

## 2024 Trustees Election Questionnaire Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

**The Catholic Church** considers that elected democratic office is a position of immense responsibility, to be held in high trust and exercised with great humility, wisdom, and responsibility, in the interest of the common good.

*This is particularly true with respect to those who seek to govern publicly-funded Catholic Schools. Education is of first importance for the future of our society, and Catholic education, properly conducted, can be of unique importance in passing our faith to future generations. Few endeavors offer comparable opportunities to integrate faith into the entire range of personal and social values for future generations.*

*The Church teaches that the ultimate purpose of this life is to seek the truth, which is God. “God is the ultimate end of his creatures and for no reason may the common good be deprived of its transcendent dimension.” This truth is most effectively communicated to our children by their families, parishes, and schools.*

Please confirm your name and GSCS region, and preferred contact information:

**Candidate’s name:** *Byblow, Hudson*

**Region:** *Saskatoon @Large (Incumbent)*

**E-mail:** *hudsonGSCS2024@hotmail.com*

**Phone:**

**Social Media Handle(s):** <https://www.facebook.com/hudson.byblow>

### YOUR VISION FOR SERVICE AS A TRUSTEE

Catholic schools are not alternate public schools. In addition to the curriculum presented by secular schools, Catholic schools provide religious instruction, impart Gospel values and display religious symbols, and serve as a critical part of the Church’s mission to evangelize youth. Catholic and non-Catholic parents freely choose to send their children to Catholic schools with the full expectation that they will be socialized into a faith community in which the person and message of Jesus is central to instruction in all subject areas.

The distinctiveness of Catholic schools arises from their teaching students to incorporate the person and the message of Jesus Christ in all aspects of their lives, while our secular society looks to the individual human being as the measure of all things. Catholic schools provide the spiritual and transcendent dimension which says that God is ultimately the measure and meaning of life.

**Q. 1. What draws you to the vocation of service as a Catholic school trustee?**

After 15+ years in the educational realm, and after 15+ years of study after a reversion to the Catholic faith, I know that this an office within which I can serve and give back to the community.

**Q. 2. What do you hope to accomplish as a Catholic school trustee?**

I hope to help the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Catholic faith, primarily rooted in Catholic virtues, to become better known by staff, students, and the community, alongside excellent academic formation. Virtue will point a student to strive to excel in their academics, but academics will not necessarily point a student to strive to grow in the fullness of virtue.

**Q. 3. What experience do you have that qualifies you to serve as a Catholic school trustee?**

I think the most important qualification is that I am striving to be a faithful Catholic; faithful to the teachings as they are proposed by the Catholic Church, as found within the Catechism of the Catholic Church promulgated by St. Pope John Paul II (plus subsequent authorized revisions). I do not think that "being devout" or doing "Catholic-looking things" measures anywhere near as important as striving to grow in the fullness of virtue (virtue, as understood but the Church). Anyone can do Catholic looking things, and merely doing Catholic looking things will not necessarily point someone towards being open to growing in the fullness of virtue. Being open to growing in the fullness of virtue, on the other hand, will necessarily beget a heart that desires to engage in "Catholic-looking" behaviour. Again, the pursuit of virtue must come first.

Other things that might be relevant:

- 15+ years as member of the Knights of Columbus (currently Council 1517)
- Member of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars (Canadian and American chapters)
- 10+ years as a Catholic speaker, author, and consultant - have given over 100 presentations/interviews at events on the local, national, and international levels.
- 50+ Articles published by reputable Catholic organizations
- 12 books (as an editor or consultant)
- 15+ years of experience in the classroom as a teacher
- 8 years as a small business owner and operator
- 15+ years as a hockey official across Saskatchewan (up to SJHL). This included working in a number of First Nations communities with community members
- 10+ years working with newcomers to Canada

[you are invited to attach a copy of your resume – see biographical summary at bottom]

*Catholic school trustees are called to express their personal faith in full communion with and participation in the faith life of the Catholic Church.*

**Q.4. In your view, what are the most important contributions Catholic education can make to the lives of children, and the communities they will become part of?**

Preparing to live with eternity in mind, and with a love for Jesus Christ, and the pursuit of virtue. Any student who grasps those facets of our faith within their heart... will lead a life knowing that they are loved by God, and will have a better chance of having the tools to navigate suffering in a life-giving way, and will thus have better tools to combat the anxieties brought on by this world, allowing them to more efficaciously give of themselves in holy ways for the betterment of society, as per their vocational call.

