fruitful. In addition to celebrating all the positive Faith formation activities at HT, Tara noted that the school is struggling with attendance at Liturgies and Masses and asked committee members for input. Tara has addressed this as a whole community in Parent Memos. This is an issue at all three Secondary schools. Tara suggested this issue might require a larger conversation with Chaplaincy and Secondary Principals. Michael Lawlor will share some possible solutions with Tara in a conversation outside of today's FAC meeting.

Andrew Hall shared on behalf of St. John's College that in late April, Campus Ministry students made a pilgrimage to St. Basil's to view a replica of the Holy Door. During the month of May at SJC, Campus Ministry students visited the elderly at Riverview Terrace. Salt & Light TV filmed the SJC May Crowning Liturgy of the Word, our grandparent breakfast, and interviewed worship band members. The episode for Salt & Light TV will air in the Fall. SJC is holding their Liturgy of the Word on June 11<sup>th</sup> where they will reflect on how SJC has made connections to the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope."

#### **List of Activities submitted by ACS for Minutes:**

During CEW 2025, ACS held a Liturgy and blessing of the new metal Marian artwork housed in the front entry of the school. ACS held their first faith night "Faith Over Fear" an evening that involved music, dance, Scripture, prayer, and faith related activities. Students attended the BHNCD SB Culture of Life conference retreat day "Your Life Matters" and were inspired by guest speakers Brian Amarelo and Jasmine Duckworth. ACS Chaplaincy Leader held a retreat day for Special Education Religion class. The retreat included a visit to the Holy Door at St. Basil Church with prayer and reflection. Students created drawings of their own Holy Door and made connections to their lives. Students participated in community building activities and a hands-on project for local shelters. Students also made sandwiches together at Friendship House with the social justice class. Following morning prayer, Chaplaincy lead a 7-episode video clip series introducing Pope Leo XIV to students. The 180 Team has done a phenomenal amount of work this year leading daily morning school-wide prayers, liturgies, Masses, Grade 9 mini-retreats and Grade 8 Faith in Action programs, visits to the soup kitchen and therapy centre total 18 this year, numerous social justice projects at our monthly meetings, supporting the social justice class through our involvement in Amplify Your Culture and Marketplace for Christmas baskets.



The team has just completed one of the elements of the Confidence Closet running a school-wide shoe drive and are currently running a staff clothing drive. The rest of this initiative will be completed in the Fall.

**List of Activities submitted by HT for Minutes:**

- Held two Grade 10 NET Retreat Days (well attended)
- Catholic Education Week activities: CSLA Ceremony, CEW Liturgy, Staff Prayer Breakfast, BHNCDSB Culture of Life Retreat Day
- Worked with a Job Skills Coop student throughout the semester doing work in and around the school as well as at the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry
- Finished the 33-day Marian Consecration for Teens on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima
- Chaplaincy created a Chess Team and chaperoned a Chess Tournament at SCS
- Chaplaincy Leader participated in the Diocese of London Pastoral Study Days, CSCO Conference and HDCA Retreat
- Closing School Mass, Athletic Banquet, Special Education Graduation Ceremony, Grad Liturgy and ceremony
- Ongoing Games Club daily at lunches; year-end party to be hosted; Music Ministry practices Thursdays at lunch; and Bible Study Mondays at Lunch

**4.4 Elementary Feedback on Faith Activities**

Heather Graham reported that Elementary schools focused heavily on our faith during CEW. The Faith and Wellness Pilgrimage with signs provided was well received. Students were led in prayer by teachers as they travelled from one sign to the next. One school participated in a whole-school activity based on a read aloud "God's Dream". Each student listened to the read aloud and created a flower to represent themselves in God's Garden. On the flower each child wrote the God-given gift/talent that they added to the garden. The flowers were displayed all together. Schools held May crowning Masses and recognized school volunteers at their Masses as well. St. Pius X is hosting their closing Mass with Father Rafal this week and noted that Father Rafal should be commended for how well he brings our Catholic faith to our students. He is patient, kind, and teaches students in a way that is meaningful and developmentally appropriate. Fr. Rafal will be missed as he leaves and heads to Poland.

**4.5 Diocesan – Deanery Updates**

N/A

**4.6 F.A.C.E. Updates**

N/A

**5. Questions/Discussions**

N/A

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Dan Dignard.

---

**Next Meeting:** (TBA) Ask Fran to schedule meetings for next year (4 meetings beginning in October after Faith Day).