



Renaming of Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School – Recommended Names	Item 8.3
Tuesday, June 2, 2020	

Alignment to Strategic Plan

This report is linked to our strategic priority of **Achieving: Meeting the needs of all learners.**

Purpose

To provide Trustees with an update on the process of renaming Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School as per Board Policy I-15 School Name Selection.

Background Information

At the Regular Board Meeting held on March 3, 2020, the Board of Trustees adopted a motion to initiate the process to rename Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School. This motion came about as a result of the inquiry findings released on February 22, 2020, which revealed reports of sexual misconduct by Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche Foundation and the namesake of this school.

In accordance with Policy I-15, School Name Selection, the first step in this process was to establish a committee to oversee the consultation with our school community.

The School Renaming Committee was established, comprised of school staff, parents, and students, the Pastor of our school Parish, Trustees, and school board staff. [Click here to view the School Name Selection Committee Members.](#)

The Committee held its first meeting virtually on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 to have some initial discussions.

Stakeholder Consultation – Request for Potential Names

Between April 30th and May 11th, members of the school community were asked through an email invitation to provide school name suggestions for JVCSS. The feedback received is attached as **Appendix A**.

Shortlist of School Names Selected

On Wednesday, May 13th, the School Name Selection Committee met to review the feedback received from the community and to discuss potential names.



They considered all names and created a shortlist of six (6) names:

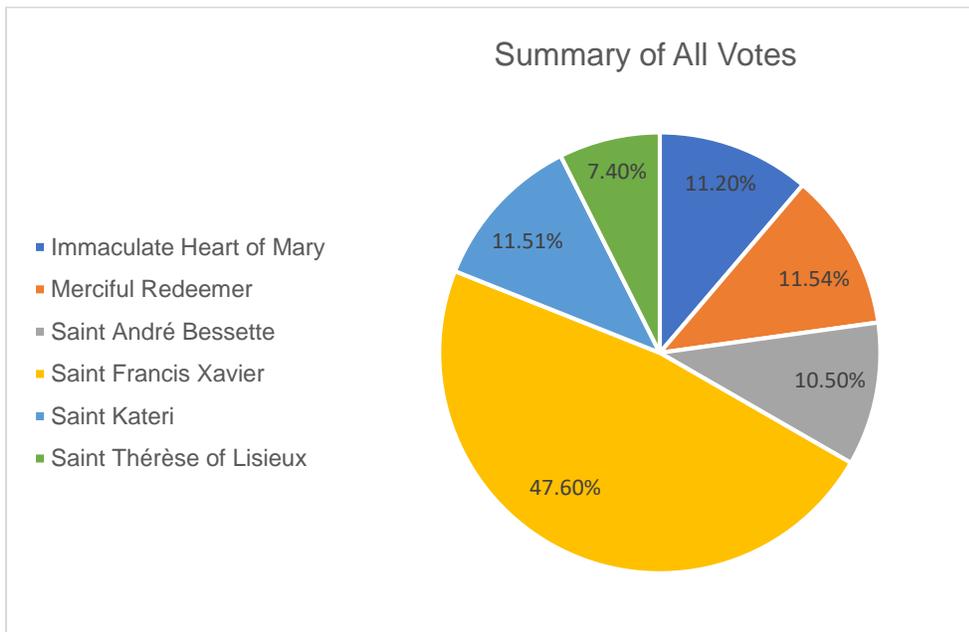
- Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Merciful Redeemer
- St. Andre Bessette
- St. Francis Xavier
- St. Kateri
- St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Vote for Preferred Name(s)

Between May 14th and May 25th, members of the school community were asked through an email invitation to select their top two choices from the shortlist of potential school names. The rationale for the name selection, and a brief biography or description of each saint or theological concept was provided (see **Appendix B**). A summary of the feedback received is attached as **Appendix C**.

