

# Living our Catholic Faith in School

A Professional Development  
Steering Committee Project

ONTARIO ENGLISH  
**Catholic  
Teachers**  
ASSOCIATION

# Living our Catholic Faith in School



The Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association supports professional development writing projects every summer. These projects are intended to augment the work of classroom teachers in Catholic education at the local level. In consideration of the ongoing challenges facing Catholic education, a writing project exploring the transformative power of Catholic education was developed. This resource, *Living Our Catholic Faith in School*, is the culmination of the efforts of the Catholic teachers' summer writing team.

This project is intended to invite discussion of how our Catholic faith is lived out in our schools and to provide curriculum links to support this discussion. The intention is to support and celebrate the transformative power of Catholic education that is active and alive in our classrooms and schools.

Included in this resource are questions that will help Catholic teachers in their conversations with each other about their ministry in Catholic education. It is hoped that in our discussions with students and with each other, the articulation of the distinctive nature of Catholic education will emerge in concrete ways.

Grounded in scripture and connected to virtues, the Catholic Graduate Expectations and the sacramental life of the Church, this writing project has included the many dimensions which make up the Catholic ethos of our schools.

A link to this project is on the OECTA website [www.oecta.on.ca](http://www.oecta.on.ca) in the Members section, in Teaching Resources, under Curriculum. This resource supports Catholic teachers in their ministry in Catholic education and serves as an ongoing invitation to deeper reflection on their faith journey.

*Living Our Catholic Faith in School* is a project of OECTA's Summer Writing Teams, a program that brings together OECTA members to create classroom curriculum for teachers. The program is funded through OECTA's PD Steering Fund.

