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Catholic Education Week 2024: *We are called to love*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The theme this year of Catholic Education Week, 5 May to 10 May, is *We are called to love*. It reminds us that while we are called to serve in different ways, we are all called to serve with love and we have the ability to respond in love, for we were first loved by God.

When Jesus was asked which is the greatest commandment, he responded by saying, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (*Mt. 22:37-40*).

How do we love God? We come to love God by knowing our merciful God, and we can come to know God by knowing and following Jesus. In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus teaches us to love our neighbour. This love of neighbour is the criteria for entering the Kingdom of God: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (*Mt. 25:31-48*).

In a recent document from the Vatican, called *On Human Dignity*, n. 12, states: “For Jesus, the good done to every human being, regardless of the ties of blood or religion, is the single criterion of judgment”. The apostle Paul affirms that every Christian must live according to the requirements of dignity and respect for the rights of all people (cf. Rom. 13:8-10), according to the new commandment of love (cf. 1 Cor. 13:1-13).

This love of God and love of neighbour is indivisible, for we have only one heart, a heart that receives God’s love and sends us out to love all people, especially those who are poor. Love starts with listening, to God and to others. Love seeks peace and reconciliation. When I meet with school board personnel, I hear of the generosity of students and staff in responding to the needs of others. This is the love of God and neighbour in action, for it is faith, hope and love that invite us to work joyfully for justice.

During Catholic Education week, let us all continue to find concrete ways to love God and our neighbour. By our love, they will know that we are followers of Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, CSB
Bishop of London