



**Faith Advisory Committee (FAC)
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 ♦ 1:30 p.m.
In person at CEC or Microsoft Teams**

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

Dan Dignard opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Michael Lawlor welcomed members to the meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the June 10, 2025 meeting were approved.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 2025-2026 Pastoral Plan and Faith Day Review

Keri Calvesbert shared the 2025-2026 Pastoral Plan (Board Spiritual 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) was officially launched across the district on Faith Day held October 7, 2025. The Pastoral Resource Document containing liturgical, prayer, and community building supports for this year's theme was provided to Administrators, Managers and Supervisors and will be updated monthly throughout the duration of this school year. Keri reported Faith Day for all staff was a success. The day began with Mass in four parishes locations including St. Pius X, Brantford, St. Mary's, Brantford, St. Patrick's, Caledonia and St. Mary's, Simcoe. The new permanent employee commissioning for staff took place during each of the Masses. A time of fellowship with refreshments was provided in all parish hall locations to honour and appreciate staff. Staff traveled to their schools/sites for lunch and participated in afternoon sessions planned by school and site Administrators, Managers and Supervisors. All staff engaged in viewing the video provided by BHNCD SB featuring Bill Acres, Principal, St. Cecilia School, Port Dover sharing his experience of pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago. Guided questions for discussion and debrief of the video were provided. In the afternoon, staff engaged in a variety of community building, social justice outreach, prayer and reflection activities and closed the day using the CEW prayer cards provided by BHNCD SB. A Faith Day survey was sent out and results once compiled will be used to assist with the planning of next year's Faith Day.



4.2 Religion and Family Life Curriculum Updates

Keri Calvesbert noted the new Family Life Program, *Blessed & Beloved* for Grades 2 and 3 has now been fully implemented in all our Elementary schools. Grades 2 and 3 Educators received support for a soft launch implementation of the new program and are receiving ongoing support to learn to navigate the digital resources. In Secondary, BHCNDSB has purchased the new Religious Education Program, "Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ" for Grade 9. The RFL Consultant is meeting with Religious Education Department Heads in early November to plan the support of Grade 9 Educators with implementing a soft launch of the program throughout the duration of the 2025-2026 school year.

4.2 Secondary Feedback on Faith Day/Faith Activities

Andrew Hall shared on behalf of St. John's College as part of the afternoon on Faith Day, staff engaged with the video on Pilgrimage provided by BHCNDSB and signed up to participate in one of the following offsite activities:

Youth Fusion (20-30 staff) - Youth Fusion is a peer mentorship program for newcomer youth. Through recreation and leadership activities, newcomer youth learn new skills, connect with peers and improve their self-confidence.

Pathways to Hope (10 staff) - Serves those who live with Autism (ASD) or other complex needs and aims to help those who care for these individuals and support them on their journey through life.

Why Not Youth Centre (20-30 staff) - The young people who attend Why Not have a few things in common: almost all of them live in poverty, most only have contact with one or fewer of their parents, and even fewer have a safe, consistent place to live. While the organization is not a shelter, it functions like a community living room so that, no matter how many places their clients sleep, the Youth Centre remains the same.

Friendship House (20-30 staff) - Empowers individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty by providing comprehensive support to nurture their physical and emotional wellness.

St. Basil's Church (to view replica of the Holy Door) – The Holy Door plays a large role in a Jubilee year. Staff were invited to view the holy door replica, learn about its importance in a Jubilee year, and hear Fr. Kevin's pilgrimage story.

Following the offsite activities, SJC staff listened to guest speaker, Eric G. Martin (Mohawk & Chippewa Nations, Bear Clan - Stone Carver). Eric shared his artwork and spoke on the following topics: What is the path to holiness through an Indigenous lens? How does Indigenous artwork help along the path to holiness? How does your own artwork help you on the path to holiness and how do you hope it helps others?

4.3 Elementary Feedback on Faith Day/Faith Activities

N/A

4.4 Diocesan – Deanery Updates

N/A

4.5 F.A.C.E. Updates

Carole Allen provided an update on Current FACE initiatives.



5. Questions/Discussions

5.1 Receiving the Eucharist: Trustee Dignard shared an observation from the Faith Day Mass about a staff member who was unsure how to receive the Eucharist. Trustee Dignard recommended that staff be reminded at the next available opportunity that it is important to consume the Eucharist immediately after it is received from the priest or eucharistic minister at mass. For future Faith Day Masses, the Pastoral Team will include remarks about how to receive in the opening commentary.

5.2 Diocese of London Mass Protocols: Superintendent Lawlor shared the Diocese of London as requested by Bishop Fabbro has recently been asked to re-examine the way Mass is celebrated, particularly when it comes to Silence and Posture in the Liturgy:

Silence in the Liturgy: The Constitution on the Liturgy says, the Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations and that silence is a privileged means of promoting the participation of the people of God in the liturgy. Sacred silence is not an empty absence of noise but an active and integral part of the liturgy. The purpose of silence changes depending on when it occurs.

- Before Mass begins to allow us to prepare for the sacred action.
- In the penitential act, when we are invited to recall what separates us from God and remembering our dependence on God's mercy.
- At the Collect (the prayer after the Gloria), when the presider says, "Let us pray", we reflect on what we bring to the liturgy, and for whom we wish to offer the Mass; the presider then collects all of our prayers into one and offers them to God.
- After the first and second readings, the Gospel, and the homily, silence allows the us to grasp the sense of what was proclaimed in the word and to internalize it so as to better respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
- After the Communion procession is finished, all may sit or kneel to reflect on the gift of the Eucharist and to offer our personal thanksgiving.

Posture in the Liturgy: Body language can convey feelings and states of mind, and liturgical postures are a way to express internal responses to God's love and truth. The unified postures and gestures of the congregation express our collective participation in the Body of Christ and help to engage the entire person in prayer and worship.

We recognize the presence of some among us who are not able to stand for any length of time or kneel, depending on age or infirmity, so heroic effort to conform to the directives is not expected. In other words, do what you are able to do.

The normal postures in Catholic liturgy are **standing, sitting, and kneeling**. Here are the postures we should be observing, some new, some not:

- At the Preparation of the Offerings, the people are sitting but should **stand after the washing of the priest's hands** to be ready for the invitation, *pray brothers and sisters*, and make the response.
- We kneel after the *Holy, holy, holy*, and stand after the *Great Amen*.
- Our practice is to kneel at the end of the *Lamb of God*. The Priest then genuflects, holds the Host above the paten or chalice, and says *Behold the Lamb of God* to which the Priest and assembly respond *Lord, I am not worthy*. **At the end of this prayer, the assembly stands,**



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after which the Priest will receive Communion, and all **remain standing during the Communion Procession until everyone has received Communion.** The Communion



Procession starts when the priest receives Communion and ends only when the last person has received Communion. Then, at that point, people may sit or kneel.

- Holy Communion is to be received standing, though individual members of the faithful may choose to receive Communion while kneeling.
- In some places the practice is to continue standing until the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the Tabernacle. This should not continue, because **the focus must be on the Holy Communion received and not on the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle.**
- Following a period of silence, the priest and people stand and, after saying “Let us pray,” the priest offers the Prayer After Communion which ends the Communion Rite.

5.3 Faith Formation for Staff: Superintendent Lawlor mentioned we are working with Communications on creating a site to be housed in the bhnHUB which will offer a collation of Adult Faith Formation opportunities that can be accessed by staff and will be updated on a regular basis.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Michael Lawlor.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2026