

Zasady wystawiania listów polecających (referencji) do Ontaryjskich Szkół Katolickich Ontario Catholic Schoolboards Pastoral Reference Letters – Our Policy

Catholic Schools in Ontario play a vital role in educating and forming young people in faith. Catholic educators share with children and youth not only their knowledge, but also their beliefs. They do this through more than mere words, but also through actions and example of life. This is why the Catholic Schoolboards put such strong emphasis on pastoral reference letters provided by the candidate's/teacher's pastor – to ensure their educators are people who love and practice their faith.

In our parish, to ensure high quality and effectiveness of Catholic Education in our Province, we are happy to provide you with a pastoral reference letter. In order to obtain it, you must be personally known to Father. Any candidates who “used to attend our parish” but now for whatever reason do not, and are therefore unknown to the *current* pastor, will not receive a letter (if you were away studying, or moved to another city, or got married and now attend another church, etc., feel free to request a reference *from the priest who knows you* at that “other church”). Pastoral reference is not meant to reflect “what used to be” (however involved you were as an altar server, youth choir member, etc.), or “what will be” (however involved you plan to be in the future), but is rather meant to show “what is”. And so if you are a regularly practicing Catholic, known to Father through attending Masses and liturgies here at Saint Stanislaus, you will have no problem receiving a reference letter. If you happen to not only attend church regularly, but also have been volunteering in our parish community in any way, your reference letter will adequately reflect your dedication and your “faith in action”.

If you attend our church and need a reference letter, please contact (*in person*) the parish office to book an appointment with Father. At that appointment, Father will briefly talk with you and provide you with the letter you need (bring the form provided by your schoolboard(s) along with any reflection papers required by them). We also kindly ask that you contact us well in advance of the submission's deadline. Thank you & God bless!