

Expectations of Our Catholic School Graduates

Seven Prayer Services for Staff and School Council Meetings

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Our vision of the learner:

1. **A discerning believer** formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection, and moral living.
2. **An effective communicator** who speaks, writes, and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.
3. **A reflective, creative, and holistic thinker** who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.
4. **A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner** who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.
5. **A collaborative contributor** who finds meaning, dignity, and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.
6. **A caring family member** who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community.
7. **A responsible citizen who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice, and sacredness of human life.**

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS

Distinctive expectations for graduates of Catholic schools are determined and shaped by the vision and destiny of the human person emerging from our faith tradition. This Christian anthropology or world view, reveals the dignity and value of the person. Our tradition tells us God creatively and lovingly calls each of us into the wonder of life, sustaining us by the power of the Holy Spirit, throughout the human journey, into life eternal. We acknowledge that the journey includes moments of brokenness and sin. We recognize in the person of Jesus, the risen Christ, the human face of God sharing our life in order to heal us of our brokenness and liberate us from sin.

This Christian vision of the human journey is best understood within the context of relationship. It is accomplished in community, in solidarity with brothers and sisters in the Church and beyond.

Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind, and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. The expectations of Catholic graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes, and actions.

Session 1

Overview of Expectations

Jesus: "I have come that you might have life, life in abundance."

Opening Prayer:

God of our hope, we give thanks for this day and these people, and for your Gospel that gives this day meaning and provides your people direction. Encourage us; root us in you. Make us desire your life in us. Amen

Facilitator:

Introduce the Catholic Graduate Expectations; supply everyone with a brochure; and explain the plan of talking about them for the next seven months. Tell them why this is being done at this time.

View the entire C.D.

Facilitator:

Move them into small groups and ask them to talk for ten minutes about:

- Do you think the expectations are realistic or unrealistic for students graduating now?
- Is this what you want for your children?
- What is the role of the school, the parish, the home?

Facilitator:

Plenary Session—feedback from people

Closing Prayer:

Through the power of your compelling Spirit, may we grow in courage, that our actions might reflect the love we profess. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen



Session 2
Catholic Graduate Expectations
#1: Discerning Believer

Jesus: "When I return will I find faith on earth?"

Opening Prayer:

In gathering here we acknowledge the presence within and amongst us of a Spirit, present in all places at all times in this vast universe. To having the power of the Spirit at work in us we say...Amen

View Expectation #1...Discerning Believer

Facilitator:

Ask those present to sit in silence and read the points in the brochure under Discerning Believer. In the silence have then ask themselves the following questions:

- Who in your life's experience has best exemplified these qualities...identify and name such a person? (For each person...don't have to tell anyone who it is)

- How did that person show a difference between a 'believer' and a 'discerning believer'?
- How has that person shown some or all of these qualities?
- What role did the faith community have in shaping that person's belief system and the living out of it?

Facilitator:

Invites everyone to talk about their ideas of what is a 'discerning believer'?

Closing Prayer:

We experience the Spirit in our lives as a Spirit of truth and goodness, love and beauty, care and generosity. To all that the Spirit can do in each and all of us we say. Amen



Session 3
Catholic Graduate Expectations
#2: Effective Communicator

Scripture: "Go and proclaim the good news to everyone"

Opening Prayer:

We acknowledge the Spirit as the source and sustainer of everything that exists, bonding all things in relationship and connectedness, a Spirit of constant movement and new possibilities. To being filled with the Holy Spirit of God we say...Amen

Facilitator:

Set up the following scenario:

- arrange people in groups of five to eight...with ten minutes for discussion.
- The focus is on pretending to interview a person in order to discover if he/she is an effective communicator.

One group, or half the total group, in groups of five to eight talks about interviewing an

applicant for an important position at I.B.M., and the other group or groups, talk about interviewing an applicant for a teaching position in a very Catholic school. Have them discuss:

- What question do you ask of the applicant?
- What information are you looking for?

Plenary Session:

All groups report on their findings and the facilitator places their answers on a flip chart

What picture emerges from the material on the two flip charts—sameness, differences, etc? Compare!

View: Expectation # 2

Closing Prayer:

We give thanks for the way Jesus has led us to awareness of the Spirit in our everyday living. He set us free so that we would live in peace, in God's presence all the days of our lives. Amen



Session 4

Catholic Graduate Expectations

#3: Reflective, Creative, and Holistic Thinker

Socrates: " The un-examined life is not worth living"

Opening Prayer:

Indwelling God enable all of us to be women and men enthusiastic for your ministry, contagious in our love, and eager to be among your people as ones who serve. This we ask through Jesus Christ who is brother and servant to us all. Amen

View: Expectation # 3

Facilitator:

- five minutes: have people go through the list of qualities in the brochure, and
- pick out and list what each one considers a key word or phrase
- have each share his/her list with the group and tell why it was chosen

Session 5
Catholic Graduate Expectations
#4 Lifelong Learner

Exercise:

Facilitator:

Read the following scenario for discussion in small groups for ten minutes:

You are the Prime Minister of Canada. Your friendly President to the south phones you and asks you, and the people of Canada, to support him in his decision to invade Iraq. What do you say and why?

