

# CARFLEO Newsletter

January 2007

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Winter may be a season of dormancy – but not in Ontario’s Catholic Education community. The recent ICE Symposium has inspired teams of parents, teacher, students, administrators and parish teams to sit down and clarify their vision for the future of Catholic Education

The more certain we are of our vision, our gifts and strengths the more successful we will be in preserving Catholic Education. Discerning our gifts can reduce our vulnerability to external forces. Henri Nouwen once mused that, “*to the degree that we have lost our dependencies on this world, whatever world means ... we can form a community of faith in which there is little to defend and much to share. Because as a community of faith, we take the world seriously but not too seriously.*”<sup>\*</sup> A prayer for Catholic education might be that defenses come down in favour of a generous sharing of gifts.

*\*Out of Solitude:  
Three Meditations on the Christian Life*

## **"Were Not Our Hearts Burning..." :CARFLEO Conference & AGM**

Rekindle your vocation as a Catholic educator! 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. **Registration deadline is March 8th, 2007.** Registration information can be found at [www.carfleo.org](http://www.carfleo.org)

## **Recognizing Excellence in Religious Education and Family Life Education**

It has been the tradition in past years to present the Archbishop Pocock Award for Religious Education at the CARFLEO Conference in April, and the Fr. Angus MacDougall Award for Family Life at “When Faith Meets Pedagogy” in October. After a good bit of discussion within the CARFLEO executive, the decision has been made to “bring home” the Fr. Angus MacDougall Award, and present both at the CARFLEO Conference in April (see below).

**Archbishop Philip Pocock Award** for outstanding contributions in the field of Catholic Religious Education will be presented at the CARFLEO Conference. Complete the attached nomination form and email to Les Miller at [lesmiller@ycdsb.ca](mailto:lesmiller@ycdsb.ca) by February 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Fr. Angus MacDougall Award** Excellence in Family Life Education will be awarded at the CARFLEO Conference. Complete the attached nomination form and email to Les Miller at [lesmiller@ycdsb.ca](mailto:lesmiller@ycdsb.ca) by February 21<sup>st</sup>.

**HRE 3 / 4 U C E** ICE will be sending a letter to all Catholic boards with further instructions regarding HRE 3 and HRE 4 - the advice will be to retain HRE3/4 M/O for the 2007/2008 school year. ICE is reviewing the new Council of Colleges and Universities policy guidelines for 2008 to clarify next steps.

Local boards do have the option of applying for *Locally Developed Optional Course* status for their HRE 3E and HRE 4E courses using the criteria and rationale in the ICE Policy Document. Ministry contacts indicate that this would typically be successful and would happen in time for Sept 2007.

**High School Forum** The twenty-first High School Forum, taking place from May 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> at St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Ontario, boasts a new format. Taking the words of David Suzuki, "There is no choice," to heart, the Conference, "Educating Tomorrow's Catholic for Stewardship in Today's World," will involve each participant in separate sessions with the two keynote speakers, Michael Morwood (From Sand to Solid Ground: Questions of Faith for Modern Catholics) and Heather Eaton (Introducing Ecofeminist Theologies), as well as sessions with both of them. For more information, contact Forum Coordinator John Quinn at (905) 934-9115 or [johnquinn@cogeco.ca](mailto:johnquinn@cogeco.ca)

**NORE News** The National Office of Religious Education (NORE) is in the midst of becoming the National Office for Evangelization and Catechesis (NOEC). The main work of the office will be to prepare a National Catechetical Syllabus. This will serve as a sort of National 'policy document' of expectations in religious education.

**Special Needs Religious Education** Joanne Chafe of NORE noted in a recent teleconference with the CARFLEO Executive Committee that students of all abilities will be living and function to some extent in the world beyond school. Therefore, students with special needs should have some exposure to the content of the core religious education programs to the extent that they are able. The Bishops typically reject any proposals for 'parallel programs' that deviate *completely* from any of the expectations of the core Religious Education programs K-12.

**Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Religion/Family Life survey.** Watch for this in the weeks to come. Your responses will help local board consultants and coordinators to influence the future direction of AER as we move to web-based electronic tools.

**Grade 11 World Religions resources** The OCCB has noted CCCB's plan to move away from text production. The Ontario Bishops recognize the need to move unilaterally to provide a resource for Gr. 11 students in Ontario. Preliminary talks have begun to develop a Request for Proposals from a select number of textbook publishers.

**Fully Alive Update** Gr 1/2 are going to print, Gr 3/4 under review – price points will be available soon. Grade 7/8 supplementary materials are being developed under the guidance of the OCCB. Topics include: Same Sex Attraction, STI's, Pornography, Contemporary Family Structures, Grief, Loss and Stress, Bullying Prevention, Addiction and Substance Abuse, Suicide. If you feel you have resources or information that could contribute please contact: [John\\_Podgorski@occdsb.on.ca](mailto:John_Podgorski@occdsb.on.ca)

### **Official Liaison to the Catholic Educational Community**

Ann Perron, who was most recently the director of the CDSB of Eastern Ontario, has taken on the new role of: Senior Executive Officer of operations and Program Planning, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat. She will be an excellent advocate for Catholic education from within the Secretariat. Contact her at: [ann.perron@ontario.ca](mailto:ann.perron@ontario.ca)

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

Dan Reidy, *Chair*, Les Miller, *Past Chair*, Michael Jenny, *Treasurer*, Paul Beaudette, *Secretary*

Kevin Welbes-Godin, Joe Bezzina, *Curriculum*; Sharron McKeever, MaryAnn Takacs, *Conference*;  
Wendy Bodsworth, *Constitution*; Peter Crane, *WFMP*; Sherry Chapman, *Communications*; Patrick Collins