

PASTORAL PLAN

2019/2020



“IGNITING HOPE”

(HOPE IN CHRIST – THE HOPE WITHIN US – THE HOPE AMONG US –
HOPE FOR THE WORLD – FOR A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE)

FR. MICHAEL GOETZ
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

'IGNITING HOPE'

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15.13)

The theme for our school year echoes that of Catholic Education Week. Catholic Education week will be celebrated the week of May 3-8, 2020.

During this Academic year as a community of faith we are called to 'IGNITE HOPE' as we set our Hope in Christ, ignite the Hope Within Us and Among Us, be Hope for the World and look to a Future Full of Hope.

With the intercession of our School's Patron Saint, Saint André Bessette, we will live out our theme for the year as a community of faith by the initiatives and focus of the following road map.

School Mission Statement:

In our Mission, we reflect our values and beliefs, our commitments, and express our role. As members of the Goetz community, we:

- ❖ Commit ourselves to the ideals of Jesus by promoting in our students respect for all members of the school community, self-worth as persons created in the image of God, respect for learning toward the betterment of the world, moral values and conduct based on the Gospel.
- ❖ Strive to nurture each student's spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and social growth, with the goal of students becoming responsible and responsive adults.
- ❖ Value the contribution of our students, parents, staff members and the community at large, and encourage all in keeping with our school motto: "Take a risk, Get involved, Be committed".

Retreat Program:

Grade 9:

All grade nine students, along with their homeroom teachers, the Chaplaincy Leader, along with approximately forty Senior student retreat leaders will gather at St. Volodymyr's in Oakville on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 for a day of prayer, reflection and activities designed to welcome them into the community and to encourage them to "Take a Risk, Get Involved and Be Committed".

Goetz Crew I.N.K. leadership group will help facilitate this day and will be instrumental in generating enthusiasm and energy in the true Spirit of the Goetz community. 'Melody Lane', a Stage Band comprised of Graduate students will evangelize the message of Christian Belonging through their musical talent and witness to their faith commitment.

Grade 10:

Homeroom retreats will be conducted during the first Semester on the following dates: October 2, 16, 18, 22, 23, 25, 29, 30 November 1, 5, 6. These retreats will focus on developing healthy relationships and will incorporate the respect and dignity each human being deserves as we strive to meet the needs of bullying prevention. These retreats are to be held at Westside Church in Mississauga in close proximity to the School.

Grade 11:

Homeroom retreats will be conducted during the second Semester on the following dates: April 15, 17, 21, 22, 28, 29 May 1, 19, 20, 22, 26, 27. These retreats will focus on the power of prayer through various avenues. These retreats are to be held at Westside Church in Mississauga in close proximity to the School.

Grade 12:

A large-scale retreat for all Grade 12 students will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at St. Volodymyr's Cultural Centre. All grade 12 students will enjoy a day long experience as their final secondary school retreat. The day will feature Dean Wardak as Guest Speaker who will focus his talk on the precious gift of life and making key life decisions that students will take with them after Goetz from a personal as well as a spiritual dimension. A closing liturgy will provide time to pray together and give thanks to God for the blessings received over the 4 years and to keep God the main focus in the Graduates' lives after high school.

OTHER RETREATS FOR THE YEAR:

Aside from the Grade level retreats, retreat experiences are also provided for our students in different ways and at various times throughout the year.

PIP Retreat (May 1, 2010):

The retreat day entitled 'Being Loved by God in our own Unique Way', is for the students in the PIP program, their Educational Assistants, Teachers and 'Best Buddies' to celebrate their giftedness and friendship. Students from the 'Best Buddies' program will be assisting with this retreat. The main purpose of their involvement is to pair up with the PIP students in all the activities at the retreat to continue to build a friendship that carries throughout the entire school year. Location: TBD.

Campus Ministry Team Retreat (May 8, 2020):

The Campus Ministry Team ends off the school year with a retreat at YMCA Cedar Glen Outdoor Centre. This is an opportunity for the group to continue to reflect on Christian Leadership. The students will continue to form bonds, set goals for the following school year and the graduating members are sent off with many blessings as they end their high school experience at Father Goetz.

