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Bishop Fabbro's Statement on Raising the Pride Flag in Catholic Schools

Recently, a number of individuals have contacted the Bishop's Office to express their concerns about raising the Pride Flag at our Catholic schools. The purpose of this statement is to give my perspective on this issue.

The Pride Flag represents the Pride movement and the LGBTQ+ community and, for many, raising it simply represents inclusivity and a welcome for all. This welcome is reflective of the Church's constant teaching with respect to the dignity of every person. We are created by God and made in God's image and likeness. It is incumbent on us, as the Church, to make this welcome real, and to treat all people with respect. The work of accompanying all who seek to know Jesus Christ, and of entering into dialogue with them, is a gospel imperative. We as Church, however, take exception to some of the ideology of the LGBTQ+ community and disagree with some of the views proposed by them. For many, raising the Pride Flag goes beyond being welcoming and inclusive and shows support for causes at odds with Catholic teaching. Because of the confusion it causes in the minds of the faithful, I do not endorse raising the Pride Flag at our Catholic schools. We never lose sight, though, that all are children of God, called to salvation in Jesus Christ, and offered the hope of eternal life.

When parents send their children to a Catholic school, they rightly expect that Catholic teaching is presented, lived and infused in all that we do. The bishops of Ontario support our Catholic schools and work closely with the leadership of our schools. The Trustees elected to serve on school boards may ask the local bishop to advise on one thing or another but, in the end, it is their sworn duty to exercise a governance role and work with the Director of Education whom they appoint to run the schools. The raising of the Pride Flag falls into this sphere of influence. If the Trustees, on the other hand, were to recommend changes to the curriculum of the religious education component, then it would be the right and responsibility of the local bishop to intervene to ensure that the Catholic faith was being faithfully presented and handed on.

I want to express my thanks to the parents who support our Catholic schools and all those who are working hard in our schools and who are committed to the mission of Catholic education.

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB
Bishop of London

Diocese of London: Being a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus