

# CARFLEO Newsletter

January 2008

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## Thank God for Epiphanies...

As Christmas celebrations become memories again, it is fascinating to pause and wonder what it would have been like had the Magi NOT chosen another way home. I know that's not the official 'epiphany' part of the story but none the less, imagine the self-control required to resist the allure of cozying up to Herod and making the trip a bit more 'profitable'. The Magi were so mindful of being in the all-powerful presence of God that they had no choice but to go "home by another road."

James Taylor, certainly an atypical sage, has a cute line in his reflection on the Epiphany:

*They tell me that life is a miracle  
And I figured that they're right  
But Herod's always out there  
He's got our cards on file  
It's a lead pipe cinch, if we give an inch  
Old Herod likes to take a mile...*

Home by Another Way on [Never Die Young](#) Columbia January 1988



With Magi-like mindfulness of God in our midst, how can Catholic schools not be distinct – leading our students home by another road!?!

Dan Reidy  
Chair, CARFLEO

## ***Virtue / Character Formation***

Bishop Paul-André Durocher has taken a personal interest in the question of character and virtue. He has been preparing a discussion paper on the topic, with Aquinas as a significant touchstone, to be discussed at a mini-symposium in early March. CARFLEO will participate and keep all apprised of the results. If you have comments or questions on the topic that you would like brought forward at that time please send them to: [daniel.reidy@dpcdsb.org](mailto:daniel.reidy@dpcdsb.org)

## ***Grade 7 & 8 Family Life Supplement***

The OCCB Education Commission has completed its editorial review of the extensive new resources in Gr 7/8 Family Life Education.

The resource is scheduled for publication and release as soon as possible. Workshops are being planned for CARFLEO members.

## ***2006 Secondary Religious Education Policy Document***

It was a great pleasure to connect with many of you during the teleconference sessions held Dec 4,5,6, 2007. We had oral and or written input from 21 boards, as well as from ICE and from NORE. Please find a [synopsis](#) appended to this newsletter. We look forward to future conversations of this sort.

## ***Catholic Pathways***

Joe Bezzina (LDCSB) and Tony Cosentino (RCDSB) are completing the final draft of a very profound reflection paper on Pathways to Success in the Catholic school. Research, commentary and reflection questions come together in a very compelling conversation that marks a much needed foundational step on the

way to proposing distinctly Catholic pathways in areas such as social justice and pastoral care work. The paper is in peer review at select local boards.

## **WWW.CARFLEO.ORG**

The website continues to gather great hit numbers and to be awesome.  
Contact [les.miller@ycdsb.org](mailto:les.miller@ycdsb.org) to contribute your excellent resources and links.

## **CARFLEO Conference & AGM April 2 & 3 2008**

*Nottawasaga Inn... CONFIRMED*

*Huge focus on **Family Life**...CONFIRMED*

Dr. Moira McQueen, Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute CONFIRMED

Registration details... COMING SOON

## **CARFLEO AGM Award and Executive Nominations DUE MARCH 3, 2008**

It's Election Year!!! [CHAIR, SECRETARY, TREASURER](#) - nomination forms attached

[Fr. Angus MacDougall Award](#) for excellence in Family Life Education - nomination forms attached

[Archbishop Philip Pocock Award](#) for excellence in Religious Education - nomination forms attached

## **Catholic Education Week**

We look forward to the fruits of OCSTA's preparation to help us celebrate the reality that:

*"We are called to act with justice, to love tenderly, to walk humbly,  
to give generously and to live peacefully" - Micah 6.8*

## **ICE presents...Gr 10 Civics Module on Catholic Education "Stewards of the Gift"**

Is practically complete. We have seen the final draft (rationale, lessons, BLMs, assessment, WOW) and look forward to its imminent release.

## **Bat Kol Institute**

This international association of Christian women and men committed to study the Word of God within its Jewish context, using Jewish sources, has revised its educational program. They are no longer just Masters level, just in Jerusalem (although that option remains).

Bat Kol is looking to establish a series of retreats and workshops in Ontario that serve the needs of Ontario Catholic school teachers. They have a very well-designed framework within which you can create a custom workshop to help deepen your teachers' knowledge of the scripture stories at any grade level. [www.batkol.info](http://www.batkol.info)

The Institute is in a position to be very creative (and flexible) with its fee structure as it develops this new teaching paradigm. If you are planning PD in the area of scripture:

Contact Patricia O'Reilly [poreilly@oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:poreilly@oise.utoronto.ca)

Or Glenn Edward Witmer, President, Bat Kol Institute, [admin@batkol.info](mailto:admin@batkol.info)

**New Catholic Times: Sensus Fidelium** is **BACK** and will explore current thinking on relevant topics from both a Canadian and global justice perspective rooted in the vision of Vatican II. Catholic principles of solidarity with the poor, the common good and the dignity of the human person will be cardinal and non-negotiable. **This new internet journal**, aiming at a bi-monthly schedule will focus on Education, Spirituality, Liturgy and Justice, Ecology, Youth, Arts and Culture. A teachers' guide will come with each edition. This will be a cooperative venture. \$20 memberships will sustain the journal and give each member the ability to respond to each article, a valuable access to archived material and the teachers' guide.