Salesian Leadership Retreat (Nov. 20 to 22, 2019):

Fr. Goetz is actively involved in the Salesian Leadership Retreat Program. This is an excellent opportunity for students to grow in Catholic leadership and to deepen their faith life. Many students continue to work in the program by returning as retreat leaders.



Prayer and Spirituality/Liturgy and Worship:

As a community we come together in prayer in many different ways throughout our school year; Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel, on various days of the year, at the beginning of the school day during morning exercises, at the beginning of each class, at meetings and in co-curricular activities.

As one community of faith we will celebrate the Eucharist together on the following dates:

- ❖ The beginning of the school year on October 3rd, 2019
- ❖ November 7th, 2019 to remember and pray for our faithful departed
- ❖ May 7th, 2020 in Celebration of Catholic Education Week
- ❖ The end of the school year on June 4th, 2020
- ❖ June 25th, 2020 with a celebration of thanksgiving for the graduates' time in secondary school and their achievements.

Eucharistic Celebrations will also be celebrated in the School Chapel throughout the school year. These celebrations will be presided by Fr. Carlos Macatangga, SVD, Pastor of Cristo Rei Parish or his associates on the following dates:

- ❖ September 4, 2019 February 5, March 4 & April 1, 2020.

A Eucharistic Celebration will also be celebrated on Friday, June 26, 2020 for Staff in Thanksgiving for a successful completion of another Academic Year.

Liturgies of the Word will be celebrated on the following dates:

- ❖ Remembrance Day Tribute, November 11 in the school
- ❖ Beginning of Advent, December 3 in the School Cafetorium
- ❖ Ash Wednesday, February 26 in the school
- ❖ Holy Week, Thursday, April 9 in the School Cafetorium, to prepare the community for the celebration of the Easter Triduum.

These liturgies of the Word engage the participation of staff and students in the dance & drama programs and the arts.

Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the school Chapel on Wednesday, April 8 during Holy Week.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated each Semester during the season of Advent on December 13 and during Lent on March 13.

Fr. Carlos Macatangga, Pastor at Cristo Rei Parish will also be available at the Parish throughout the school year for students and staff wishing to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation other than the above 2 scheduled dates.

Occasionally the praying of the Rosary during one of the Lunch Periods or after school in the Chapel will be facilitated by the Chaplaincy Leader or other staff members. Staff and students are encouraged to pray this devotion daily in the Chapel. In May the Rosary will also be prayed once a week after school in the Chapel by staff and students.

Each extra-curricular group, club and school athletic team is invited to begin their year with a blessing or liturgy of the word celebration in the school Chapel to reflect on the importance that prayer plays in every event and activity that takes place at our school. All that we do is for the glory of God.

Social Justice/Outreach Initiatives:

Answering Jesus' call to minister to the least of our brothers and sisters is always our call in Catholic Schools. We are mindful of those in our own school community who are in need of our assistance and we are also mindful of the needs of those in the world around us.

Through our efforts, we will provide meaningful opportunities which contribute to the mission of God's reign in Jesus Christ, celebrate cultural diversity as gift and commission youth for service-oriented relationships at Fr. Michael Goetz and within the civic community.

Such efforts will include a) a Thanksgiving/Post-Thanksgiving Drive in aide of The St. Vincent de Paul Society at Cristo Rei Parish and The Open Door Ministry @ Square One Shopping Mall b) our annual Christmas basket campaign to assist the Catholic Cross-Cultural Social Agency and families from our own community. We aim to sponsor approximately 35 families c) the ongoing collection of items such as clothing and other household items for charitable organizations such as The Canadian Food for Children (Dr. Simone's Warehouse) d) the Staff ShareLife dress down Fridays campaign.

Other worthy causes are supported through the dedicated efforts coordinated by several social action groups at Fr. Michael Goetz. These groups include So What?, S.A.I.N.T.S. and Campus Ministry.

Our community will also be committed to support emergency fundraising efforts that might arise throughout the year especially those initiated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto!

Catholic Education Week (May 3 – 8, 2020):

Catholic Education Week provides us the opportunity to highlight key components of our Catholic community's rich culture unique to Catholic Schools.

Several Events and prayer opportunities will be organized in celebration of Catholic Education.