Results of the Community Vote

Proposed Name	1 st Choice Votes	%	2 nd Choice Votes	%	Total	%
Immaculate Heart of Mary	361	10.5%	415	12.1%	776	11.2%
Merciful Redeemer	373	10.9%	420	12.2%	793	11.54%
Saint André Bessette	272	7.9%	455	13.2%	727	10.5%
Saint Francis Xavier	1984	57.8%	1290	37.6%	3274	47.6%
Saint Kateri	302	8.8%	489	14.2%	791	11.51%
Saint Thérèse of Lisieux	143	4.2%	366	10.7%	509	7.4%
	3435	100 %	3435	100.0%	6870	100.0%



As illustrated in the chart and table above, there were a total of 3435 survey responses received.

The name ‘St. Francis Xavier’ had the highest number of votes (47.6%), followed by ‘Merciful Redeemer’ (11.54%), ‘St. Kateri’ (11.51%), Immaculate Heart of Mary’ (11.2%), St. Andre Bessette (10.5%) and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (7.4%).

Final Meeting of the School Renaming Committee

The final meeting of the School Renaming Committee took place on May 27, 2020. After reviewing the results of the community vote, the consensus was to provide a short list of three (3) names to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

The following three names are provided:

- St. Francis Xavier,
- Merciful Redeemer
- St. Kateri.

Conclusion

The Trustees are asked to consider the above short list and, subject to Board approval and in accordance with Policy I-15, to determine a preferred name and an alternate name to be submitted to His Excellency, Bishop Crosby for his consideration.

We anticipate his response will be brought back to trustees at the June 16, 2020 Board Meeting.



Recommendation

The following recommendation is presented for the consideration of the Board:

Resolution#:

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Resolved, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the following two school names, ordered in priority, as possible names for Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School:

Preferred Name:

Alternate Name:

Be it further resolved, that the Board approved list of possible school names be submitted to His Excellency Bishop Crosby for his consideration and response.

Report Prepared
& Submitted by:

Jeff Crowell
Superintendent of Education

Report Approved by:

Pat Daly
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board

School Name Reselection Process - Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School

Summary of Stakeholder Feedback – Potential Name Ideas

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Online Feedback Form.....	2
Names Submitted.....	3
All Feedback Shared	5

Introduction

On March 3, 2020 Board of Trustees approved a motion to initiate the process to rename Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School. This motion came about as a result of the inquiry findings released on February 22, 2020, which revealed reports of sexual misconduct by Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche Foundation and the namesake of this school.

In accordance with Policy I-15, School Name Selection, the first step in this process was to establish a committee to oversee the consultation with our school community. The School Renaming Selection Committee met on April 29, 2020 for an initial discussion around potential names. In accordance with Policy I-15, an invitation to provide input was sent out to the members of the school community.

This report summarizes feedback from Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School stakeholders regarding potential name ideas for consideration by the School Renaming Selection Committee.

