

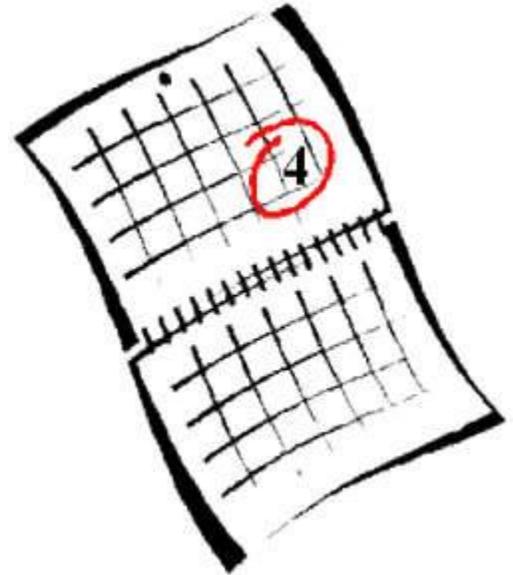
🎵 🎵 Grace Notes from the System Chaplain 🎵 🎵

October 2019

Dear all:

The next few weeks are very full of events in both the Church calendar, the calendars of other faith groups and the secular calendar.

October embraces the memorials of St Therese of the Child Jesus (the Little Flower), Guardian Angels, St Francis of Assisi, Our Lady of the Rosary, St Teresa of Avila, Ste-Marguerite d'Youville, St Ignatius of Antioch, St Luke, St John Paul II, St Simon and St Jude – to name just a few- as well as the High Holy Days and several other festivals of our Jewish brothers and sisters, Diwali for our Hindu Community, the Jain New Year and the birthday of the Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith. There are also a number of days devoted to international causes: Older Persons (October 1st) Non-Violence (October 2nd), Teachers (October 5th), World Habitat Day (October 7th), Mental Health and Sight (October 10th), the International Day of the Girl Child (October 11th), Rural Women (October 15th), World Food Day (October 16th), Eradication of Poverty (October 17th), etc.



Perhaps because there are so many causes and interests which beg for our attention, it may be helpful to set aside days such as these to contemplate what drives each one of us and to educate others in the depth and breadth of our world. Our Catholic Social Justice teachings call each one of us to embrace what is just and merciful for all; we cannot be all things to all people, but we can choose an area in which to invest our time, talent and treasure.

We also are privileged to observe our Board's Faith Day, an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of our Theological Theme through one of the four strands prepared by the writing team. This year, each strand is enhanced with an activity involving *Renewing the Promise*; on this day we also prepare for the Pilgrimage of the Cross which will begin in November in celebration of our fifty years of existence as a School Board.

November brings us All Saints' and All Souls' Days, to remember those who have modelled holiness to us throughout the ages, and to take time to recall our own loved ones who have gone before us into the next life. We set aside November 11th, the Armistice of the First World War, which is also the Memorial of St Martin of Tours, patron of beggars and chaplains (those who seek alms and those who dispense them) to remember especially those who have given up their lives in defence of freedom and peace. This is also a day for us to recognise the fragility of peace and the need for every one of us to be an "instrument of peace". This is a good time to revisit the Prayer of St Francis.

Although we generally think of our veterans as men, it is important to remember that women have been represented in those ranks since earliest times. You may find this clip useful in presenting that point.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7jla_6CD3A#action=share

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This year we shall have the experience of 34 Weeks in Ordinary Time, the 34th Sunday being the Feast of Christ the King.

Ordinary Time is that part of the Christian liturgical year outside of Lent, the Paschal Triduum, Eastertide, Christmastide, and Advent.^[1] and is divided into two periods: that between Christmas and Lent, and that between Pentecost and Advent. Far from being *Ordinary* in the common usage of the word – i.e. unimportant - this is a reference to *counted* or *ordered* time and comes from the same root as the word “ordinal” in mathematics. You can find out more at <https://www.learnreligions.com/ordinary-time-in-the-catholic-church-542442>

Ordinary Time is recognised in our churches with green vestments and draperies which acknowledge eternal life, hope, and the movement of the Holy Spirit throughout our lives.

The Cross Pilgrimage promises to be a unifying activity as we carry a beautiful cross fashioned by Rick Carniej at Corpus Christi from school to school. The cross will be received by the Board of Trustees on November 19th and carried out by them to begin its journey the next day to Christ the King Catholic Secondary School in Georgetown. You will find resources and information about the Cross Pilgrimage on StaffNet under Board Services>School Services: click on Focus on Faith and you will find a file on the righthand side under HCDSB 50th Anniversary.

There are a number of Adult Faith Formation Events coming up. Apart from Faith Day, we have a session – on the theology of sexuality - with Teresa Hartnett from the Diocesan Office of Family Ministry on November 20th, and a twilight retreat with Mary-Ellen Chown and Joanne Montague on the Courage to Love on December 2nd.

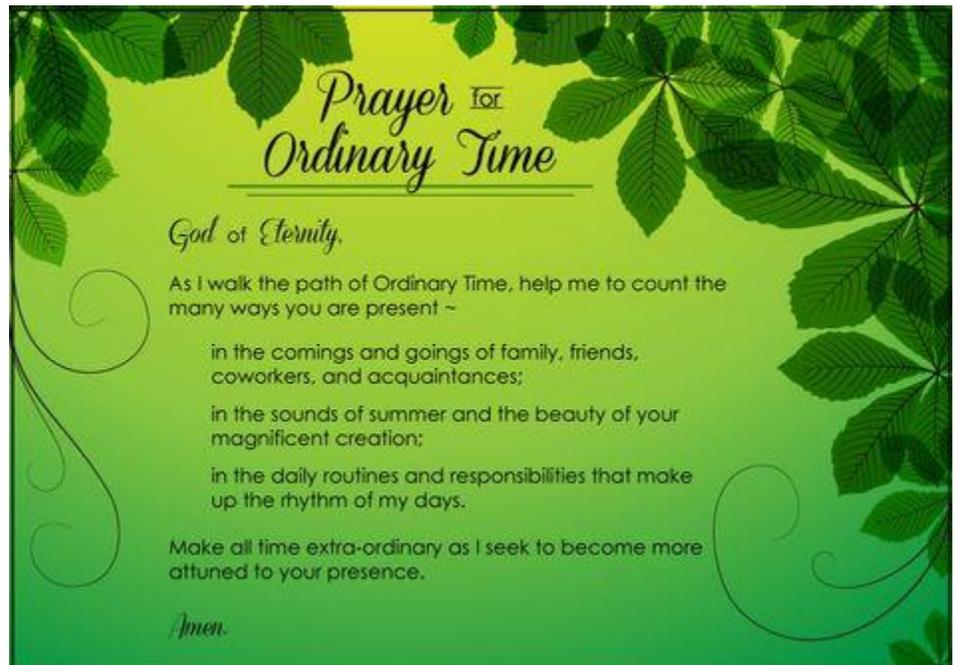
Several groups within the Board family are looking forward to spending time with David Wells in November and will, no doubt, be eager to share that experience with others.

Good luck with report cards and parent teacher interviews!

With every blessing,

Gillian

System Chaplain and Faith Formation Lead



<https://www.sadlier.com/religion/blog/bid/95199/ordinary-time>