



OPC Communications Bulletin

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CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK -- MAY 4 - 9, 2014

The first ever "**Province-Wide**" **Mass** for Catholic Education Week is being held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, as part of Ontario's Catholic Education Week celebrations. While Mass is always held by school boards during this annual week-long profile for Catholic education, this year every Catholic secondary school (and primary schools in those boards where there are no secondary schools) has been asked to provide opportunities for students in the board to celebrate Mass during the morning in solidarity with other participating Catholic schools in the province.

This unique initiative is being led by the Catholic Board Council Executive Team: Student Trustee Madeline Ellapola - Windsor-Essex CDSB (President) and Student Trustee Michael Polloto - York Catholic CDSB (Vice President). Last fall, after consultation with their peers, Madeline and Michael sent a letter to the Vatican, requesting a personal message from Pope Francis to the students of Ontario on the occasion of the historic "Province-Wide" Mass.

They have received a letter from the Vatican, containing the Pope's personal message to Ontario students. The journey to this point and the content of the letter from Pope Francis will be shared by Madeline and Michael during Media Interviews to be held on April 30, 2014, in Toronto. (Information provided by Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association)

League members are encouraged to watch for this historic message in local media, and, if possible, to attend the "Province-Wide" Mass in their area. Visit local school board web sites for information on when and where this Mass will be held in your area.

This is an excellent opportunity to be present with our students and teachers, to demonstrate our support of Catholic education, and to be part of this unique and historic event.

Ontario Provincial Council Education & Health Standing Committee