Online Feedback Form

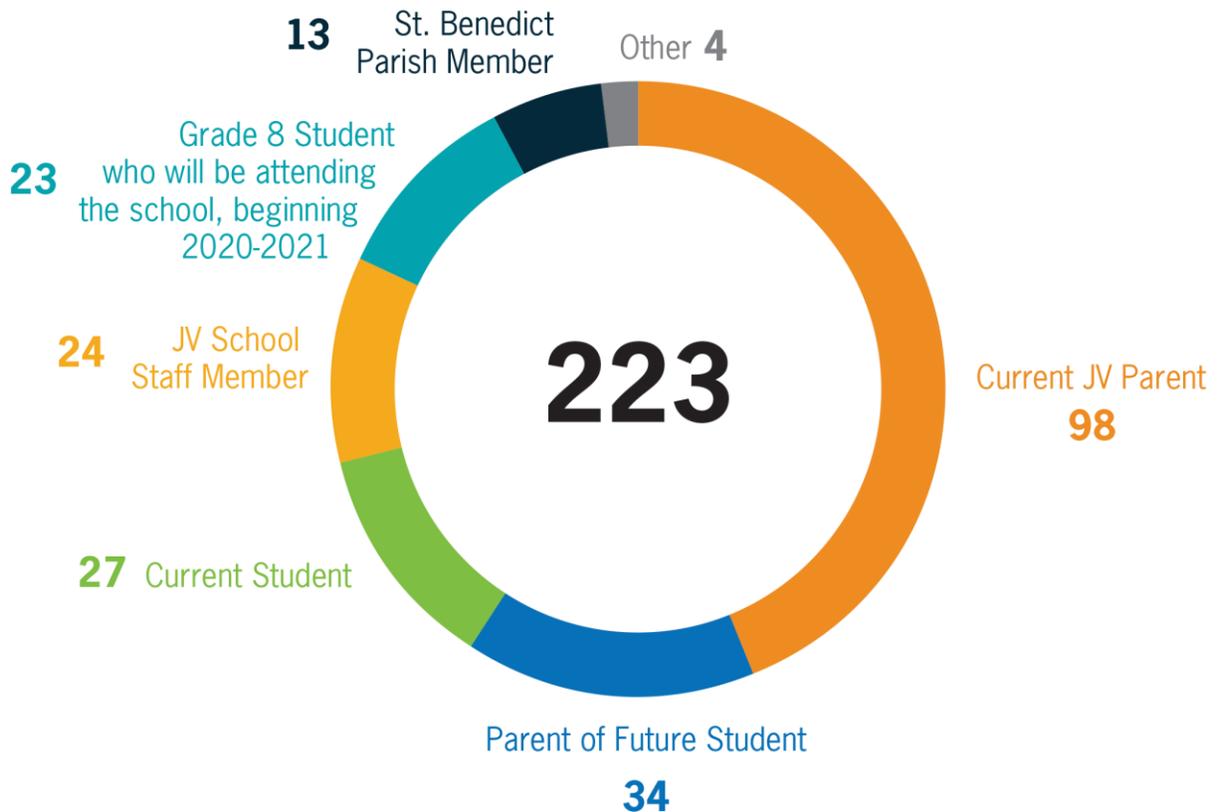
The online feedback form was made available between April 30 and May 11, 2020 (inclusively).

The link to the online form was sent directly via email to current JV parents and staff, as well as parents of Grade 8 students attending one of the six (6) feeder schools within the JV Family of Schools: *Guardian Angels Catholic Elementary School; Lumen Christi Catholic Elementary School; Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School; Queen of Heaven Catholic Elementary School; St. Benedict Catholic Elementary School; and St. Scholastica Catholic Elementary School.*

The online form was anonymous and not password protected, therefore it was unable to prevent duplicate submissions from the same individuals.

Who Responded?

In total, **180** completed responses were submitted using the online feedback form. The chart below displays respondents' roles; the majority of respondents were current JV parents (54%, n = 98).



**NOTE: some respondents identified more than one role in the community (e.g. current parent and parish member; current parent and parent of future student, etc.)*

Names Submitted

Respondents were invited to submit names for consideration by the School Renaming Selection Committee. All responses are listed below under All Feedback Shared. There were 112 unique names submitted. The following were the recurring names submitted.

Jesus of Victory (9%; n=16)

Examples of rationale provided:

“It would leave the initials the same and the meaning gives us an optimistic reminder of the hope of heaven and the overcoming of an enemy or antagonist which can remind the school community through faith”

“So we don’t change the initials and uniform of the school!”

"I think it's important to have a name that reflects catholic values meanwhile is timeless and is named after someone that is well known for not having a controversial past. This name would also allow us to use the Knights logo which is a large part of our identity as a school."

St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) (9%; n=16)

Examples of rationale provided:

"For here service to the poorest of the poor."

"An amazing saint who is a woman! Did incredibly notable things in her life and gave selflessly to others. Her name is fitting and a beautiful tribute to her."

