

## ***FAX RELEASE***

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**Monday, April 4, 2005**

**Subject: Pope John Paul II**

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**CATHOLIC DISTRICT**  
SCHOOL BOARD OF  
**EASTERN ONTARIO**



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## ***Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario Mourns Loss of Pope John Paul II***

*Kemptville* – It is with great sadness that we heard news of the death of Pope John Paul II, on Saturday, April 2, 2005. Students and staff of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario are mourning the loss of our beloved Shepard. Pope John Paul II was, throughout his life, and in particular during his papacy, a great witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### ***A Man Of Deep Faith***

Director of Education Ann Perron says Pope John Paul II was a man of deep faith, courage and love. Ms. Perron states, “His legacy will undoubtedly be his commitment to social justice, human rights and peace for our world. For many of us in Catholic education, he has been our spiritual guide for most of our lives.”

”As Catholic educators, we cannot help but be inspired by his unwavering love for children. Pope John Paul II understood the importance of *‘letting the children come to him’*, as witness of his faith and love. He recognized the powerful role of children and youth as members of the Body of Christ now and in the future.”

### ***Special Prayers Offered***

During this period of mourning, Ms. Perron says that special prayers will be offered each day for the repose of the soul of Pope John Paul II. All flags will be lowered to half-mast until after the Holy Father’s funeral on Friday. The Board’s Religious and Family Life Education Department will provide all CDSBEO elementary and secondary schools with prayers and educational resources.

Many schools are planning special prayer services and remembrance activities to celebrate the life and legacy of the 84-year-old pontiff who held the chair of Saint Peter for more than 26 years. Students and staff will also be encouraged to consider ways to further the cause of peace and justice within our local communities so that we might continue to respond to the call of the gospel to which the Holy Father gave such tremendous witness throughout his life.

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***Special Celebrations Planned In Dioceses***

Across our Board's jurisdiction, a number of special celebrations are planned:

***Archdiocese of Kingston:***

An interfaith service of remembrance will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral in Kingston. Leaders of various Christian and non-Christian faiths will participate in this vigil of prayer, and all the faithful of the Archdiocese are warmly invited to this service of prayer and thanksgiving. In addition, a Mass in memory of Pope John Paul II will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2005, also at St. Mary's Cathedral in Kingston.

***Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall:***

Two bilingual masses will be celebrated this week. The first will be held at St. Finnan's Co-Cathedral in Alexandria tonight at 7:30 p.m. The second will be held at the Nativité Co-Cathedral at 300 Montreal Road in Cornwall on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at 7:30 p.m.

***Archdiocese of Ottawa:***

A Mass in memory of Pope John Paul II will be held for all leaders of other Christian denominations, the Diplomatic Corps, Members of Parliament and the general public on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. at Notre-Dame Basilica at St. Patrick and Sussex Drive in Ottawa. A second Mass will be held at Notre-Dame Basilica on Thursday, April 7, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. for all of the faithful.

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(For further information, please contact Director of Education Ann Perron  
at (613) 258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562, extension 204)