



### **CARFLEO News March**

Spring forward... the phrase is evocative of enthusiasm, vigor and hope for a good result. In our Lenten journey, we regenerate and build up our reserves of spiritual energy so that we are able, at Easter, to spring forward from the grave to seize the life that Jesus promises at his resurrection. May this Lent find you gathering strength to 'spring forward' into the new life of Easter.



#### ***Reporting Survey***

Some interesting results have come to light in the Reporting Religious Education and Family Life survey. The 14 boards who reported represent more than 80 percent of the Catholic schools in the province (see attached). We'd love to hear your ideas about next steps in developing a more unified culture of assessment, evaluation and reporting religious education and family life around the province.

#### ***"Were not our hearts burning . . ."***

CARFLEO Conference & AGM is going to be great.

Don't be disappointed. Plan to attend the CARFLEO Conference, April 18-19, 2007, Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, ON. Listen to two dynamic presenters: Myrtle Power and Fr. Michael Crosby.

#### ***Ministry funding of Catholic Education***

OCSTA has sponsored a working group that is looking into the specific program, service, facility and resource needs of Catholic schools. They will enumerate the needs and cost out the impact to schools above and beyond that of a typical public school. They will then analyse whether current ministry funding is flexible enough to meet these distinct needs. CARFLEO will circulate a draft of the OCSTA survey when available to gather your valuable input. The partners agreed that while it would be unwise to build a case for extra Catholic school funding, it was prudent to continue to remind the government that Catholic schools have historically operated on the principle of subsidiarity. We've benefited from the ability to creatively allocate our funds based on a local rather than provincial decision-making model. The increasingly tight Ministry 'sweating' of grants may create significant challenges in the foreseeable future.

#### ***When Faith Meets Pedagogy***

CARFLEO will again be a proud sponsor of WFMP. Special highlights include:

- Jean Vanier and Fr. Tony Ricard as keynote speakers
- CARFLEO sponsored workshops

#### ***Template***

The template is available for any board looking offer locally developed optional grade 11 or 12 workplace religion next September. [www.carfleo.org](http://www.carfleo.org). The application deadline is March 31st. The process is just add water and stir. We can put you in contact with boards that are preparing their course materials now.

**Character Education** - CARFLEO continues to lobby ECODE, ICE and OCSTA for a foundation statement that addresses character/virtue education in Catholic schools in Ontario. We note the beginning of a trend towards responding to Finding Common Ground by dumping the ministry Character Ed. money into existing initiatives without really exploring the topic. Lack of time and staff seems to be feeding this process.

**Family Life News:** Salt and Light TV recently interviewed John Van Dommellen (Father Angus MacDougall Family Life Award-winning educator and Religion and Family Life Health coordinator in London DCSB) and Lorraine Thompson (London DCSB teacher and Fully Alive supplement writer) about the state of Family Life education in Catholic schools - it was a very positive interview and a real good news story. The interview ran on March 30<sup>th</sup>—too late to get out to readers of this newsletter-- but it is worth recognizing Salt and Light as a partner - and noting their website: [www.saltandlighttv.org](http://www.saltandlighttv.org)

#### **2006/2008 Executive Committee**

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