



## ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WHITEHORSE

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Dear Catholic Schools community,

As we step into the month of June, traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Catholic Church, I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss with all of you the beauty of our faith.

The Catholic faith is based on love, an immense and limitless love! The love of Jesus Christ for us, demonstrated through his sacrifice and resurrection, is the truest form of love. There is no need to meet any definition, criteria or qualifications to be embraced by God's love, as we are all God's children. This divine love is not only inclusive but also healing, welcoming, warm, and transformative. In human relationships, it is at times difficult to trust, to open who we are and let the other in. We fear sometimes. Will the other love me as I am? Will my love be accepted? Should I change this or that of my personality for the other to accept me? By opposition, in surrendering our gifts, strengths, struggles, flaws, and vulnerabilities to God, we receive nothing but mercy, peace, and healing. For God is Love.

For Catholics, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Cross serve as profound symbols of love. This love, in the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is represented by blazing flames that burst out of the heart of Jesus. The thorns around the heart on the image are representative of this sacrificial love, exemplified through the Cross, that is life-giving and offered freely to all. These timeless symbols represent a unique, pure, and selfless love that transcends all eras, aspects of our nature, and societal constructs. They signify a love that is not confined by human limitations, identities, or trends, but one that is boundless and eternal. You and your children are cherished by God. God's love is non-judgmental, non-condemning, and devoid of expectations or manipulations. God simply loves.

We, with our Yukon Catholic Schools, strive to be channels of this love for our students, staff, and community. The schools offer the community a nurturing environment for the formation of the Catholic faith, aiding students and families in comprehending the role of the Catholic faith across cultures and in the world. The mission statement of our Catholic Schools is in fact *"To educate children in a Catholic learning environment. Through the sharing of knowledge and Christian values, and by celebrating our Catholic faith, students are assisted in developing a personal faith, an understanding, and appreciation of self and others."* Even within the framework of our public separate schools, it's important to note that there are no restrictions on our schools' choices of appropriate visible symbols of inclusivity to display and emphasize love and respect for all. Symbols displayed in Catholic schools are significant and deeply embedded in the school culture, hence they should be carefully and prayerfully considered.

In this month of June, I urge the entire Catholic community to contemplate the symbols of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Cross of Jesus as quintessential representations of the one true Love that we aspire to embody and exemplify as Christians. I invite you to look for the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, talk about it with your family and colleagues, encourage others to discover it, and display it in your classrooms, school foyers, and in your homes.

Along with this letter, I am providing posters for your schools and a list of resources with links for you to pray and explore with your family and friends. My hope is that they will foster discussions and insights on how Jesus' love has the power to transform and uplift us, offering peace, communion, and healing for ourselves and those around us.

Jesus loves all, and we are called to do the same. Through His love and the outpouring from his divine Sacred Heart, we are encouraged to love and demonstrate kindness, respect, and mercy to others.

*“Do not be afraid to present to Jesus all the intentions of our suffering humanity, its fears, its miseries. May this Heart, full of love for men, give everyone hope and trust.”...I invite you to discover the riches that are hidden in the Heart of Jesus.” – Pope Francis, June 17, 2020*

May God bless you and your families during this month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as you come to the end of the school year.

Yours in Christ,

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Most Rev. Héctor Vila  
Bishop of Whitehorse



## Resources for the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Héctor Vila on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 2023

<https://www.rcdw.ca/sacred-heart-of-jesus.html>

Pastoral Letter on the Sacred Heart of Jesus from Cardinal Thomas Collins, 2021

<https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/news/archdiocesan/a-new-pastoral-letter-from-cardinal-collins-heart-speaks-to-heart/>

Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Institute for Catholic Education

[https://iceont.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/NovenaToSacredHeartofJesus\\_2022.pdf](https://iceont.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/NovenaToSacredHeartofJesus_2022.pdf)

Resources through the Archdiocese of Toronto

<https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/sub-sites/sacred-heart/sacred-heart-jesus/resources/>

Resources through the Diocese of Calgary

<https://www.catholicyc.ca/blog/sacred-heart-of-jesus6046098>

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – Formed.org

<https://watch.formed.org/june-24-the-most-sacred-heart-of-jesus>

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – Catholic Kids Media

<https://youtu.be/XvUaLEGRwHU?feature=shared>

No celebration without food!

<https://catholiccuisine.blogspot.com/2012/06/recipes-for-june-month-dedicated-to.html>

Life Teen

<https://lifeteen.com/jumping-sacred-heart/>