



Special Issues

Recently CARFLEO circulated a letter of concern to our partners. One of the roles of CARFLEO is to advocate for the teachers of Religious and Family Life Education in Ontario Catholic schools. The executive, in consultation with other CARFLEO members raised three concerns that we believe need addressing by our partners in education at this time:

Family Life Curriculum

The Family Life program in Ontario Catholic schools, *Fully Alive*, is dated. See Table One for a list of the publication dates of the programs. We applaud the efforts of the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops in seeking direction for renewal of *Fully Alive*. Similarly, we thank the Central and South Western Curriculum Co-operative for their work in promoting the development of supplementary resources for the program.

CARFLEO emphasizes the urgency of the renewal of the Fully Alive program. Teachers are having difficulty presenting credible lessons because of the outdated nature of the program. The implicit message to students is that Family Life Education is not as important as other subject areas because the resource is not as contemporary as their other curricula.

Furthermore, issues have arisen since the publication of *Fully Alive* that are not dealt with in the junior and intermediate programs. Note that *Fully Alive* was written before widespread use of the internet, extensive stem cell research and gene therapy, same-sex marriage legislation, and widespread availability of pornography. Any effort to further the renewal of this program will benefit our students.

The Age of Religious Education and Family Life Programs

Grade Level	Date of Publication	
	Family Life	Religious Education
Kindergarten		1993
1	1988	1994
2	1988	1995
3	1989	1996
4	1989	1997
5	1990	1998
6	1990	1999
7	1991	1995
8	1992	1996
9		1997
10		2001
11		
12		2004



Religious Education Curriculum

We are also concerned about the status of the Religious Education programs, *Born of the Spirit* and *We Are Strong Together* produced by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishop's National Office of Religious Education. These are excellent programs but the oldest of them are in need of revision to reflect the reality experienced by today's students.

Furthermore, significant changes in education have taken place since the publication of most of the elementary texts. Teachers are feeling pressures on their time allocation for Religious Education. Various reasons are put forward for reducing the time spent on these classes. We hear:

- ❖ There is a big literacy and numeracy push in our school. The extra time required has got to come from somewhere.
- ❖ This is an EQAO year. We need time to prepare kids for the test.
- ❖ We do anti-bullying and character education in our Religious Education periods.
- ❖ The program doesn't use the language of the other curricula (expectations, achievement charts) We have to work harder to adapt the Religious Education program to standards.
- ❖ At parent-teacher conferences we are rarely asked about the Religious Education program. Parents seem more interested in Math and Language. That's where they would like me to be putting extra effort.

CARFLEO read with concern that the National Office of Religious Education's activities have been reduced pending a CCCB decision on its role. Notwithstanding their decision, Episcopal support for Religious Education is vital. We urge our partners in Catholic education to move forward with the cycle of revision of these programs. If teachers are without amenable resources for Religious Education, pressures from other programs and curricula will fill their timetables. As with the Family Life program, **we urge our partners to support a continued cycle of program renewal in Religious Education.**

Elementary Provincial Report Card

The Provincial Report card for elementary students does not have a prominent place for reporting religious Education. If it is added to the empty boxes on Page Two, below the other subject areas, it conveys the impression that Religious Education is an afterthought or less important than the other subjects. It is possible to create a space on the first page for Religious Education before other subjects are listed. **We encourage the provincial Catholic educational community to create a standardized report card placing religious education on the first page of the Provincial Report Card.**

Archbishop Philip Pocock Award

At the CARFLEO Conference the Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for excellence in Religious Education will be awarded. Nomination information will be made available soon on the www.carfleo.org website.

CARFLEO CONFERENCE: Recovering the Soul

Our brochure on this year's conference has been posted on the www.carfleo.org website. The conference will be held at the **Nottawasaga Inn** near Alliston, Ontario. It will feature David Wells, who proved to be so popular at this year's When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference, and OISE/UT Professor Jack Miller. Please mark **April 26** and **April 27** on your calendar. The Annual General Meeting will be an important part of this gathering. Elections for the executive will also be held this year. **If you have aspirations for running on the executive or would like to nominate someone for a position, please see the attached forms.**



2006 Election and Appointment of CARFLEO Executive Members

Once again it is time to elect a new executive for CARFLEO. All members are greatly encouraged to serve on the executive in one of the following roles:

- elected positions: chair, secretary, treasurer and past chair
- appointed positions: chair of a standing committees (e.g. Professional Development And Faith Formation, Conference Planning And Implementation, Religious And Family Life Curriculum, and special committees as needed).

Complete the nomination form attached to this newsletter to nominate yourself or a colleague for an elected position. To be considered for a standing committee, please contact any one of the present executive members.

When considering an executive position, please take into account the following requirements:

- written permission of your supervisory officer,
- the ability to attend approximately 8 meeting per year,
- cost of transportation, and time away from your job.
- The Chair of CARFLEO, or their appointee, must be ready to serve as a representative of CARFLEO on provincial committees such as the I.C.E. Curriculum Committee, the Religion/Family Life Education Subject Council, and various short-term committees.

For more information concerning the make-up of the executive and the duties of the members, consult the CARFLEO constitution on our website. The September 2006-September 2008 executive will be finalized at the 2006 AGM and annual conference.

Archbishop Philip Pocock Award: Rules and Regulations

Selection Committee

A selection committee appointed by the executive of CARFLEO, and chaired by the Past Chair will determine the successful applicant for the Archbishop Philip Pocock Award.

Selection Criteria

The criteria for selection are as follows:

1. Membership in CARFLEO
2. Extent of the contributions to Religious Education
3. Number of individual nominations for the position for any one candidate

NOTE: Each nomination must be submitted independently. Where more than one signature is placed on a single nomination form, the ballot will be counted as only one nomination.

Selection Process

Of primary consideration in the selection of a candidate is the dedication of the individual to excellence in the delivery of Religious Education. The committee will consider also range and extent of the contributions the person has made to the development, implementation and promotion of Religious Education, both at a local and/or provincial level. Secondary consideration will be placed on the number of nominations the candidate receives. When two or more individuals meet each of these criteria equally, the successful candidate will be determined through an executive vote conducted by the Past Chair and preceded by a reading of the nominations followed by a brief discussion period.

Names of Nominees will not be posted. The winner will be announced to the membership at an appropriate general gathering of the membership, such as the CARFLEO annual conference. The candidate will be informed, prior to the event that they will receive the award so that they can plan to attend the award ceremony and prepare an adequate acceptance speech.

Deadlines

Deadline Date for both Executive and Award nominations: March 31, 2005

Submit to Sharron McKeever, Past Chair of CARFLEO,
860 Mahina St., Oshawa ON., L1J 7R8

By March 31, 2006

Email: churchlady200@hotmail.com