

Dear Family,

We are ready to begin the last theme of *Fully Alive*, our Family Life program. Because the partnership of home, church, and school is so important, this letter is written to let you know what we talk about in class and to offer some ideas for your involvement.

### **About Theme Five**

Theme Five of *Fully Alive* is called “Living in the World.” We are not simply individuals who have relationships with family members and friends. We are also members of human society, brothers and sisters within the whole human family, and caretakers of the earth. As the students get older, they are encouraged to recognize that they have a unique contribution to make to the world, one that cannot be made by anyone else. Their participation in creating a world that reflects the goodness of God is needed. For more information go to: [www.acbo.on.ca](http://www.acbo.on.ca).

### **In Theme Five we will**

- examine the social nature of persons, which motivates us to join together in groups, both small and large.
- explore four significant reasons for gathering with others: to celebrate; to support each other in times of difficulty; to create needed changes in our society; and to work together cooperatively to accomplish goals.
- learn about our responsibilities as members of groups, including the creation of a sense of community that respects and appreciates the uniqueness of each person.

### **Working together at school and at home**

- The experience of family celebrations is immensely important to children. Whether it’s a big occasion, like Christmas, or a special meal to mark a family member’s birthday — these are events that are remembered many years later. In school we will discuss the importance of celebrations as a way of reminding ourselves just how important our bonds with other people are. You might ask your child about this discussion.
- Another reasons people gather together is to assist each other. We will be learning about the purpose of support groups, and the help they can provide when people are facing serious difficulties. You might ask you child about support groups and what he or she learned about them.
- The students will be learning about groups that try to create necessary changes in society. Such groups appeal to idealistic young people, especially if their families are involved in social action in their communities. Ask your child about the groups that will be discussed in class and what these groups are trying to achieve.
- We will explore the meaning of work, how it contributes to our society, and how dependent all of us are on the work of others. You might talk to your child about the work you do, what you enjoy about it, and what you find difficult.
- In Theme Five the virtue of generosity is highlighted. Ask your child to tell you about this virtue. In school we discussed generosity as the virtue that allows us to be big-hearted and to offer our time, energy, and prayers to others because, as Jesus taught us, they are our neighbours.

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_