

2022 Questionnaire

Ontario Catholic School Trustees

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, district and ward, and preferred contact information:

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YOUR VISION FOR SERVICE AS A TRUSTEE

Adapted from OCSTA’s “Becoming a Catholic School 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 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 makes the human person 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?

Over the years, I have grown closer to Jesus Christ- my God, Savior, Friend and Lord. I have longed to have my own family and pray for them though i have yet to meet them. My prayer turned into action when I heard the many voices of the Catholic community wanting more for our children in the Catholic School system. In abundant consultation with my community I will serve to evangelize our schools and society.

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

My aim is to echo the voice of the Church. I hope to sow the gospel into every conversation and class to connect our day-to-day lives to the purpose of living which is to Know, Love, and Serve God. More than ever, we need to strengthen our identity as Catholic Christians -sons and daughters of Christ-beloved and cherished; upheld and protected; and of utmost dignity. We have become separated from this reality due to our mistakes. Christ restores us by His Flesh and Blood -empowering us to be like Him by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

I have experience as an entrepreneur. I am a Masters of Counselling Psychology Candidate. I am passionate about the Faith. I advocated for the human rights of persons with disabilities by successfully lobbying to the Prime Minister of Lebanon to ratify a UN treaty that requires banking services to be accessible to persons with disabilities where it was previously illicit for persons with disabilities to even open a bank account. I successfully raised over \$300,000 in funding which I oversaw the use of

accountable to a Board of Directors where I was a sitting member. I collaborated with legal professionals for various contracts and Intellectual Property copywriting, trademark, and patents. I served as

[we invite you to attach a copy of your resume]

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?

By teaching children to own their spiritual lives and supporting the development of a relationship with Jesus Christ -our children will be attached to a force that is greater than any other. Being united to our neighbour through Christ -children will learn how to love others without infringing on their own needs and dignity. As spiritual beings, children will learn to accept the imperfections in their lives and the world overall -working to improve things while waiting to be united with Christ on the last day. Children will learn to offer their sufferings and express vulnerability and humility by embracing their humanity which Christ adopted. Meanwhile, they will draw upon the abundant well of Grace that compels joyful excellence in all their affairs. This spiritual way of life provides a sound set of principles that guide prosperous and generous lives without falling into perfectionism or shame.

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.

I attend mass at least weekly -often attending daily mass. I regularly seek reconciliation. I have a devotion to the Jesus Prayer throughout my day. My spiritual life has many ebbs and flows as I am a sinful human who has been immersed in Gods Grace. I live in a Catholic Mens house to maintain fellowship and accountability. I am involved with various Faith communities which included Catholic

Christian Outreach, Challenge/Cursillo and NET Ministries. I limit my exposure to secular entertainment.

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?

I will promote greater accountability and transparency for all stakeholders. This includes enhancing relationships with religious such as priests, religious brothers, and religious sisters. I will request assistance from Catholic community organizations to host retreats and faith-based fellowship for students, parents, educators, and administrators. I will explore avenues which draw our community into a richer experience of the authentic Catholic Faith which has continually resounded for 2000 years. I will use a relational and invitational approach holding Truth and Charity as guiding values.

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 all their studies, covering the full range of provincial educational curricula. How do you see yourself assisting in that process?

When we understand our calling to excel in all areas in life for the Gloiry of God we become a light burning earnestly in fervour for Gods Kingdom. From a position of love and curiosity, children can seek to develop their strengths to hone their God-given talents. The hope is to give children a lens which enables them to derive deeper meaning even from the mundane aspects of education. When children ask “why do I NEED to do this?!” The answer should revolve around the spiritual assets that will be acquired from following instructions and performing work faithfully. Offered this intimate spiritual dimension develops maturity which is not present in those who only wish to work to avoid negative outcomes. Rather than simply surviving -we can thrive.

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?

I maintain positive relations with many of the faithful including priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and various other community members. I frequently attend mass and other gatherings of the Church. I will add consultations with the clergy who demonstrate unity to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

Q.9. Some have proposed that separate Catholic schools be abolished. In what ways do you envision yourself advocating for the continuing rights of Catholics to educate their children in separate Catholic public schools?

The history of the Catholic Church in Canada is significant and meaningful. The Church has always been at the forefront of education around the world offering the highest standard of education to the greatest range of people regardless of their status in society. A Catholic education nourishes its learners to be more than simply good citizens, but calls us higher. People are free to choose where their financial support goes and where their children go. It is the right of every parent to have their children brought up in the Faith -especially in a country where a rich Catholic history exists. We must increase our commitment to teaching Catholic Truth rather than abandoning it.

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?

I am continually learning about our Faith and will continue to consult reputable and authoritative sources to obtain guidance on all matter pertaining to our Faith.

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?

I will maintain availability to the public -publishing relevant information.

Q.12. It is a **statutory requirement that candidates for the office of Catholic public school trustee be Catholic. Please attach a copy of a letter of reference from your pastor confirming your Catholicity, or other evidence, if available.**

[attach letter of reference]

Pressing SUBMIT will cause a copy of this document to be returned to Catholic Conscience, for posting on our website for use by voters in choosing trustees. Should you wish later to revise or withdraw your responses, please contact us at info@CatholicConscience.org.

SUBMIT

Thank you for helping to improve

our electoral process and our schools!