

## ***Renewing the Promise – A Personal Reflection***



### ***Renewing The Promise* A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education**

### **A Community that Builds Relationships**

In the spring of 2018, the Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) released a Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education, *Renewing the Promise*. With the release of the letter, the Bishops have provided us with a very positive and affirming message. The letter uses the scriptural account of the **Road to Emmaus** as the basis for their reflection on the mission and vision of Catholic education, celebrating that a true encounter with Jesus can and does take place, each and every day within our Catholic schools. The letter invites all those who share responsibility for Catholic education in Ontario to reflect on the challenges and opportunities of the present moment. Letters invite a response, and a thoughtful reading of this letter can be meaningful for all involved with Catholic education.

You are encouraged to read the Pastoral Letter, *Renewing the Promise*, and to spend time reflecting on how it speaks to you directly, given your personal experience and perspective, and its meaning for you within your role and context.

## A Community that Accompanies

Catholic schools are described as communities that accompany, and staff, parents and community members practise the art of accompaniment as they take the time to walk alongside one another, listening, and teaching, and in so doing, transforming.

1. In what ways have you accompanied others?

2. In what ways have you been accompanied within your community?

3. What more can you do?

## A Community that Builds Relationships

Catholic schools are described as communities that build relationships. A sense of respect for the unique expertise and strengths of each and generous cooperation that acknowledges and celebrates the accomplishments of all is essential to develop the mutual trust that nurtures effective working relationships.

1. In what ways have you been affirmed by others for the role you play in Catholic Education?

2. In what ways have you affirmed others for their contributions?

3. What can you do to build trust, and encourage meaningful cooperation within your community context?