"She founded the Missionaries of Charity, that had more than 4,500 Roman Catholic nuns. This began in 1950 till 2012. All the missionaries helped people around the world who were dying of AIDS/HIV, leprosy and tuberculosis, and many more programs."

St. John Paul II (5%; n=9)

Examples of rationale provided:

"because, John Paul II was a good example for young people, he was loved by them and he was very close to them. Started World Youth Day, bringing young people together."

"I think it would be a good name for our school because he was a humble person, and he did good things like being a vocal rights advocate and he opposed against capital punishment. John Paul used his influence to bring about political change and is credited with the fall of communism in his native Poland."

"He brought Christianity to Canada."

St. Joan of Arc (3%; n=6)

Examples of rationale provided:

"I think it is important that our school be named after a woman. Additionally the Arc can remain our connection to the l'Arche community who we work very closely with. Joan of Arc's symbol is armour it is perfect because we are the Knights and our logo is of a knight in armour. Lastly, we often refer to ourselves as JV and this is similar in the sense JA."

"She is the patron saint of abused women. Our former name sake abused women. It's full circle."

"She was a Warrior and always went with her beliefs."

St. John Vianney (3%; n=5)

Examples of rationale provided:

"I think it is important that our school be named after a woman. Additionally the Arc can remain our connection to the l'Arche community who we work very closely with. Joan of Arc's symbol is armour it is perfect because we are the Knights and our logo is of a knight in armour. Lastly, we often refer to ourselves as JV and this is similar in the sense JA."

"She is the patron saint of abused women. Our former name sake abused women. It's full circle."

"She was a Warrior and always went with her beliefs."

St. Thérèse of Lisieux (3%; n=5)

Examples of rationale provided:

"St Thèrese gave herself to God at 15 and was a teenager when she did this. She said "what matters are not great deeds but great love" which fits in with our current school motto. She represents unwavering faith and the spirit of childhood. Our students have shown resilience and unwavering faith and continue to serve with love through these times."

"I feel that St. Theresa/St. Therese of Lisieux would be a good fit for the name of the current Jean Vanier School. I feel this way for many reasons; some of which I will mention here.

St. Theresa represents acceptance; inclusion and certainly serving with love as she had done her entire short life. She was also well known for her simplicity and humility. St. Therese has been quoted as saying "What matters in life are not great deeds but great love". She is also known to provide answers to prayers; and has been known to give those answers through tangible signs i.e. seeing roses; some have smelled roses; and even hearing the name Rose come up. She has performed miracles during her life; which lead to her being Canonized. Because St. Theresa is known as "the little flower"; she is often depicted with roses around her. I feel that this could include the already existing purple colour of J.V. Knights."

All Feedback Shared

- [View list of suggested names](#) submitted through the online form.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Connection to JV School Community

Students are called “to accept, include, and serve with love.” Mary is an example of someone who answered the call to serve God without question. She experienced both immense joy and sorrow in her life, but remained ever faithful to God. Reflecting upon the Immaculate Heart of Mary draws us closer to the love of God and help us to share that love to others.

This is a devotional title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It arises from the quotation in Luke’s Gospel at the time Jesus stayed behind at the Temple in Jerusalem, Luke 2:51b: *“His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”* and also reflects the words of Anna to Mary at the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple: *This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.* (Luke 2:35-35). This recognizes both the joys and sorrows that Mary’s heart endured.

The devotion to Mary’s heart is essentially concerned with the love that her heart has for Jesus, for God. The love of her heart is meant to be a model for the way we should love God. The fact that her heart is immaculate, that is sinless, means that she is the only fully human person who is able to really love God in the way that God should be loved.

