



Waterloo Catholic  
District School Board

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## News Release

October 22, 2012  
For immediate release

# Names of Three Catholic Elementary Schools to be Changed

**Waterloo Region, ON** – The Waterloo Catholic District School Board today announced name changes for three elementary schools – two in Kitchener and one in Cambridge.

The names of **Blessed Kateri Catholic Elementary School** (Kitchener), **Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School** (Kitchener) and **Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School** (Cambridge) will be changed to **St. Kateri Tekakwitha CES**, **Blessed John Paul II CES** and **Blessed Mother Teresa CES**. The changes – pending final approval of the board of trustees on October 29 -- will be fully implemented in time for the start of the 2013-14 school year

These significant changes follow the **canonization** in Rome yesterday of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and the earlier **beatifications** of Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa. Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, was present for the canonization Mass.

The Catholic Church's process leading to sainthood involves three major steps. First is the declaration of a person's heroic virtues, after which the Church gives him or her the title *Venerable*. Second is beatification, after which he or she is called *Blessed*. The third step is canonization, or declaration of sainthood. In general, two miracles need to be accepted by the Church as having occurred through the intercession of the prospective saint.

Pope John Paul II beatified Kateri Tekakwitha in 1980 and Mother Teresa in 2003. He was himself beatified in 2011.

Pope Benedict XVI praised St. Kateri during the canonization Mass: *"May her example help us to live where we are, loving Jesus without denying who we are,"* he said. *"Saint Kateri, protectress of Canada and the first native American saint, we entrust you to the renewal of the faith in the first nations and in all of North America!"*

St. Kateri was born in what is now New York state in 1656 before fleeing to a settlement at Kahnawake, Quebec to escape opposition to her Christianity. She died in 1680 at age 24 and is buried in a shrine at the St. Francis-Xavier Church in Kahnawake.

The students and staff of St. Kateri Tekakwitha CES are planning a number of activities to commemorate the sainthood of the school's namesake.

For more information about St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Blessed John Paul II and Blessed Mother Teresa please visit the following websites:

**St. Kateri Tekakwitha:** [www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=154](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=154)

**Blessed John Paul II:** [www.catholic.org/pope/jp2/bio.php](http://www.catholic.org/pope/jp2/bio.php)

**Blessed Mother Teresa:** [www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/saints/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20031019\\_madre-teresa\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20031019_madre-teresa_en.html)

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 176-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: @WCDSBNewsire - #WCDSBAwesome.

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