## Contributors

Maria Marcuzzi

Lorri Temple

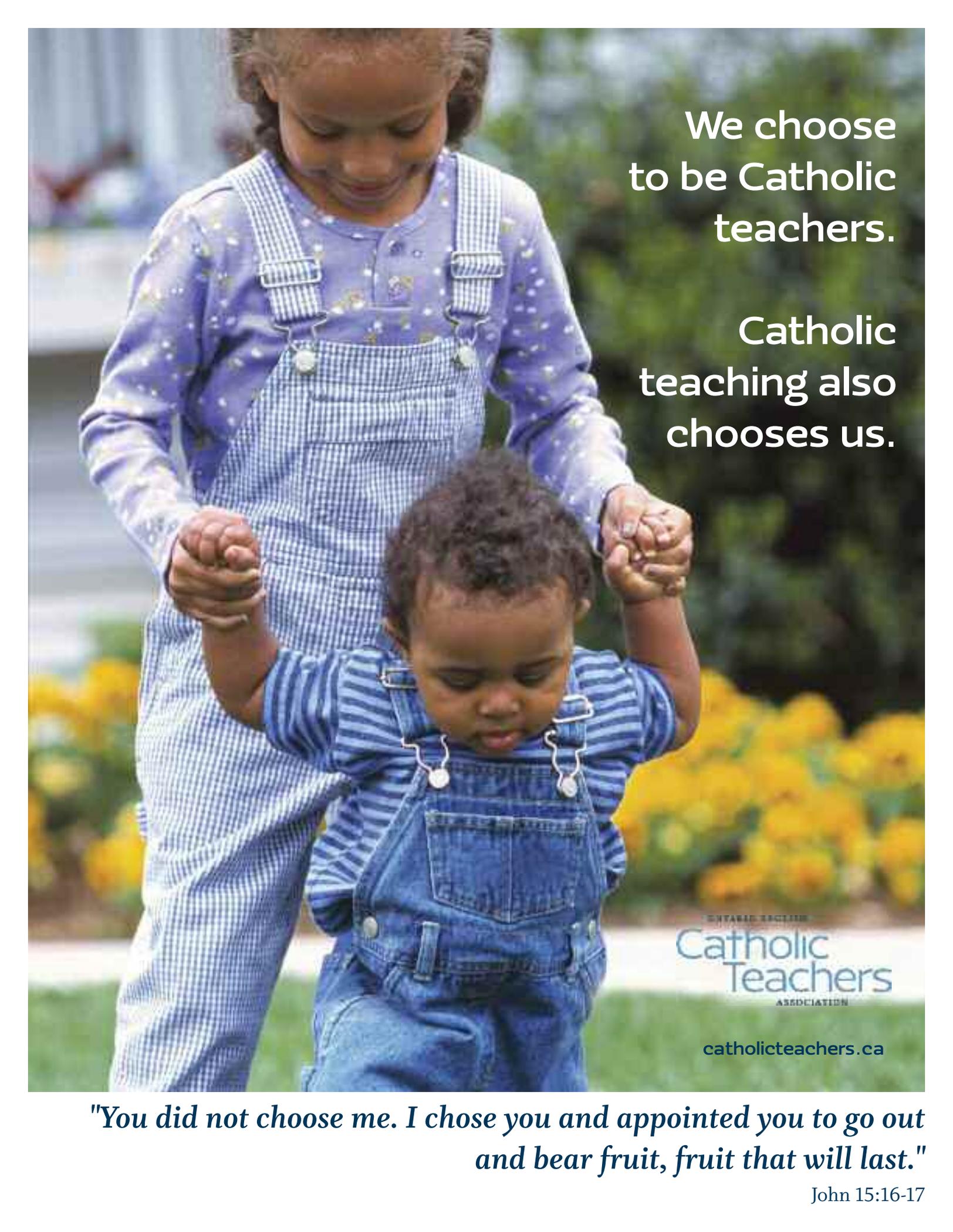
Amy Kieffer

Katherine Brown-Gagne

## Overall suggested activities for all five posters



1. Give students the quotes and scripture passages from the poster and have them select an image (Internet, magazines, newspaper) or draw images to accompany the quote/scripture passage. Have a sharing session for students to share their images and explain why they chose them.
2. In groups or individually, give students quotes and scripture passages and have the students connect them to a Beatitude, Sacrament, Work of Mercy or a Catholic Graduate Expectation (CGE) that is meaningful to them.
3. Have students create a scenario, role play or tableau to illustrate the theme in one of the posters. The students could choose any aspect of the poster in their creation.
4. Write a song, poem or rap that depicts a theme represented in one of the posters. Students could also find an existing song, poem, rap or melody and explain how it depicts one of the themes in the poster.
5. Look at the five scripture passages and write in your own words what God is calling us to do. This could be a persuasive piece, reflective piece or a letter to someone.



We choose  
to be Catholic  
teachers.

Catholic  
teaching also  
chooses us.

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*"You did not choose me. I chose you and appointed you to go out  
and bear fruit, fruit that will last."*

John 15:16-17

## Suggested Activities for Poster



Quote:

**We choose to be Catholic teachers.  
Catholic teaching also chooses us.**

Scripture:

*"You did not choose me. I chose you and appointed you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last."*

John 15:16-17

Catholic Graduate:  
Expectation (CGE)

Discerning Believer  
[www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf](http://www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf)

Virtues:

Faith, Courage

Sacraments:

Baptism, Marriage, Holy Orders

Social Teaching:

Rights and Responsibilities, Call to Family and Community  
[www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml)

Beatitude:

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God  
[www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615)

Works of Mercy:

All spiritual and corporal works  
[www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm)

### Possible Discussion Points

#### Student Questions:

1. What is important to you about being a student in a Catholic school?
2. God appointed you to go out and bear fruit. What are the gifts that God has given you and how do you share those gifts with others?

#### Teacher Questions:

1. What in your daily teaching makes it evident that you teach in a Catholic School System?  
What sustains you as a Catholic teacher?
2. What defines you as a Catholic teacher?
3. How do you experience teaching as a vocation?
4. God appointed you to go out and bear fruit. What are the gifts that God has given you and how do you share those gifts with others?

Catholic Education is countercultural  
insofar as it transforms the pervasive  
world-view of humanity into the  
Imago Dei, the image of  
God in Christ.