Honoring Mary’s Immaculate Heart is really just another way of honoring Mary as the person who was chosen to be the Mother of God, recognizing her extraordinary holiness and the immense love she bestowed on Jesus as his mother, the person who was called to share in and co-operate in his redemptive sufferings. The aim of the devotion is to unite all humans to God through Mary’s heart. (Catholic News Agency)

Merciful Redeemer

Connection to JV School Community

Jesus is our ultimate example of one who “accepts, includes, and serves with love.” Through his words and actions, Jesus taught us about God’s infinite mercy and compassion. God is always ready to welcome us back and lovingly forgive us our sins and shortcomings. Jesus’ sacrifice redeems us and makes us whole and holy. Students called to “accept, include and serve with love” must also be ready to forgive others, offer mercy and compassion, and seek ways to restore wholeness to those in the community and beyond. In so doing, they reflect the love of the Merciful Redeemer.

This title of Jesus is closely tied to the devotion to the Divine Mercy instituted by St Faustina (1905-1938) and is stressed by the Litany of the Divine Mercies.

Jesus brings to us the boundless loving compassion and mercy of God and has made that explicit in his death on the Cross. The concept of redemption implies a purchase or buying back. In keeping with Jewish tradition, Mary and Joseph made an offering in the Temple in Jerusalem on the 40th day of the life of the infant Jesus to signify the redemption of the Jewish people from slavery; Jesus then offered his life to redeem all people from the sin which separated them from God and he removed the fear of death.

The term, “Redeemer” is not used in the Gospels; however, St. Paul uses the term redemption in reference to the salvific significance of Jesus’ death in several of his letters. A prayer attributed to St Richard of Chichester (1197-1253) calls Jesus “most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother” and continues with the words made popular in the musical *Godspell*: “*may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day*”. Through the work of St Faustina there are several popular devotions to the Divine Mercy and this observance is held on the first Sunday after Easter.

Saint André Bessette

Connection to JV School Community

Not only is St. Andre an example of someone who “accepts, includes and serves with love,” but he is also a model of resilience. Despite being frail and being cautioned by medical and Church personnel, he continued to welcome and care for those who were sick. He persevered in the face of great challenges in order to serve others and his call to God. Nurturing student resilience and fostering relationships are key themes at our school.

Saint André Bessette, better known to us as Brother André, was the eighth of twelve children born into the family of a carpenter/lumberjack in Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Québec, on August 9th, 1845 and named Alfred.

Four of his siblings died in infancy and he was so frail that he was conditionally baptized the day after his birth in anticipation of his demise. His father was killed by a falling tree when he was nine and his mother died three years later. He moved to Connecticut at eighteen to join family working in the textile mills but returned to Canada four years later, just after Confederation. His pastor was very taken by his devotion and generosity and presented him to the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Montreal as a postulant.

Initially rejected as being too frail, he was admitted to the Novitiate in 1872 through the intervention of Archbishop Ignace Bourget, and made his final vows in 1874 as Brother André. He did many menial jobs, as porter, sacristan, laundryman, and messenger, always encouraging devotion to St Joseph, the patron saint of Canada.

He frequently visited the sick and, when he volunteered to nurse at a nearby college during an epidemic, no one died. In spite of the objections of medical and Church personnel, the flood of sick people coming to seek his intervention caused them to make him receive visitors in a nearby tramway station as the college run by the Congregation could not handle the numbers.

Throughout this, Brother André refused to take any credit, saying always “St Joseph cures”. At one point he was receiving about 80,000 pieces of mail per year. In 1904 he began a campaign to have a chapel built to honour St Joseph, and in 1924, the construction of the basilica known as St Joseph’s Oratory began. In 1937, he died at the age of 91 and his remains are entombed below the main chapel of the Oratory.

Brother André was beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 23rd, 1982, and on October 17th, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI formally declared him St André Bessette. The memorial of St André is celebrated in Canada on January 7th, and is an optional memorial in the rest of the world on January 6th

Saint Francis Xavier

Connection to JV School Community

St. Francis Xavier, known as the patron saint of missions, in essence, founded Christianity in India and Japan. Among his many accomplishments was the foundation of many churches and colleges. He was renowned for his humility and his devotion to a prayerful and spiritual life. His life of service to the Catholic faith is indicative of our school motto to accept, include and serve with Love. He is also the patron saint of navigators, which connects to the guiding role that both school and church give our students.