On Thursday, May 7 School Masses will be celebrated at Cristo Rei Church.

Catholicity Across the School:

In collaboration with the department head of Religious Education **Re:Generation**, the Young Catholic Missionaries from the Office of Catholic Youth in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be making a variety of presentations.

Re:Generation is an initiative committed to building a culture of life by sharing with young people the beauty of the Catholic faith, specifically in the area of sexuality.

The main focus of their presentations is on chastity.

They will present:

'**Chastity 101**' to Grade 9 students on November 25, 2019 and May 1, 2020,

'**Chastity 201**' to Grade 10 students on November 26, 2019 and May 4, 2020 and

'**Media Smart**' to Grade 12 students on November 28, 2019 and May 5, 2020.

These will be presented in Religion Classes.

Environment:

Ongoing efforts in enhancing our environment with symbols that reflect the uniqueness of our Catholic faith will continue.

The particular times of the Liturgical Year thematic symbols and banners will adorn the foyer and the Chapel.

Each classroom will continue to be supplied with Liturgical Resources and symbols that will reflect the particular time of the Church calendar year and enhance the prayer life of each member of the school community.

A scriptural quote will be chosen by each department that reflects their particular area of curriculum. These quotes will eventually be painted in the respective areas of the school occupied by each department.

Pastoral Care:

Being present to students is a responsibility taken on by all staff members of Fr. Michael Goetz. We each have students with whom we naturally develop a relationship and we consider it our duty as Christians to make sure that students are supported and cared for in a compassionate and in the most appropriate pastoral approach.

Being present to students and staff members in times of need, spiritual or personal crisis is the main responsibility of the Chaplaincy Leader. The Chaplaincy Leader also plays a vital role in on-going spiritual direction to students and staff. All staff members are also encouraged to minister to their colleagues in companionship and presence.

A Bereavement Support Group in collaboration with the Child Youth Worker and the Social Worker will be offered if the need arises. The intent of this group will be to assist students in their journey of grief.

Parish Connections:

An ongoing effort will be made to build meaningful bridges with our Parish of Cristo Rei. Here are some ways:

- ❖ Advertise and support Parish Events
- ❖ Support the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Knights of Columbus through our seasonal Charitable Drives namely during Thanksgiving, Advent and Lent.
- ❖ Direct students to the Parish to enter into the RCIC/RCIA program when they enquire about wanting to become Catholic. Over the years we have had these requests from students.

Campus Ministry/Student Chaplaincy Leadership Team:

This ministry, under the direction of the Chaplaincy Leader and other supporting staff members, provides leadership opportunities to students. These opportunities are within the school, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, the Archdiocese of Toronto and civic community.

Another goal of this ministry is to strengthen leadership in and service to school-based Catholic youth-to-youth ministry. A variety of leadership training opportunities are offered to the students in this ministry on a continuous basis, such as the Salesian Leadership Retreat, annual end of the year retreat and weekly gatherings.

Students involved in Campus Ministry play a key role as leaders at our School Liturgies, in the prayer life of the School, in food and clothing drives and in other events and initiatives organized through the Chaplaincy Department.

Staff Faith Development:

The goal will be to:

- strengthen leadership in and service to ministry amongst colleagues,
- engage individual colleagues or collegial groups in faith-centered events/celebrations,
- nurture and challenge adult faith
- animate, nurture, and support the spiritual, personal and faith development of all staff who by their baptism have been called to discipleship in Jesus.

Nurturing and meeting the staff's faith and spiritual needs will enable them to engage students in a spiritual and faith-filled journey. Throughout the school year staff will be invited to gather in prayer, faith-sharing and friendship.

Conclusion:

This year will be another year during which we continue to build on the work of the past 33 years in providing a stronger faith community for both the students and the staff of Fr. Michael Goetz.

Opportunities for staff and students will be the focus to recognize God's presence among us and to walk with Jesus in faith, hope and love as we continue to "Take a risk, Get involved and Be committed".

May all our efforts during this year in 'Igniting Hope' be one that unite us in Jesus the one who guides us along our path. It is the hope that at the end of this academic year, we can look back and proclaim that through our lived faith we experienced God's abundant Grace and were led to a deeper relationship with the Lord.