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*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the  
renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is  
the will of God – what is good, acceptable and perfect."*

Romans 12:

## Suggested Activities for Poster



Quote:

**Catholic Education is countercultural insofar as it transforms the pervasive world-view of humanity into the Imago Dei, the image of God in Christ.**

Scripture:

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good, acceptable and perfect."*

Romans 12:2

Catholic Graduate:  
Expectation (CGE)

Self-directed and responsible life long learner  
[www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf](http://www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf)

Virtues:

Hope, Justice

Sacraments:

Reconciliation

Social Teaching:

Life and Dignity of the Human Person and Option for the Poor and Vulnerable  
[www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml)

Beatitude:

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall have their fill  
[www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615)

Works of Mercy:

All spiritual works  
[www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm)

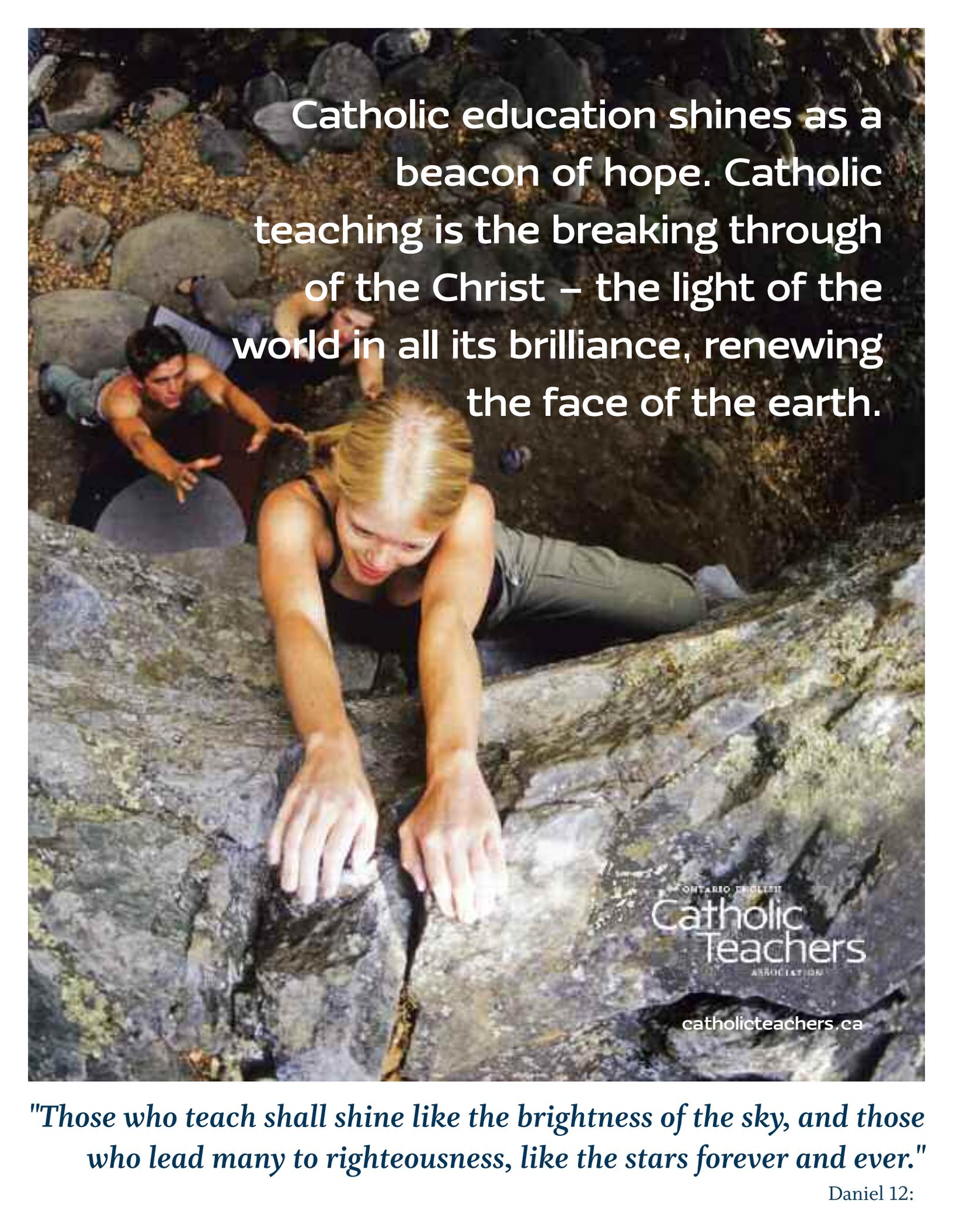
### Possible Discussion Points

#### Student Questions:

1. What in this world would you like to change?  
What is one way you could work towards making this change today?
2. What is the will of God for you? (Teacher will need to explore what the will of God is)  
How can you carry out the will of God at home, at school and in your community?
3. Where do you see the image of God in your life?
4. Ask students to remember a time when they were forgiven and recall what that felt or looked like for them.