Saint Francis Xavier was born Francisco de Jasso y in 1506 in Javier (Xavier in Old Spanish), in what was then the Kingdom of Navarre (part of present-day Spain).

Although his early life was fairly privileged, his father died when he was nine years old and, after his brothers participated in a failed Navarrese-French attempt to expel Spanish invaders, the Spanish Governor, Cardinal Cisneros, confiscated the family lands, demolished much of the family castle, and filled in the moat, essentially demoting the family.

In 1525, he went to study in Paris and acquired a reputation as an athlete, although he remained there as a scholar for 11 years. In 1540, he became a co-founder of the Society of Jesus, making private vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to the Pope. Francis began to study theology and was ordained in 1537. Shortly after the new Order was approved, King John of Portugal successfully petitioned Pope Paul III to send missionaries to the East Indies and Francis was one of those deployed. He was to spend much of his life in missions in Goa, then capital of Portuguese India, and in Malacca in southwestern Malaysia, Amboina, Indonesia and Ternate, Japan. As Goa was essentially a “St Thomas Christian” community, closer in faith to the Syrian Church than to Rome, Francis’ efforts were part of a process which resulted in some forming one of the Catholic Churches of the East following the East Syriac Rite, whilst others formed the Malankara Church and became part of the Syrian Orthodox Communion. In 1552, he was persuaded to make an ambassadorial visit to the Chinese Emperor; however, he experienced some serious opposition from Portuguese officials and ended up dying of a fever at Shangchuan, Taishan, China, on December 3rd, 1552, whilst waiting for a boat to take him to mainland China. Francis was reputed to have converted more people than anyone since the Apostle, Paul. Along with Ignatius Loyola, his passion and missionary zeal were always performed “Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam” – to the greater glory of God – and that became the motto of the Jesuits. Francis Xavier was beatified by Paul V on October 25th 1619, and canonised by Gregory XV on 12 March 12th 1622, at the same time as Ignatius Loyola. Pope Pius XI proclaimed him the “Patron of Catholic Missions”. His feast day is 3 December.

Saint Kateri

Connection to JV School Community

Fostering student resilience is a focus at our school and St. Kateri is a model of resilience. At a young age, she endured illness and loss and she chose her path to God with certainty and conviction, despite the objections of many in her community. It is also fitting to choose an indigenous woman for our multi-cultural nature school community. The image of St. Kateri is included in the artwork used by our Board when we recognize and honour the Indigenous land and territory upon which we teach and learn.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (Deh-gah-GWEE-tah) was born in 1656 in the village of Ossernenon (now the hamlet of Auriesville in Fultonville, NY) to an Algonquin mother who had been captured, in what would become Canada, by the Mohawks and taken as wife by one of their chiefs; her birth name was Ioragode meaning “Sunshine”.

As a child she contracted smallpox which left her seriously scarred and nearly blind, at which point she was renamed Tekakwitha, meaning “she who gropes,” “she who bumps into things,” or “she who puts things in order.” Her immediate family members died of the disease and she was adopted by another chief who was one of her uncles.

In October 1666, Kateri watched as French troops burned the Mohawk villages in retaliation for Iroquois raids on their trade routes. Because her community was now without any of the staples they needed for the winter, the Mohawks agreed to an uneasy peace and moved to the north bank of the Mohawk River. The peace plan required the village to welcome and accommodate the “Black Robes”, Jesuit missionaries. Her uncle was hostile because he saw his population, already decimated by disease and war, further diminish as converts moved to the Jesuit mission near Montreal. Despite this, Kateri was attracted by the message and the bravery of the missionaries. She was baptized in 1676 at the age of 20, and given the name Catherine, which became Kateri. Her choice of celibacy over marriage created animosity among her tribesmen and her love of Jesus and the cross incited social and emotional persecution. When it was obvious that her life was in danger, she escaped to a native Christian settlement near Montreal where she spent her remaining years in prayer, penance, harsh mortifications, and charitable works. After a period of illness, she died on April 17th, Wednesday of Holy Week, in 1680 at the age of 24. The facial scarring from the smallpox disappeared upon her death. Apparitions of her were soon reported, as were answers to prayers and healings through her intercession.

