

# CARFLEO Newsletter

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## WELCOME BACK!

As the 'new year' marches forward and we look forward to what lies ahead, there is much to be excited about! The Fully Alive revisions and CARFLEO Grade 7/8 Family Life Supplements are wonderful new programs that are in our hands. The Character Education conversation is taking on creative, faith-filled dimensions across our Catholic school boards. On-line Catholic infused secondary courses are allowing a broader reach to students in all corners of Ontario. I'm sure you can certainly add to this list in your own region of the province.

Certainly the richness of who we are and what we offer as a Catholic school system is a force that cannot be taken lightly. Our heritage speaks for itself, and yet there is no greater time than now for our collective voices to be heard loudly. The future of Catholic Education in Ontario is on many people's minds. It is at the centre of conference gatherings, at the heart of board room discussions, the focus of this year's Catholic Education Week, and more.

As this year unfolds, it is important that we not only be thankful, but indeed watchful of what has been entrusted to us. The Ontario bishops letter "Fulfilling the Promise", though fifteen years old, still holds true as it states -- "**The most basic challenge to develop further and to articulate a Catholic philosophy of education for our times - continues to demand our attention and to require new ways of thinking about our schools and the role of Catholic educators. At this moment in our history as a believing community, the leadership of the Catholic schools is clearly in the hands of lay people.**"

How do you add to, enrich and lead this conversation in your Catholic community?

Kevin Welbes Godin  
Chair – CARFLEO

### ***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.

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

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, members of the CCC and the NOCCC joined a significant number of representatives from the Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Cooperative in attendance at the Character Education Symposium, "Our Language, Our Story" in Kingston. Bishop Paul-André Durocher, who has taken a personal interest in the question of character and virtue, presented "Character Development and the Virtuous Life: A Position Paper" to the group during the morning session. In the afternoon, representatives shared the best of what is being done in their respective boards vis-à-vis the Character Development Initiative. Peter Crane represented CARFLEO on the CCC review team.

## **“Our Language, Our Story”**

The Kingston Character Education Symposium concluded with a preview of EOCCC’s forthcoming Catholic Education resource, “Our Language, Our Story”. The projected date for a completed online edition and distribution in CD format is December 2008. Accompanying materials will be developed early in the new year, with implementation in member boards to take place between February and June 2009. For more details, see attached.

## **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.

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

Family Life Supplementary Resources for *Fully Alive* in Grades Seven and Eight have been completed. CD copies were distributed to all participants in the CARFLEO Conference in April, and are available for viewing and downloading at [www.carfleo.org](http://www.carfleo.org).

Project directors Dan Reidy and John Podgorski have presented the resource at last year’s WFMP conference. This year CARFLEO is working with Bishop P.A. Durocher to develop provincial in-service and a comprehensive implementation plan. Stay tuned!

## **CARFLEO Conference & AGM: Following the Cosmos in a Consumer Society: Integrating God's Creation and Liberation April 28 & 29, 2009**

Nottawasaga Inn... CONFIRMED

Keynote speakers Stephen Sharper, Associate Professor with the Centre for the Study of Religion and the Centre for the Environment at the University of Toronto and co-author of *The Green Bible*, and Marianne Karsh, a professional forester and researcher, Director of *Arborvitae* and co-author of “Trees, Forestry, and the Responsiveness of Creation”. CONFIRMED

Registration details... COMING SOON

## **Catholic Education Week**

The theme of this year’s Catholic Education Week is indeed one that can be celebrated throughout the year: “*Catholic Education: Good News for All*”. We look forward to the fruits of OCSTA’s preparation to help us celebrate the conviction, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news:.”

## **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 7th 2008 to Saturday May 9th 2009. This year’s keynote speaker is the internationally-known Diarmuid O’Murchu, who will be speaking on “Evolutionary Faith”. Please note the registration (not payment) must be made before December 31, 2008 or the Conference will have to be cancelled. Please see attached poster and letter for more information.

### **2008/2010 Executive Committee**

Kevin Welbes Godin, *Chair*, Dan Reidy, *Past Chair*, Michael Jenny, *Treasurer*, Paul Beaudette, *Secretary*

Joe Bezzina, *Curriculum*; Sharron McKeever, MaryAnn Takacs, *Conference*; Peter Crane, *WFMP*; Sherry Chapman, *Communications*