#### Teacher Questions:

1. What is the will of God for you? How can you carry out the will of God at home, at school and in the community?
2. What is your hope for Catholic Education?
3. Where do you see the image of God in your life?

A high-angle photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a black tank top and olive green pants, climbing a dark, textured rock face. She is leaning forward, with her hands firmly gripping the rock. In the background, two other people are visible, one of whom appears to be assisting or watching the climber. The scene is set outdoors, with natural light illuminating the rock and the climber.

Catholic education shines as a  
beacon of hope. Catholic  
teaching is the breaking through  
of the Christ – the light of the  
world in all its brilliance, renewing  
the face of the earth.

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*"Those who teach shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."*

Daniel 12:

## Suggested Activities for Poster



Quote:

**Catholic education shines as a beacon of hope. Catholic teaching is the breaking through of the Christ – the light of the world in all its brilliance, renewing the face of the earth.**

Scripture:

*"Those who teach shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."*

Daniel 12:3

Catholic Graduate:  
Expectation (CGE)

Collaborative Contributor  
[www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf](http://www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf)

Virtues:

Courage, Love and Hope

Sacraments:

Anointing of the Sick, Confirmation

Social Teaching:

Dignity of Work and Workers' Rights, Solidarity  
[www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml)

Beatitude:

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.  
[www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615)

Works of Mercy:

All spiritual works  
[www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm)