Kateri was beatified in 1980, and in 2012 was canonized St. Kateri Tekakwitha as the first indigenous North American saint. She is often called “the Lily of the Mohawks.”

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Connection to JV School Community

One of the important values we seek to instill in our students is resilience. St. Therese endured loss at a very young age which led to great anxiety and depression. Therese believed her love of Jesus helped her to overcome her challenges. St. Therese serves as an example as one who “accepts, includes and serves with love.” She sought to recognize that each person is a work of God and she engaged in small acts of kindness with everyone she met. She learned that love of God is connected to love of neighbour. St. Therese is quoted as saying, “What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love.” This fits well with our school motto. She is an example of simplicity and humility for our students.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux was born Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin on January 2, 1873 and died of tuberculosis on September 30, 1897 at the age of twenty-four.

She had fragile health as a child and, as her mother died when she was four, was raised by an aunt. Also known as Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, she was a French Catholic Discalced Carmelite nun, joining the cloistered Order in Lisieux at the age of fifteen. She was the third of the four girls in her family to enter this convent.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux is recognized as a model of sanctity because of the simplicity and practicality of her spirituality. She did not aspire to greatness, and actually struggled with some of the studies and tasks, such as needlework, which were required of her. She practiced “the little way of spiritual childhood”, doing many small acts of kindness, consolation, sacrifice and love; this designation was coined by her sister, Pauline, who was also one of her Carmelite Sisters. Although she had an influence on people during her short life, largely because of her kindness, her spirituality became better known after she died as people read her spiritual memoir, “The Story of a Soul” and her religious poetry.

She is popularly known as “The Little Flower of Jesus”, or simply “The Little Flower”, reputedly because of a comment made to her by her father when she was a child which led her to describe herself as a beautiful small flower among all the other flowers giving glory to God. Miracles attributed to her are often associated with roses in fulfilment of the promise she made to continue to work after her death to make God loved on earth by letting fall a shower of roses.

She was canonized on May 17th, 1925 and her feast day is October 1st.



School Name Reselection Process - Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School

Poll Results – Choose Your Preferred School Name

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Online Feedback Form.....	2
Who Responded?.....	3
Poll Results	3

Introduction

On March 3, 2020 Board of Trustees approved a motion to initiate the process to rename Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School. This motion came about as a result of the inquiry findings released on February 22, 2020, which revealed reports of sexual misconduct by Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche Foundation and the namesake of this school.

In accordance with Policy I-15, a School Renaming Selection Committee was established. An invitation was extended to all stakeholders between April 30 and May 11, 2020 to submit potential name ideas for consideration by the School Renaming Selection Committee.

At the meeting held on May 13, 2020, the School Renaming Selection Committee reviewed the names submitted by members of the community and developed a short list of names in accordance with the Diocesan criteria, and taking into consideration the school's values statement to 'accept, include and serve with love.'

The short list of six (6) potential names was submitted for consideration by members of the broader school community. Respondents were asked to select their first and second choices for the new name. The following report provides a summary of the poll results.

