



St. Hedwig's Roman Catholic Parish

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May 23, 2021

Durham Catholic District School Board

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Re: Most recent Durham Region News <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/10398212-durham-catholic-board-recommends-flying-the-pride-flag-at-all-schools/>

“Durham Catholic board recommends flying the Pride flag at all schools”

Dear Sir or Madam,

Quiet erosion or invasion?

The time of lockdown shut the lips of many of us. Contemporary internet based media as well as TV appeals to younger generations. Older people do not feel any support and often are shy to voice their concerns. If daily attacks of stupidity and lies can be tolerated it is only due to mercy we Christians owe to offer to all. During

the last Lent I spoke and sang about “Good, truth and beauty” – Platonic ideas dating from the 4th century BC. These days it often appears like we had moved back in time to pre-Platonic era. Instead of good, truth and beauty contemporary world likes to glorify evil, lies and ugliness.

Being a Polish Army Veterans’ chaplain I would like to remind everyone that national flags are pride of nations. Rainbow has historically been an Old Testament symbol of the first covenant between God and Humans. This symbol of divine friendship, offered to biblical Noah, is precious not only to Christians but also to the Jews and Moslems. In 1921 the rainbow flag had been adopted by farmers who started forming cooperatives and in 1925 it became an international cooperative logo.

It was only in 1978 that the old rainbow symbol, with slightly altered colour arrangement, started promoting sexual orientation of a few percent of human population. When one looks at contemporary rainbow banners the following questions come to mind. **Where is that country whose pride those flags want to promote?** As a dual Polish and American citizen I am proud to sing respective national anthems with national flags flying above my head. For the last five years **I have appreciated pride of Canadians who raise their Maple Leaf flag high. All can identify with that flag and with the history of the Canadian Confederation built for more than 150 years.**

In 1952, Polish community in Oshawa established St. Hedwig’s Parish. Through that parish and other affiliated organizations, Polish-Canadians of Oshawa and surrounding municipalities, have contributed to the life of their cities and towns. Having built their church, they invested in building and running the St. Hedwig’s Catholic School in 1959 to bring up new generations of good people and good citizens of Canada.

When we hear that the Catholic School Board is considering supplementing the Canadian flag with a rainbow banner for the so-called “Pride Month” of June most of us ask who gave them the right to vote on God’s Law. Catholic educators must not neglect what the Bible says about the issues they want to promote to small children.

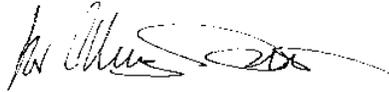
Regrettably, claims that rainbow banners just mean tolerance are not true. During the so-called “Womens’ Strike” rainbow banners were affixed to the statue of Jesus Christ and rainbow banners with blasphemous placards displayed in front of the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw and elsewhere in Poland. To a lesser extent, raising the rainbow banner in front of Catholic Schools in Oshawa would be a similar imposition of a small but vocal minority over the will and tradition of most of us.

The upcoming vote of the Catholic School Board is an important one and will have its repercussions. If on My 25th, the Catholic School Board should vote to supplement the Canadian national flag with a rainbow banner in front of the St. Hedwig’s Catholic School I will join with my parishioners in their efforts to keep the aforementioned school names holy. The St. Hedwig’s Catholic School, very much connected with the St. Hedwig’s Roman Catholic Parish, must not retain its current name and title with rainbow banner flying on its mast. All parishioners are against it. Many of them fled the Nazi and Communist persecution and found a space of freedom here in Canada. They refuse to relinquish that freedom. Just to refresh your memory; in September 1939 Germany and the Soviet Union attacked and partitioned Poland. Our Polish eagle was toppled and replaced with a swastika and a sickle and hammer. It was only the independent self-governed labour union “Solidarity” that in 1980 restored full meaning to the white and red Polish national flag. Despite the Communist Martial Law Poles managed to restore freedom in 1989 and regained their national pride. Canadians are proud of their flag too; it needs no improvements!

Let us get back to religious issues... St. Paul called on the first Christians: “One must have eyes of hearts to see what your destiny is”. I too wish to open eyes of your hearts so that you can correctly read the sense of your destiny and foresee the fruit of your decisions.

Cardinal Collins encourages us to celebrate the holiest heart of Jesus in the month of June. This is a deep rooted tradition in the Polish liturgical calendar. On June 11, 2021, together with all parishioners, I will celebrate the Holy Heart of Christ day. Earlier, on June 6th we will celebrate Corpus Christi. In the Polish tradition, on the preceding Thursday processions with the Holiest Sacrament are being organized all over the country. Here in Oshawa, for the second year in a row we will be deprived of the privilege of such procession around the St. Hedwig's Catholic School. Once again, at noon I will walk quietly with the holiest sacrament by our church and the school asking God that Jesus' Heart would be allowed in homes of the believers and grant its blessing to them.

I will keep praying and humbly asking you to vote with your conscious... thank you.



*Rev. Klemens Dąbrowski SChr.
Pastor of St. Hedwig Parish*

CC:

Most. Rev. Bp. Vincent Nguyen (Eastern Pastoral Region)

Lucia Goodwin – Principal of St. Hedwig School

Cathy Faria – Vice-Principal of St. Hedwig School

Rev. Janusz Błażej – Chairman of the Conference of Polish Priests for Eastern Canada

St. Hedwig Parishioners