Contact:

John Quinn

14 Little Forks Square

St.Catherines, On

L2N 5R8

Please include email address.

If you are interested in contributing in literary ways, volunteering

Contact: Ted Schmidt Editor: New Catholic Times:Sensus Fidelium

jtschmidt@rogers.com 416 690 2220

### ***The Canadian Forum on Theology and Education***

The website for The Canadian Forum on Theology and Education (formerly High School Forum) is now up and running at [www.cfotae.ca](http://www.cfotae.ca) The event will be held at St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, ON, Thursday May 8th 2008 to Saturday May 10th 2008.

### ***Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association***

#### ***First National Conference on Catholic Education***

*"A Sower Went Out To Sow..."*

Ottawa, ON September 26-27, 2008

See [www.carfleo.org](http://www.carfleo.org) for the flyer

### ***Our Catholic Schools: Summary Report***

The summary report to the initial Our Catholic Schools survey have been released.

Consider:

3. How will you personally be more authentic and true to your Catholic identity and Catholic faith?

## Teleconference Results

December 4,5,6 Teleconference Summary

Thanks to all who participated. We heard from 21 Boards as well as ICE and NORE either on the phone or in written submissions.

We will keep you apprised of action flowing from this information

\*very frequent comments

### A] How are you implementing the 2006 Policy Document

- Slowly\*
- All agree policy is very well-designed \*
- Fewer, focused expectations much better\*
- Disappointment about the lack of official U designations\*
- Isolated pockets unaware of the doc.
- Slim majority use the codes HRE in grade 11 and 12
- Many still use the MOE codes HRT, HRF at 11 & 12
- Ministry codes esp. used in I.B. schools and Extended French schools
- Special needs classes use HPD
- DP uses HRE  $\frac{3}{4}$  Mu/Mc/Oe to group students
- Beginning to align the expectations to the CCCB resources at Gr 9&10
- Struggling to find M and O courses in the U & C expectations of the document
- Some boards finding most gr. 12 university bound kids choosing HZT 4U
- Common assessments between schools requires more expectation sorting
- In Search of the Good a great struggle in small schools with mixed classes – too advanced
- Local boards are sorting expectations at gr. 9&10 to match CCCB resources
- Local boards beginning to map out M and O courses at gr. 11 & 12
- The policy guideline re: pre-requisites is very useful for quality control

### B] What do you need to complete implementation?

- Teacher/Catechist formation** – esp. gr. 9/10 levels\*
- More strategies for differentiated instruction / assessment at all grades\*
- Profiles for Gr. 11 & 12 M and O\*
- Official U designation esp. at gr. 12\*
- Resources to teach Gr. 12 workplace – making it real\*
- Instructional leadership from principals re: staffing, resources allocation, timetabling, PD release time
- Video in-service resources? Professional Learning Community model for RE?
- Support for at-risk students and pathways programs students
- More RE objects in the LOR
- Updated Family Life resources esp. in Gr. 11
- Will the new World Religions text be suitable for College/Open level kids?

### C] Do you have instructional leaders

- Majority of boards say they have good people

### D] General observations about Elementary Religious Ed.

- Timetabling RE /FI in competition with Literacy/ numeracy a huge challenge\*

- General recognition of global lack of accountability in RE/FL – instruction, assessment and evaluation\*
- Refreshment of Fully Alive has triggered critique of RE resources; begins to pale in comparison to new Fully Alive\*
- Seasoned teachers miss scripture in Gr. 7&8
- Gr. 7 & 8 music ...hmmmm
- Various teachers find weaknesses in gr. K, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8
- Gr 2 generally requires support material re: Mass, Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Gr 3 struggles to lead kids to know Holy Spirit
- Gr 7/8 less relevant as Confirmation moves
- Confirmation is moving in many diocese – indicates moving Confirmation catechesis out of gr. 7/8
- Only beginning to understand catechetical process as essentially literacy process
- Good literature links help bridge to literacy block
- Parish relationship can greatly influence attention to formal catechesis

**Various other notes:**

- Time for Catechist formation is critical – knowing the vision as well as the methods; new AQ may address this; present AQ even p.3 often not enough to be able to be able to teach GR 11/12\*
  - Catechesis in mother tongue is the ruling principle; NORE will provide support to any who wish to convince local schools to move Religious Ed. courses away from the French stream of Extended / Immersion French
  - Use of In Search of the Good – skipping ch1-3 -cuts out the foundations for the rest of the course; advise to modify elsewhere for open courses
  - Scripture supplements in gr 9 are
  - Choosing ICE codes v/s MOE codes for course calendars supports Catholic community autonomy
  - National Catechetical Syllabus coming in 2009 – Bishops do not rule out revising their resources
  - Gr 11 World Religions text contract awarded to Novalis – production underway for 2010
  - Elementary timetabling challenges can be overcome with recognition of the multiple literacies (reading/writing, speaking/listening, critical/media) activated in the catechetical process.
- RELIGIOUS LITERACY**
- RE /FL can find a home in the literacy block AND across the rest of the day as the medium for meaning making in other disciplines
  - Larger number of non-Catholics in gr. 9 seems to indicate a newly designed leveling course
  - Catholic Youth Bible a great resource
  - NTIP support sometimes a false promise if mentors are too young or ill-formed