Online Feedback Form

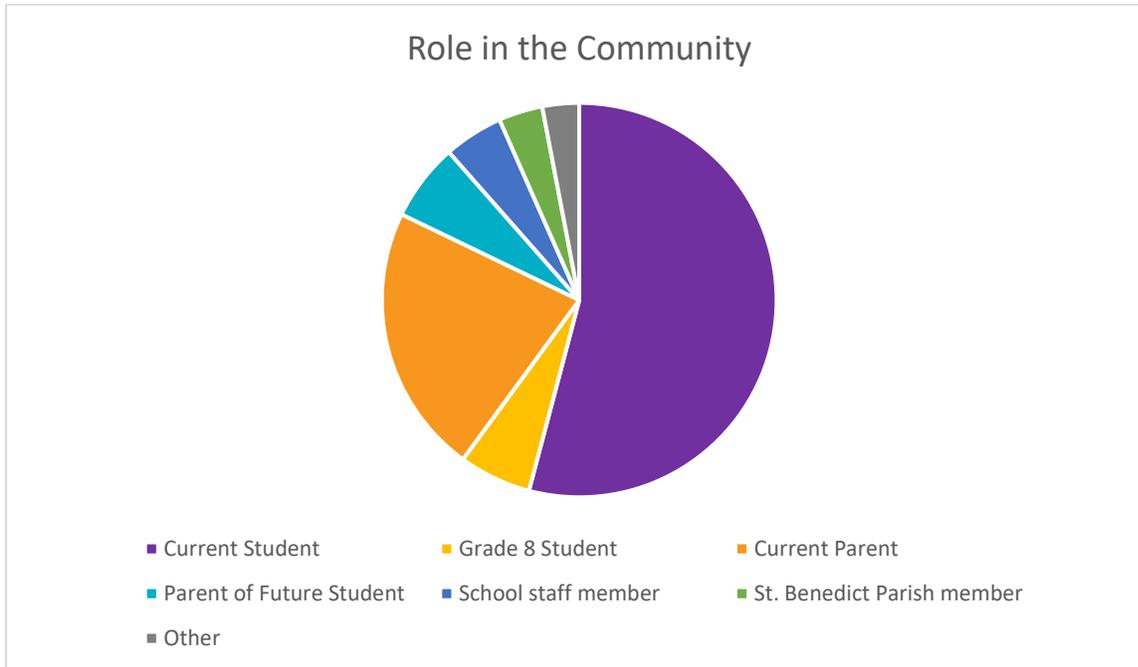
The online feedback form (poll) was made available between May 14 and May 25, 2020 (inclusively). The online form was anonymous and not password protected, therefore it was not possible to prevent duplicate submissions from the same individuals.

The link to the online form was sent directly via email to current JV parents and staff, as well as parents of Grade 8 students attending one of the six (6) feeder schools within the JV Family of Schools: *Guardian Angels Catholic Elementary School; Lumen Christi Catholic Elementary School; Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School; Queen of Heaven Catholic Elementary School; St. Benedict Catholic Elementary School; and St. Scholastica Catholic Elementary School.*

Who Responded?

In total, **3435** responses (votes) were submitted using the online feedback form. The chart below displays respondents' roles; the majority of respondents were current JV students (58%, n = 1978).

NOTE: Approximately 3% (n=110) of the respondents identified their role as 'other'. Of this group, the majority (n=50) identified as alumni. Other roles included in this category were ratepayers, and siblings or relatives of students.



Poll Results

Respondents were invited to submit their first and second choice of school name. The total votes (first choice + second choice) for each name were tallied. The names below are listed in order of preference, as determined by the community votes.

1. Saint Francis Xavier (**3274 total votes** - 1st choice: **1984**; 2nd choice: **1290**)
2. Merciful Redeemer (**793 total votes** - 1st choice: **373**; 2nd choice: **420**)
3. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (**791 total votes** - 1st choice: **302**; 2nd choice: **489**)
4. Immaculate Heart of Mary (**776 total votes** - 1st choice: **361**; 2nd choice: **415**)
5. Saint André Bessette (**727 total votes** - 1st choice: **272**; 2nd choice: **455**)
6. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (**509 total votes** - 1st choice: **143**; 2nd choice: **366**)