



ACSTA HAPPENINGS

December 2014

UPDATE FROM THE ALBERTA CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION



The Growing Forward: Catholic Education Symposium Final Report was released at the 2014 ACSTA AGM & Convention in November. As a major initiative for ACSTA this past year, the Symposium provided an opportunity for the community to survey the current landscape and chart a path forward, with the help of keynote speakers Dr. Reginald Bibby who shared pertinent demographic data with the assembly and Archbishop Michael Miller's reflection on the five marks of a genuine Catholic School. We are grateful to Michael Marien, who collated the data garnered from discussions at the Symposium to write a report which includes a summary of the presentations, reflection questions and a proposed Catholic School Identity Assessment Tool (CSIAT). Our hope that it will be used as a tool for boards, schools, parishes and Catholic organizations to continue the dialogue to reflect and grow on the successes of Catholic education. The final reports are available in English and French on the ACSTA website <http://www.acsta.ab.ca/resources>. There are also PowerPoint presentations that may be used as templates for presentation and discussion. Please contact the ACSTA office for more information.

Bill 10 Act to Amend the Alberta Bill of Rights to Protect our Children

This is the working title of the government Bill that will replace MLA Blakeman's private member Bill 202. ACSTA is closely monitoring this bill as it proceeds through the legislative process. We encourage members of the Catholic community to contact their MLAs to express support for an inclusive anti-bullying strategy, such as that set out the ACSTA's *Safe & Caring Schools Environments for Students* policy which addresses the needs of the entire student body, and of the student as a whole person, despite their perceived disabilities, such as religious beliefs, gender, ancestry, sexual orientation, etc. Please contact your local Catholic School Board office for more information.

"May the Holy Family, who had to overcome many painful trials, watch over all the families in the world" St. JPII



The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association wishes our Catholic community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

May the blessings of Lord be upon you and your family this Christmas season.

✓ Mark your Calendar!

2015 Retreat

SPICE

April 23 - 26



Blueprints

April 28 - May 1

Keynote Speaker: Mike Patin

Location: Delta Lodge at Kananaskis
Hosted by: Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association