

# FRAMEWORK FOR REFLECTING ON AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

**AUTHENTIC  
COMMUNITY**

**HEAD  
UNDERSTANDS TRUST**

**HEART  
LONGS FOR TRUST**

**HANDS  
BUILD TRUST**

**"THE KIND OF COMMUNITY THAT OUR HEARTS LONG FOR, OUR HEADS KNOW IS POSSIBLE, AND OUR HANDS ARE CAPABLE OF BUILDING."\***

**TRUST**

Recognizes that relational trust results in sustained improvement in student achievement and well-being and sustained school improvement.

Knows that strong trusting relationships between teachers and students and among the adults are determinants for positive social outcomes.

Respects the unique expertise and strengths of each individual in the school community.

Makes lots of small promises and consistently follows through on those promises.

Build the communal dimension of the school with a focus on collective responsibility, peer pressure, support, and mutual assistance.

Communicate with self-assurance – a firm handshake, direct eye contact, a welcoming presence.

**COLLABORATION**

Is aware of the Ontario Ministry of Education PPM 159 which mandates professional collaboration.

Interprets authentic community as lived out in scripture.

Shares thinking, decisions, innovations, difficulties, and celebration in community.

Listens beyond the words to identify tone, emotion and mood and recognizes vulnerability in taking risks.

Support joint work as partners committed to working together for the common good.

Recognize everyone's ideas and achievements and give positive support for innovation.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

Understands that genuine community must be perceived, valued and worked on constantly both individually and collectively.

Speaks hard truths with integrity and disagrees respectfully even when it's uncomfortable.

Co-operates, acknowledges and celebrates the accomplishments of all.

Cares for others and is open to many perspectives.

Work competently to strengthen the quality of relationships in a school community.

Shape school culture that meets people where they are and moves them forward.

**DISCIPLESHIP, BY ITS VERY NATURE, HAS A COMMUNAL DIMENSION.**

**MY NEXT LEADERSHIP STEPS:**

# BUILDING AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY – INSPIRATION FROM THE CATHOLIC TRADITION

## MONOGRAPH SERIES



### Understanding and Cultivating Authentic Community by Michael R. Saver

This third monograph in the *Renewing the Promise* series explore “Nurture Community Relationships” the third theme that was identified as part of the *Renewing the Promise* symposium conversation and invites us to focus on the nature and importance of a trusting and collaborative community in our schools.

Monograph Series: *Renewing the Promise* [www.iceont.ca](http://www.iceont.ca)



“In their 2017 Pastoral Letter *Renewing the Promise*, the Ontario Catholic bishops write that “the work of Catholic schools involves initiating, facilitating and maintaining trusting relationships with and among Catholic educational partners. A sense of respect for the unique expertise and strengths of each, and generous cooperation that acknowledges and celebrates the accomplishments of all is essential to develop the mutual trust that nurtures effective working relationships.”\*



\*Content from monograph, *Understanding and Cultivating Authentic Community*, M. R. Saver.

## JESUS

“Jesus’ own teaching ministry is a model for the kind of community we strive for in classrooms, staff rooms and all interactions in schools and school boards.” \*

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had. (Romans 15:5)*

“It is not easy to stand against the forces of cynicism and division, and to build community. It continually requires us to look at ourselves honestly and with humility, to engage with others across lines of difference, and to be willing to learn and unlearn.”\*

*Bear with each other and forgive one another...forgive all as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13-14)*

“A genuine community always holds the rights and needs of the individual in a creative tension with the rights and needs of the communal whole.”\*

*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female for you are all one In Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)*

## SCRIPTURE

“In our tradition, all decisions, innovations, difficulties, and celebrations happen in community.” \*

*As the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. (Acts 4:32)*

“Collaboration is not merely a strategy to improve effectiveness: it is a powerful demonstration of our commitment to living and working in community.” \*

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...encouraging one another... (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

“In an authentic community, members know with clarity what is expected of them, and how to meet their responsibilities. This is an important leadership task – set clear expectations and how to meet those expectations.”\*

*...be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. (1 Peter 3:8)*

## CHURCH TEACHING

“Discipleship, by its very nature, has a communal dimension. And that community of disciples must be characterized by trust and collaboration.”\*

*“...Become communicators of hope in a world which is often tempted to despair, communicators of faith in a society which often seems resigned to disbelief...” (Pope John Paul II)*

“Personal regard is demonstrated by being genuinely concerned about others – not simply about the work they do, but about them as persons.”\*

*That is why the Church sets before the world the ideal of a ‘civilization of love.’ (Pope Paul VI)*

“Genuine community must be understood, valued and worked on constantly both individually and collectively.”\*

*“Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising about themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start...” (Pope Francis)*