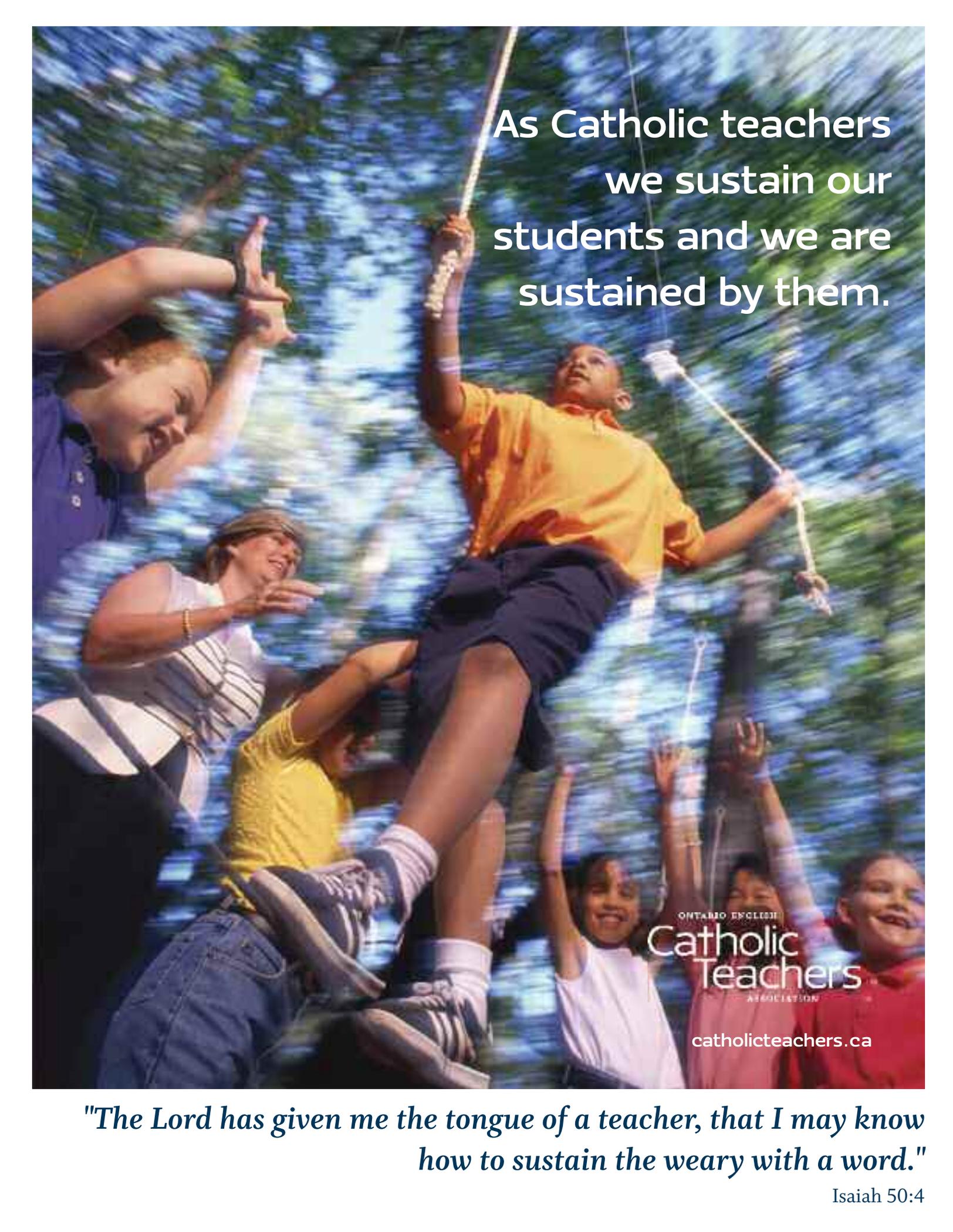
### Possible Discussion Points

#### Student Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a beacon of hope? How is our school a beacon of hope?
2. How are we a light for others in our class, home and in our community?
3. What does it mean to be merciful? What does it look like to be merciful?  
Think of someone in your life who demonstrates mercy. How do they demonstrate mercy?  
Why did you choose this person?

#### Teacher Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a beacon of hope for our students?
2. How are we a light for others in our Catholic school community?
3. How do the teachings of Christ and our faith break through in all areas of the curriculum?



As Catholic teachers  
we sustain our  
students and we are  
sustained by them.

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*"The Lord has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know  
how to sustain the weary with a word."*

Isaiah 50:4

## Suggested Activities for Poster



Quote:

**As Catholic teachers we sustain our students and we are sustained by them.**

Scripture:

*"The Lord has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word."*

Isaiah 50:4

Catholic Graduate:  
Expectation (CGE)

Effective Communicator

[www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf](http://www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf)

Virtues:

Prudence, Faith

Sacraments:

Eucharist

Social Teaching:

Care for God's Creation and Call to Family and Community

[www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml)

Beatitude:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

[www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615)

Works of Mercy:

All spiritual and corporal works

[www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm)

