



Working Together for Catholic Education

THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE

Religious Education for Combined Junior Grades

October 2015

Though Many, We Are One - Religious Education for Combined Junior Grades

MEDIA RELEASE

Introduction

“The Catholic school is the vital and privileged place where students critically engage in a dialogue between faith and culture not only during religious education lessons, but in all curriculum and events of the day. ... Through cross-curricular teaching, religious education provides a lens through which students can understand the world and their place within it”¹

The expectations in the elementary Religious Education Curriculum Policy Document outline the knowledge and skills to be demonstrated by junior students. While this resource cannot begin to cover the richness of that document, it is our intention that it assist teachers in meeting some of those expectations, while we await completion of the ***Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ*** program. In recognition of the existence of many combined and multi-grade classrooms in the junior division, all lessons are designed to be used in any or all of the three grade levels and may be useful in those situations for years to come.

Though Many, We Are One began as a project of the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, with a board team of junior teachers completing the first three units of the resource during the 2014-2015 school year. Four additional units were created by an EOCCC team made up of writers from all four member boards, completing units to encompass an entire school year. Because each writer worked independently, lessons reflect the preferred teaching and learning styles of those individuals. As a result, the resource includes a wide variety of learning activities including rich literature, research, prayer and reflection, and the arts. Technology is integrated through educational applications such as *Padlet* and *Wordle*, as well as through online video and music resource links which help to engage students. All of this is aligned with the Liturgical calendar of the Church, and with special events such as the International Day of Peace and Thanksgiving.

It is our hope that ***Though Many, We Are One*** will help students to “grow in their appreciation and understanding of the Catholic faith, the Church that seeks to form them in that experience and the Christian values which they are called to receive and witness to in their lives.”²

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Writing Team:

ALCDSB Project:

Project Lead: Ann Boniferro

Writers: Melanie Taylor
Patrick Corbin
Mike Gundert
Danielle Kennedy
Stephen Kennedy
Laurie Richardson
Casey Wells

EOCCC Project Team:

Project Lead: Ann Boniferro, ALCDSB

Writers: Melanie Clair ALCDSB
Michael Gundert ALCDSB
Bill Gowsell CDSBEO
Jody Anne McDonald RCCDSB
Anne Milligan RCCDSB
Marco Vispo OCSB

Reviewers: Lori Bryden ALCDSB
Katie Williamson ALCDSB

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Unit 1: Building Community

1. Prayer and Community Building
2. The Apostle's Creed
3. Introduction to Body Prayer
4. The Goodness of All
5. Listen to the Call of God
6. Our Talents and Gifts Help Us Choose Our Friends
7. Christian Meditation
8. The Prince of Peace
9. Warm Hands of Many Hues
10. The Three Questions
11. Stewardship of Creation
12. We Give Thanks

Unit 2: Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace

1. Decalogue
2. Members of the Body of Christ
3. St. Francis - Peace
4. Christian Morality
5. Thankful
6. Halloween
7. Becoming a Saint
8. All Saints Day
9. All Souls Day

Unit 3: The Word Made Flesh (Advent)

1. The Word Made Flesh
2. Symbols of Advent
3. Welcoming Jesus in Our Hearts
4. Mary and Joseph's Reality
5. Mary's YES
6. Anticipation
7. The Jesse Tree
8. Someone is Coming to Dinner

Though Many, We Are One - Religious Education for Combined Junior Grades

9. Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord
10. The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me
11. What Are We Hoping For?
12. Baby
13. Gifts
14. Role Model

Unit 4: People Who Make a Difference

1. Make a Difference Prayer Service
2. Jesus Makes a Difference in Family
3. Make a Difference Through Friendship
4. Martin Luther and God's Dream
5. Make a Difference Poetry
6. One Hen Makes a Difference
7. People Who Make a Difference (part 1)
8. People Who Make a Difference (part 2)
9. The Gift of Love (part 1)
10. The Gift of Love (part 2)
11. We Made a Difference Prayer Service

Unit 5: On the Lenten Journey

1. What is Lent?
2. Ashes
3. Into the Desert
4. Prayer
5. Fasting
6. Almsgiving
7. The Prodigal Son
8. Repentance
9. The Sacrament of Reconciliation
10. Forgiving Others

Unit 5b: On the Lenten Journey to Holy Week

1. Understanding and Preparing for Palm Sunday
2. The Palm Sunday Liturgy
3. Lenten Symbols

Though Many, We Are One - Religious Education for Combined Junior Grades

4. The Last Supper – Holy Thursday
5. The Mass of the Lord's Supper – Holy Thursday
6. The Meaning of Good Friday
7. Good Friday – We Remember
8. The Stations of the Cross

Unit 6: Christ Is Risen

1. Welcome to Easter!
2. Easter Glory
3. The Paschal Candle
4. DIY Paschal Candles
5. The Easter Vigil
6. Immersed
7. Easter Symbols
8. Liturgy: The Easter Vigil
9. The Risen Lord
10. The Shroud of Turin
11. Thomas The Apostle
12. Jesus and the Apostles
13. The Ascension
14. The Holy Spirit
15. Pentecost
16. Called and Missioned
17. Stations of the Resurrection
18. Resurrection Jeopardy

Unit 7: Making a Difference in the World

1. Do Something
2. Rwanda: A Changing Country
3. Rwanda: The World Response
4. Rwanda and Reconciliation
5. The Face of Need
6. Poverty in Canada
7. Child Labour around the World
8. Child Labour in Bangladesh
9. Go Make a Difference!