

MEDIA ADVISORY

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Celebrates World Catholic Education Day

Catholic schools around the world will celebrate World Catholic Education Day on Thursday, May 17. At Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, staff and students will also pause to reflect on the unique calling of our school division. We help our students pursue academic excellence while also striving to see them grow spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally.

Part of Thursday's celebration is a first-of-its-kind event to bring together all of our schools: the World Catholic Education Day Relay. In each corner of Saskatoon, groups of Catholic school students will walk to a neighbouring school, representing their school and the division. And they'll be easy to spot. Each group will carry a flag bearing one of these four special words: **Rooted, Growing, Reaching, Transforming**. These themes help describe our division and also guide our work. We are Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge, Reaching Out to Transform the World.

In our schools, transforming means helping each student see how he or she can reach out to make a difference in the world. This was a key focus during Lent, the time spent preparing for Easter. Students at dozens of our schools participated in creative fund-raisers that garnered \$32,900 for various causes, including African missions and a fund to rebuild a secondary school in Loa, a town in Southern Sudan. As well, St. Joseph and Holy Cross high schools recently raised \$5,200 and \$15,001 respectively at their box lunch auctions, where themed meals were auctioned off to the school community.

With Thursday's relay, we are showing our students and the wider community – in a very visible way – that we are proud to be part of this unique family of schools: united by the distinctive, faith-based teaching we offer our children.

The relay is also an excellent way to promote fitness for participating students. All of our schools are recognized as *in motion* schools that are committed to daily physical activity for students.

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Thursday wraps up with a closing liturgy at 2 p.m. at the band shell in Kiwanis Park downtown. This gathering will be attended by selected students and teachers representing their schools, staff, alumni and members of the wider Catholic community. If the weather is inclement, the gathering will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral. Media are welcome at the afternoon gathering or to see a group of students embark on their leg of the relay. Details are as follows:

**St. George School students (200 in all) participate
in the World Catholic Education Day Relay**

Approx. 9:25 a.m.

Thursday, May 17, 2007

748 Redberry Road, heading north to Sister O'Brien School

For more information, please contact:

Donella Hoffman

Communications Consultant

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

659-7077 – office

229-3743 – cell