

**“As for me and my household,
we will serve the Lord.”**

Joshua 24:15

Joshua states his commitment and challenges us to decide who we will serve. He invites us to ask ourselves if the members of our household will serve the Lord.

Whom do you choose to serve?

Our Hope

The Catholic School Council of St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School held symposiums for parents based on the theme of Catholic Education.

This discussion paper is intended to generate reflection and greater understanding of our call as Catholics — the call to live our Catholic Faith in our homes, in our schools and in our parishes.

“Each type of education, moreover is influenced by a particular concept of what it means to be a human person.”



*Lay Catholics in Schools: Witness to Faith;
Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education*

“Evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new...”

Evangelii Nuntiandi, Pope Paul VI



How do we evangelize?

Home— we pray together; bring faith into every aspect of life; share the day’s activities; worship together; pray at home; impart values; take action such as volunteering...

Model Christ’s behaviour –living the gospel values—i.e. what would Jesus do?

School—celebrating mass together as a school community; parent involvement; daily prayers; social justice action; pilgrimage; faith in actions; family of schools; outreach programs; Culture of Life Committees and much more.

Parish—coming together as a parish community and sharing the liturgy and sacramental life; living our faith by joining parish ministries and groups (CWL, Knights of Columbus, Faith Groups, Youth Groups, choir, etc.); being a place of welcome.

In light of our faith, what are we called to do?

- Lead by example
- Spread the good news
- Remember the teachings of our faith and call upon those teachings in every aspect of life
- Make decisions that are consistent with our Catholic faith
- Have courage
- Read books that strengthen our understanding of our faith
- Participate in faith-based activities and programs
- Put Faith Into Action!

Is there value in evangelizing?

It is our duty as Christians to spread the good news.

Through evangelization, we:

- Bring hope to the lonely, isolated and oppressed
- Model the love of God to the world
- Demonstrate love in action by our works of charity

We can bring people to our loving God.

Evangelization fosters the building of personal relationships with Christ.

Catholic Education:

(The following quotes are taken from the St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School Parent Symposium in 2009)

Kindles the faith within each person

Nurtures and strengthens our salvation

Is Christ centered

Shows the way by our actions

Brings people to God, both believers and non-believers giving meaning to human's existence

Helps us carry our duty to spread the good news

Promotes values

Welcomes and is inclusive—Board's motto of "each belongs"

Brings God's value into the secular society

Gives us hope and resilience

Is a culture of justice and charity

Celebrates our faith through liturgies, prayer.....

"This sacred synod likewise declares that children and young people have a right to be motivated to appraise moral values with a right conscience, to embrace them with a personal adherence, together with a deeper knowledge and love of God."

Declaration on Christian Education; Pope Paul VI

Year of the Family Prayer

God of all times and places,

We ask you to be with us as we pray.

for families who struggle to speak to one another in love,

for families who delight in being together,

for families who do not have enough, and struggle for the necessities of life,

for families who read your word together,

for families who find it hard to spend any time together ,

for my family,

for the families in my community,

for the families in our parish,

for the families around the world,

for all families, we pray that your love will grow in them so that your love will shine through them.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Resources

- www.vatican.va
- www.hamiltondiocese.com
- www.hwcdsb.ca

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Rooted
in
Faith:
We Are Family

Home, Parish, School

