So What Does it all Mean?

In 1998, the first edition of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations was released within the Catholic education community, and the second edition was released in 2011. They were used as a framework for designing Ontario Catholic curriculum and they express our hopes for a Graduate of our school system. They include seven overall and fifty-two specific expectations.

The fifty-two statements you read and evaluated yourself on are based on the fifty-two specific expectations. It is assumed that this test is most fitting for Catholics, but non-Catholics who take the test and may also find that they have much in common with the Catholic faith.

Your score out of one hundred is an indication of how you rate yourself in each of the seven overall expectations.

This self-evaluation is intended to be used as a tool for reflection. It can help you to see areas of strength and areas of weakness. Perhaps you scored 90% in the “responsible citizen” category. You would never think of not voting when it is your responsibility, and you feel very strongly that we need to build a more just society. Maybe you scored 65% on the “Discerning Believer” category. You may wonder why. You can go through the questions and see where you may have room for growth. Was it question eight about receiving the sacraments or was it question fifteen about reflecting on God’s word? Either one of those can be improved on if you decide to. This is an opportunity for “self-directed” learning. You may want to use your communication and collaboration skills to see what you learn from dialogue with others about your results.

It was suggested by a parent that students may want to take this test in grade nine and then again in grade twelve to see how they have progressed. Adult staff, parents and parish members could also evaluate themselves, since we are all striving to grow in the way we live our faith. We journey together as “life-long learners”.

People often feel that these types of tests “put you in a box”. There is a simple solution to feeling put in a box: do not think of it that way. First of all, these are your own evaluations of yourself. Secondly, be aware that these are simple indicators of strengths and weaknesses according to one set of criteria – the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Hopefully you will find this to be a helpful tool for self-reflection and growth.

You can read more about the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations at www.iceont.ca

Test questions prepared by Olivia Fernandes, St. Marguerite d’Youville student

Answer sheet prepared by Anne Marie Portelli, St. Marguerite d’Youville student

Coordinator: Tony Whelan