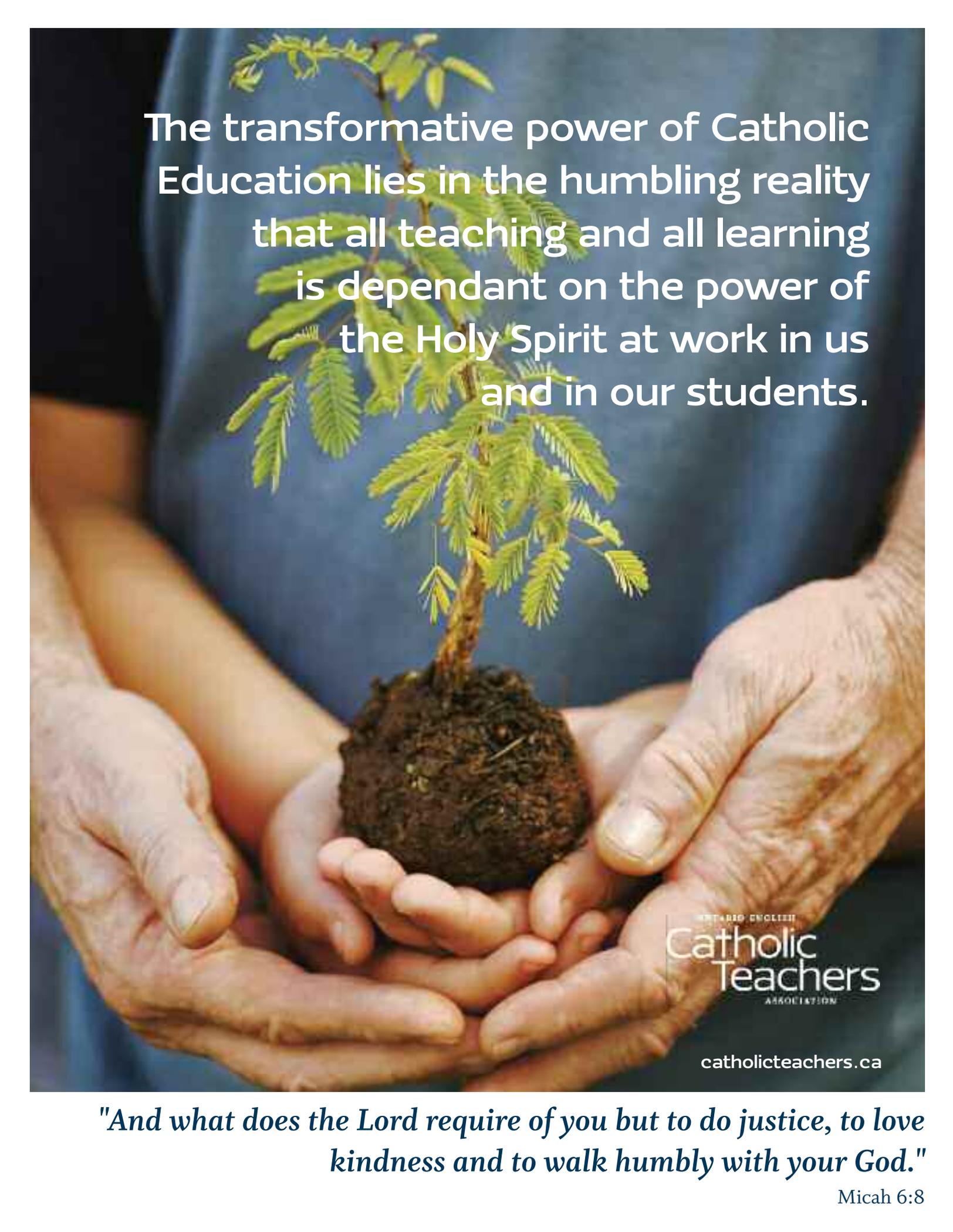
### Possible Discussion Points

#### Student Questions:

1. What does it mean to have faith in God, in others and in yourself?
2. How is the Eucharist an expression of faith?
3. Who are the poor? How can we be of service to them?
4. How do we care for God's creation?
5. How do you express your faith or show your faith in God?

#### Teacher Questions:

1. What does it mean to have faith in God, in others and in yourself?  
How is faith expressed in your life as a Catholic teacher?
2. How do we care for God's creation? In what ways can we improve our stewardship of the earth as a school community?
3. How do we serve our students through our vocation as Catholic teachers?

A close-up photograph of two hands, one appearing younger and one older, gently cupping a small green seedling with dark soil. The background is a blurred blue fabric. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

The transformative power of Catholic Education lies in the humbling reality that all teaching and all learning is dependant on the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us and in our students.

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*"And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."*

Micah 6:8

## Suggested Activities for Poster



Quote:

**The transformative power of Catholic Education lies in the humbling reality that all teaching and all learning is dependant on the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us and in our students.**

Scripture:

*"And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."*

Micah 6:8

Catholic Graduate:  
Expectation (CGE)

Reflective and creative thinker  
[www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf](http://www.curriculum.org/csc/library/profiles/12/pdf/cge.pdf)

Virtues:

Justice, Love

Sacraments:

Confirmation

Social Teaching:

Solidarity  
[www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml)

Beatitude:

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.  
[www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1615)

Works of Mercy:

All spiritual and corporal works  
[www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/corporal-and-spiritual-works-of-mercy.htm)

### Possible Discussion Points

#### Student Questions:

1. What is humility? How are we humble?
2. What do you think the Holy Spirit is and how does he/she work in you?
3. What does it mean to have the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
4. How are we one family in faith within the school, at home or within the community?  
How do we work together?

#### Teacher Questions:

1. How is the Holy Spirit at work in your classroom?
2. Where do you see the virtue of humility active in your classroom, in your students and in your community?
3. How do you encourage teamwork with your colleagues?  
How are you a part of the team in your school community?