

## NIAGARA CATHOLIC STANDS IN UNITY WITH HUMBOLDT

Earlier today, the Niagara Catholic family of students and staff joined together in prayer, and held a moment of silence for those who lost their lives in the accident that killed players, coaches and staff associated with the Humboldt Broncos hockey team last Friday, their families and the community of Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Our flags will fly at half-staff throughout the week, and we will participate in the nationwide Jersey Day April 12, in support of the Humboldt Broncos, their families and the communities profoundly affected by this tragedy.

“We are all deeply saddened and our hearts are broken over the tragic events in Saskatchewan over the past few days,” said Board Chair Father Paul MacNeil. “But the vast outpouring of support for the residents of Humboldt and the hometowns and families of the individuals who were injured and killed draws us all closer together. To know that there are millions of people – here and around the world – who seek to lift their burden of grief in even the smallest of ways fills us with hope. As St. Mother Teresa once said, ‘in everything you do, do it with great love,’ and so it is in this spirit of love and compassion that we offer our support in this small way.”

Director of Education John Crocco was also struck by the way the nation, and the world, have rallied in support of the tiny community.

“Throughout the last couple of days, we have witnessed a wave of national and international support, prayer and condolences for the Broncos team, their families, and the communities affected by the accident,” said Director Crocco. “This includes prayers from Pope Francis, who sent his condolences to those who lost loved ones, blessings to the community as it begins a long journey toward healing and commended the souls of those lost to the mercy of Almighty God. As parents, educators and coaches, we are challenged to comprehend the incomprehensible while also providing support to students who struggle with this tragedy. We pray that those most deeply affected by injury or by loss are lifted from their grief by the merciful love of God.”

***Niagara Catholic provides excellence in Catholic education to approximately 24,000 students throughout Niagara; from Early Learning Kindergarten through graduation.***

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