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## Election of CARFLEO Executive

### Nomination Form

#### Rules of nomination and election

Voting is conducted by secret ballot. All voters must be present at the CARFLEO AGM. Nominees not present at the meeting must indicate their acceptance of the nomination in writing prior to the election.

**The nominee and their supervisory officer must sign the nomination.** The term of office is two years. The next terms begins September 2008. Nominees must be active members of CARFLEO. Nominations must be received no later then March 3, 2008

The Elected Executive consists of:

Chair	Treasurer
Secretary	Past Chair (held by previous term's elected chair)

To nominate a member of CARFLEO for election to the executive, please complete and submit the following information. A member may nominate him/herself or may nominate, with their permission, any other member of CARFLEO

I, \_\_\_\_\_

Nominate \_\_\_\_\_

For the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_\_ I have asked permission of this member (if this nomination is other then yourself)

Yes \_\_\_\_ this candidate has the written permission of their supervisor to accept this position if elected.

This candidate will \_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_ be attending the AGM.

Signature of Supervisory Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this nomination form by March 3, 2008 to:

Les Miller, Past Chair of CARFLEO  
320 Bloomington Road West  
Aurora, ON  
L4G 3G8

Email: [les.miller@ycdsb.ca](mailto:les.miller@ycdsb.ca)

### **The Role of the Chair**

- Call and chair all meetings both executive and AGM
- Supervise the following:
  - The writing of the newsletter
  - The annual AGM
  - The appointment of a communications officer and chairs for all standing committees
  - All recommended conferences
    - Represent CARFLEO, or appoint a delegate, whenever a CARFLEO representative is requested to sit on another associations committees.
- Liaison with the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops - Education Committee- as required
- Attend the Annual AGM and the CARFLEO Conference
- Prepare an Annual Presidents report for the AGM
- At the end of term of office, supply a written report to the incoming Chair outlining ongoing projects and proposed projects
- The Chair may head one of the sub-committees.

### **The Role of the Secretary**

- Handle all correspondence for the association
- Ensure that all correspondence contains the appropriate letterhead
- Keep minutes for all meetings both executive and AGM
- Collect and collate Election and Award nominations
- Edit and distribute newsletters
- Revise and distribute an annual directory of Boards and contact persons for all membership boards.
- Prepare written minutes for the AGM
- At the end of term of office, provide all recorded minutes to the incoming secretary and an electronic copy of the CARFLEO letterhead with Logo.

### **The Role of the Treasurer**

- Maintain accounts for the association
- Pay all approved bills
- Report on the budget at all meetings of the executive and the AGM
- Prepare an annual budget for the membership to be distributed at the AGM
- Collect and collate all Membership and Conference Registrations

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# Fr. Angus MacDougall Award for Excellence in Family Life Education Nomination Form

The nominee is:

- An Ontario Catholic family life educator
- One who demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following areas:
  - Care and commitment to engaging and supporting student learning in family life education
  - Knowledge and demonstration of best practices in family life education
  - Innovations in the practice of family life education
  - On-going contributions to the field of family life education beyond their own classroom
  - Leadership in initiating and sustaining opportunities for the growth of quality family life education with colleagues
  - Continuous updating and improving of personal practice as a family life educator

I, \_\_\_\_\_ wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate

As the 2008 recipient for the Fr. Angus MacDougall Award for Excellence in Family Life Education.

Rationale: *(include any contributions that this person may have made to the development, implementation, and/or promotion of the Family Life Programs at either a local or provincial level.)*

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: March 3, 2008**

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# Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for Excellence in Religious Education Nomination Form

The nominee is:

- An Ontario Catholic school religious educator
- One who demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following areas:
  - Care and commitment to engaging and supporting student learning in religious education and faith formation
  - Knowledge and demonstration of best practices in religious education and faith formation
  - Innovations in the practice of religious education and faith formation
  - On-going contributions to the field of religious education and faith formation beyond their own classroom
  - Leadership in initiating and sustaining opportunities for the growth of quality religious education and faith formation with colleagues
  - Continuous updating and improving of personal practice as a religious educator

I, \_\_\_\_\_ wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ as the  
Candidate

recipient of the Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for excellence in Religious Education for 2007.

Rationale: *(include any contributions that this person may have made to the development, implementation, and/or promotion of the Religious Education Programs at either a local or provincial level.)*

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: March 3, 2008**

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