

# MINISTRY UNUSUAL

Our COVID-19 update

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**DO SOMETHING  
AMAZING**

Become a NET Missionary for the  
2020-2021 mission year!

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FAITH**

How Team 1 changed the lives of a student  
population of 50% non-Catholics

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# MINISTRY UNUSUAL

*NET's response to COVID-19*

It's unprecedented to say the least; never in the last 25 years of NET Canada have we had to end the mission year early. It was a hard decision to recall our teams and close out the year, but in hindsight it was obviously the right call. As hard as it was to say goodbye to our latest missionaries, we have quickly become used to the new reality we are starting to call Ministry Unusual.

This new reality of isolating and physically distancing initially caught everyone off guard, but it didn't take long for our staff to seek out what God wanted us to do next. The "usual" mode of ministry may have come to a sudden stop, but we knew that there was more we could be doing. New plans and projects quickly started taking shape. The youth ministry in our Ottawa parishes quickly moved online, while local staff began offering virtual Praise and Worship sessions. We have only begun to see the opportunities to evangelize in unusual ways!

In the weeks and months to come, you will see and hear more from our staff and others as we connect with the dioceses and schools we have been ministering to, as well as other unreached young people across the country. We also plan to use the particular gifts and strengths God has given NET Canada to provide encouragement and ministry to alumni and friends online.

Our Lord is never surprised by the radical change of circumstances in our world, but we are continuously surprised by the new ways he calls us to minister to Canada youth.

Please keep us in prayers during this unusual season of ministry and rest assured of our prayers for you.



- Pierre O'Reilly  
Executive  
Director



# CHANGE THE LIVES OF YOUTH IN CANADA

Most youth have never heard of God's immeasurable love for them. Through NET you can receive the training, formation, and opportunity to share your faith and change their lives.

**FILL OUT YOUR APPLICATION &  
REGISTER FOR OUR FREE VIRTUAL  
DO SOMETHING AMAZING RETREATS AT:**

**[NETCANADA.CA/APPLY](https://netcanada.ca/apply)**

SATURDAY May 9  
SATURDAY May 30

SATURDAY June 20  
SATURDAY July 11

# THE BEGINNING OF FAITH

*How Team 1 changed the lives of a student population of 50% non-Catholics*

Catholic schools face a growing population of students who identify as non-Catholics, varying anywhere from “spiritual but not religious” to atheism. How are Catholic school educators supposed to engage these students in the Catholic faith and balance the regular school curriculum? This was the challenge that Chris Dugdale, Superintendent at the *Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Prince George, BC* faced. With nearly a 50% non-Catholic student population Dugdale knew he needed to do something drastic to give his students an opportunity to encounter

Christ and his message of love. Enter NET team 1.

*“(The) NET team visited our large Diocese in Prince George in January 2020 and worked with our grade 6-9 students in 8 schools, offering dynamic and memorable full day retreats”, states Dugdale.*

With the high amount of non-Catholic students, Team 1 had a difficult task laid before them: 1) win these young people over enough so that they’ll be open to listen to their testimonies, and 2) to be, perhaps, these students’ first witness of Christ’s love. They never expected this kind of change.



*My absolute favourite part was when the small group leader came and prayed for each member of their small group. It was good for me because I was going to have surgery on the same day and it took my mind off of it and when I had surgery I wished that it was the morning because I felt so connected to God. Thank you so much N.E.T. team for helping me.*

Grade 6



*Peter’s speech was really eye opening to me. I understood what he went through. It taught me to not put up masks for anybody. Be yourself because it doesn’t matter what other people think.*

Grade 7





*I enjoyed the joyfulness of the people and how outgoing they are and how they were willing to share their stories.*

Grade 7



*At the end seeing how much they helped me feel closer to God and brought out the best in me. Gave me a time to really think who I am and who I wanna be and I want to be able to do that for other people.*

Grade 7



*In the prayer time I loved having someone pray for me. The people at NET are very nice.*

Grade 6



*My favourite part of the NET Retreat was that you can open yourself to God on your own accord and it really made me feel like God was embraced in my life.*

Grade 6



*When I was at the NET retreat with the rest of the Grade 7s, I was praying, and I was crying because I was asking God to heal someone I love who was growing weaker every day and I was just so sad. When my group leader was praying over me I just could feel my guardian angel just there and I didn't feel as sad as I did before. Instead of crying I thanked God for the days that I had with the person so far, because of advice I was given. I went to pray with the other leaders to open my heart to God and make him the center of my life and I just felt peace, joy, and love rushing through my body and reassuring me that everything would be okay, and if that person did not survive, then they would still go to heaven. This NET retreat was amazing and really helped me in my faith as I was going through a hard time.*

Grade 7

*"Many wrote in their reflection that it was first time they ever had someone pray for them. The retreat was the beginning of an amazing faith journey for many", states Dugdale. This is the kind of impact that NET has on the youth of Canada, the Catholic youth in your community.*

## DIGITAL DISTANCING



*Our new online ministry approach*

We are continuing our ministry in an online format. 18 Discipleship Groups are currently being run for these areas:

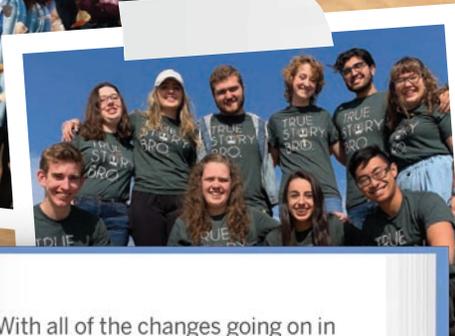
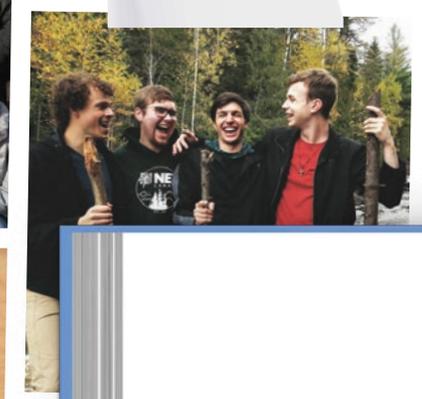
- **Brooklin, ON: 2**
- **Calgary, AB: 3**
- **Kamloops, BC: 3**
- **Vancouver, BC: 10**

A Discipleship Group is a continuation of a small group format where youth are able to share about their personal prayer life, encourage one another and dive deeper into their faith, all led by our missionaries from the 2019-2020 year online!

Our two Ottawa Youth Ministry programs at Divine Infant Parish and Annunciation of Our Lord Parish, has gone online to provide youth nights for all of Ottawa.

We also hosted a Holy Week retreat online for all youth across Canada, led by our wonderful staff and we are so thankful for each young person that participated!

God's work will never be stopped and we are proud to say that NET will continue to carry out the Church's mission online.



**NET NEEDS YOUR HELP MORE THAN EVER**

With all of the changes going on in our country and in the world, we need your help to continue our ministry.

To provide hope and stability for the youth of Canada, the youth in your community right now that may be struggling, your financial support can help us reach out and invite them to a personal relationship with Jesus.

Your donation today will make a difference. For the youth of today and for the future of NET carrying out the mission of the Church.

## I WANT TO HELP RENEW THE FAITH OF CATHOLIC YOUTH!

### STEP 1:

- \$50
- \$75
- \$100
- \$200

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- MONTHLY\*
- OR
- ONE-TIME

\* void cheque needed for monthly gifts

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