



CANADIAN CATHOLIC
STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES ÉTUDIANT(E)S CATHOLIQUE

Catholic Students Week 2008!

What does it mean to be Catholic? What does it mean to be a Catholic Student? Is it possible to renew one's faith while immersed in academia? Where do I go to answer questions that I have about my faith? This is the week for you! A week of reflection, learning, and action, bringing Catholic Students together all across Canada.

What is Catholic Students Week? A National event supported by the **Canadian Catholic Students Association** that will unite campuses with an overarching theme of Catechesis, Liturgy and Mission. Ideas, suggestions, and guides are provided by CCSA but lend flexibility for campuses to tailor the program to best serve their communities.

How can I host Catholic Students Week on my campus?

Speak to your campus minister about planning events based on this year's theme: Catechesis, Liturgy and Mission. You could plan one event for each theme, or an event every day for the week leading up to Solidarity Sunday. Advertise your events. Feel free to make copies of our flyers and pass them out on your campus in residence, at Mass, in the cafeteria or wherever else you will reach students wanting to explore issues of faith.

Catechesis: Events centered on catechesis provide an opportunity to learn about those things you've always wondered about. In preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress you could host an evening with a lecture, workshop or discussion on the Eucharist. This might be a good opportunity to explore the possibility of attending the IEC in Montreal from June 15-22, 2008. Host a workshop or talk on: A Guide to Recognizing Saints - What is a Saint? What is the process of beatification? Catholicism for the curious and the questioning, A look at religious orders, Theology on Tap: Register your group and host a session on Catholic beliefs, God's call/vocation. Register to use the Theology on Tap program at: <http://renewtot.org/>

Liturgy: As students there are often aspects that we are unsure about in our liturgy, and it can be frightening to ask for clarification. Liturgy is central to understanding and expressing our faith. Provide an opportunity for students to pray and to reflect on why we pray. Host a teaching mass on campus for Catholics and non-Catholics alike, a guided 'tour' through the Stations of the Cross or the Rosary, Bible study, Taize prayer service, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, talks on Lenten traditions & customs or Holy Week.

Mission: Mission essentially is what we're called to do as Catholic Christians. Give students on your campus a way to put their faith into action. CCSA/CCCM has partnered with Development & Peace, a Catholic organization committed to making the world more just. Host an event centered on the Just Mining Campaign, have a fair trade coffee house and get students, staff and faculty to provide the entertainment by sharing their talent or host a fund raising event. (See D&P's "Make A Difference Week" flyer for more ideas). Host an event to highlight service-based learning opportunities on your campus, organize a random acts of kindness day, host a talk on Catholic Social Teaching, the sacredness of life, servant leadership etc...

Putting it all Together: Solidarity Sunday: Mass should be a celebration. Have a celebratory Mass for everyone, and experience the Eucharist in a renewed sense after reflecting throughout the week on our faith. Have a social gathering after Mass to bring the week to a close. For Solidarity Sunday resources visit: <http://www.devp.org/devpme/eng/sharelent/materials2008-eng.html>

For more information contact: Kalin McCluskey, CCSA President ccsa.pres@cccm.ca

or: Melinda Szilva, Interim National Coordinator CCCM/CCSA cccmadmin@cccm.ca