**Q. 5. Please describe the nature of your devotion to Christ and the Catholic Church, including ways in which you witness to your faith in your daily life.**

Above and beyond striving to live a life of virtue (according to the Catholic Church's understanding of virtue), I also:

- Regularly attend Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Regularly (daily) praying the Holy Rosary
- Promote the Enchiridion of Indulgences and Divine Office
- Used to run Priest Prophet King, a city-wide men's group
- Sing in various choirs/scholas at the parish and diocesan level
- Active member of the Knights of Columbus

**Q.6. As a trustee, how do you propose to ensure that the sacramental needs of Catholic students are supported by the Catholic school system?**

The most important thing would be to have teachers properly formed in the Catholic faith - not according to some dissenting view, but rather through a lens that begins with fidelity to Church teachings. That, plus having priests feel welcome in our schools for Masses and opportunities for Reconciliation.

**Q.7. In addition to ensuring that students are taught the Catholic notion of incorporating faith into all aspects of our lives, trustees are responsible for ensuring that students are encouraged to do their very best in taking in the full range of provincial educational curricula. How do you see yourself assisting in that process?**

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**Q.8. In order to ensure that Catholic schools and the communities they teach in remain true to the Catholic faith, it is important that Catholic school boards and individual trustees remain in contact with their local parishes and bishops. What is your plan for remaining in touch?**

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**Q.9. In what ways do you envision yourself advocating for the continuing rights of Catholics to educate their children in publicly-funded Catholic schools?**

In every way.

**Q.10. Trustees are responsible to students and parents for ensuring that the fullness of Catholic values, beliefs and teachings are passed on to our children, and for helping to ensure that our children carry those values and teachings into the broader community. How do you propose to ensure that you yourself are aware of the full range of matter you will be expected to impart to students?**

There is a difference between teaching the faith and transmitting the faith. We need to have people involved who are capable of transmitting the faith. Furthermore, it would be all the more effective if we moved away from talking about Catholic values, and instead talked about Catholic virtues (for values are downstream from virtues).

Hopefully, the transmission of faith will be through the presentation of something far more beautiful and riveting than what could be offered by the world. That, of course, means our teachers need to be trained well, and specifically trained in explaining the faith through the lens of proposed virtues above imposed behavioural expectations.

**Q.11. As elected public officials, trustees are accountable to their constituents for prudent, wise, and equitable use of resources, in an open and accountable fashion. In what specific ways do you propose to discharge that duty?**

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**Please also include my bio as found on the GSCS website, seen below:**

Hudson began teaching K-12 in 2007, and by 2013 was travelling as a Catholic speaker, author, and consultant. He's given over 100 presentations/interviews on trauma-informed approaches to pastoral care and education (often through the lens of testimony) in the USA, Canada, and even Europe. Over 50 of his articles have been published by faithful Catholic organizations, and he's worked on several books by very well-known Catholic authors.

Hudson's main areas of focus are student/staff spiritual well-being and aspects of faith development. To that end, Hudson is committed to upholding the Church's teachings as found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church as promulgated by Pope St. John Paul II (incl. subsequent authorized modifications). Hudson upholds the Church's position that although the Catechism is not an infallible book, and though there are varying levels of authority among Catholic documents, the compendium of teachings described in that particular Catechism are authoritative.

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*[It is a requirement that candidates for the office of Catholic separate school trustee be Catholic. Many voters, including particularly parents of school children, seek assurance that trustees they elect are active, dedicated Catholics. If you have a letter of reference from your pastor, or other documentary assurance, we invite you to attach it. Please note, however, that this is not a requirement for posting of your response.]*