

## Opening the Doors of Mercy at the OCSB

Last March, Pope Francis announced that a special Jubilee Year of Mercy would take place from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016. During this holy year, he encouraged parishes, schools and families to participate by learning about and demonstrating God's mercy to one another. After only a few months into the Year of Mercy, schools within the [Ottawa Catholic School Board](#) have eagerly responded to the challenge by actively embarking on a spiritual journey, opening "doors of mercy" throughout our community.

Every school in the OCSB was given a "passport" with information and resources to help them better understand what it means to be merciful and spark creativity so they could take action in their community by showing the mercy of God to others. Through scripture passages, prayers and examples of saints who've demonstrated profound mercy, our staff and students have come up with ideas of purposeful and random acts of mercy. Some of the other ways our school communities are engaging in the Year of Mercy include decorating or marking the frame of a prominent doorway in their school as a threshold into a place of mercy. Some grade 6 students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation also went on a "pilgrimage" to their high school chapel to celebrate a Liturgy of Mercy.

With many months still to come, the result of this challenge has been nothing short of beautiful. Our school communities have found creative ways to "feed the hungry", "clothe the naked" and "comfort the afflicted." Many have gone above and beyond in demonstrating compassion to those who need it, and have learned more about the mercy and compassion God has for us in the process. To see more, we invite you to follow the hashtag #OCSBmercy on social media.

<https://youtu.be/a8AQaaUI5w0>