Based on what Expectation #3 puts forth...what moral reasoning do you use to arrive at an answer to this request?

Plenary Session....group feed back

Closing prayer:

God of faithfulness we come to you at the end of the school day and find ourselves needing to begin again on new projects and new ideas. We are in need of energy and new hope. Give us the insight to recognize the ever-present possibility for change and conversion and growth. Amen.



Scripture: Jesus said: "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free"

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, we believe you Spirit is at work in our world. Give us eyes of faith that we might see such wonders in our midst and the courage to live in hope. Amen.

View: Expectation # 4

Facilitator:

Ask people present to form groups of five/six and for ten minutes talk about:

- For you, being a lifelong learner is . . . complete this sentence!
- What motivates you to learn?
- What are your resources for learning?

Plenary Session:

Write people's responses on a flip chart.

Closing Prayer:

We live graciously, filled with wonder, for the marvel of creation that surrounds us. We marvel at the way the Spirit came to expression in this planet, especially in human life form, a life-form giving the Spirit unique ways to express intelligence, love, choice, care, and concern. Amen.



Session 6

Catholic Graduate Expectations

#5 A Collaborative Contributor

Scripture:

Jesus said: "Know that I am with you always until the end of time."

Opening Prayer:

We give thanks, God our Creator, because you have given us life. You have made us in your image and breathed your Spirit into us. We are alive with divinity and your glory is made manifest in us and all those we work with. We have all been touched by God. Amen.

View: Expectation #5

Facilitator:

Have people move into groups of 5-8 people.

Facilitator give the following exercise:

The Institute for Catholic Education has just assigned you, a graphic artist, the task of creating a symbol, a symbol and logo, a diagram, (whichever) which will visually communicate what it means to be a collaborative contributor. Something to place on the *Catholic Graduate Expectations* brochure which will say it all.

Facilitator:

- People can work alone or in groups of three/four for ten minutes.
- Have each person or group, present their work and display for all to see and talk about their work of art.

Closing Prayer:

In the name of our *God* who shares divinity with us,
in the name of our *God* who shares humanity with us,
in the name of our *God* who unsettles and inspires us
let us give praise and thanks. Amen.



Session 7
Catholic Graduate Expectations
#6 Caring Family Member

Scripture:

Mary said: "Your father and I have been searching for you with great anxiety."

Opening Prayer:

God, our creator and sustainer, you loves us long before we knew ourselves to be lovable and love us still. Give us, we pray, a greater awareness of your love for all people, and a confidence in the action of your grace in us, our families, and our school community. Amen.

View: Expectation # 6

Facilitator:

- Have people move into small groups.
- Ask them to talk and identify and name some of the obstacles...demands...challenges that impact their ability to be a caring family member...ten minutes.

Plenary Session:

Place their responses on flip chart for all to see.

Closing Prayer:

We give you thanks, God of abundant life, for bread and friendship and hope. With these gifts we are nourished. With these signs of your presence, we are able to be faithful. Continue to nourish us, inspire us, and call us that we might help make your kingdom more of a reality in our day. Amen.



Session 8 Catholic Graduate Expectations #7 Responsible Citizen

Scripture:

Micah: "Love tenderly, do justice and walk humbly with your God"

Opening Prayer:

God of history, we give you thanks for men and women in many places, at many times throughout human history who have opened minds and hearts to the reality of the Spirit in our midst, searching for words and images to express human connectedness with this mystery and with everything that exists. Amen.

View: Expectation # 7

Facilitator:

Have those present move into groups of five to eight for ten minutes, and

- using words paint the following scenario: a teacher, an atheist teaching in a completely

atheistic school, engages you in conversation at a social gathering. He/she asks you....when it comes to being an responsible citizen in the city...in the country... will your graduates differ from mine and my school?

- If so...why do you say that?
- Where's the proof?

Plenary Session:

Feed back from people.

Closing Prayer:

We give thanks for the way Jesus has led us to awareness of the Spirit in our everyday living. Calling us to be neighbour in ways that cross religious, cultural, and social barriers, He challenges us to give the Spirit free reign in our lives so that the human community and our personal lives may be characterized by compassion and a concern for justice. Amen.

