



Catholic Association of Religious  
and Family Life Educators of Ontario

### *CARFLEO Annual Conference*

April 11-12, 2005

Many thanks to CARFLEO's conference committee for organizing and hosting our successful Annual conference and General Meeting. At the conference Monsignor Dennis Murphy addressed the theme *Bedrock and Shifting Sands* by presenting the gifts and challenges that faced Religious and family Educators across the province. Our gratitude goes to Monsignor Murphy for his inspirational talk. Fr Xavier DePinto celebrated mass with us on the afternoon of April 12 to bring us to a fitting conclusion to a wonderful conference. We were blessed to be joined by special guests Sr. Joan Cronin of the Institute for Catholic Education, as well as Joanne Chafe and Jonas Abromaitis of the CCCB's National Office of Religious Education. The minutes and Chair's report are posted on the [www.carfleo.org](http://www.carfleo.org) website, soon to be accompanied by photos of the event!

### *General Directory for Catechesis*

*The General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) may be the great unknown secret among Ontario Religious and Family Life Educators. It is the foundational Church document from which all our curriculum and teaching should flow. The Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, in its Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church, mandated the development and publication of a practical guide which would set forth the fundamental principles and the organization of the Church's catechetical mission on behalf of children, young people and adults. In 1971, in response to the Council's mandate, Pope Paul VI ordered the publication of the *General Catechetical Directory*, which set forth the norm for both the content and the method of handing on the Catholic faith through catechesis. Bearing in mind the pedagogical and cultural developments subsequent to the council, a revised edition was commissioned. On August 15, 1997, Pope John Paul II approved for publication the GDC as the norm and instrument for the Church in fulfilling her fundamental responsibility of teaching the faith.

The General Directory for Catechesis helps us to understand better the role of the new Catechism. In Part II, the GDC points out that the Catechism and the GDC "are two distinct but complementary instruments at the service of the Church's catechetical activity" (#120). Where the Catechism is "a point of reference for the authentic presentation of the content of faith," the GDC "is an official aid for the transmission of the Gospel message and for the whole of catechetical activity." In other words, the Catechism provides a general reference of what should be taught in catechesis, while the GDC clarifies who the audience for catechesis is, how catechesis is to be conducted and why, and names the outcome of all catechetical processes. Familiarity with both documents is equally important for teachers of the faith.

Hard copies of the GDC are available for purchase from the CCCB publications office [www.cccbpublications.ca/](http://www.cccbpublications.ca/)

or the link to the entire text is available online at the [www.carfleo.org](http://www.carfleo.org) website. (Click on the **Resources** button)

**The Fr. Angus McDougall Award** for excellence in Family Life Education will be awarded at this year's When Faith Meets Pedagogy conference. Nominations should be accompanied by a brief rationale and emailed to Sharron McKeever at [jm3@idirect.ca](mailto:jm3@idirect.ca) by June 30, 2005.

#### **YOUR OPINION...**

What special features would you like to see on the [carfleo.org](http://carfleo.org) website to help in your ministry?

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