



CARFLEO CONFERENCE: Recovering the Soul

Our brochure on this year's conference will soon be published. 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. Registration information can be found either in the forthcoming brochure that will be mailed to CARFLEO board representatives, or at our website later in December. 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, watch for nomination information in upcoming newsletters and on our website.

ICE Curriculum Guidelines for Religious Education

Members of the ICE executive were part of the team that helped to draft the new guidelines for Religious Education in our secondary schools. This updates the older document written in 1999. Proposed changes to the guidelines reflect the trend towards fewer and more easily measurable expectations. College and Open level courses are also being considered for grades 11 and 12. The draft is currently with the Ontario Bishops education commission awaiting amendments and approvals. It is expected that these Curriculum Guidelines will be released sometime early in the new year.

Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week will be observed from April 30 to May 5, 2006. This year the theme is "And God saw that it was good." Activities, prayers and celebrations will focus on the goodness of creation. The Advance Kit with prayers and reflections for those preparing for this important event has been sent out. For more information see the OCSTA website at www.ocsta.on.ca Look over the next few months for some exciting news regarding CARFLEO's involvement with Catholic Education week.

Character Education

Bishop Paul-Andre Durocher wrote a letter this past summer to the Directors of Education approving the Ministry of Education's move towards Character Education. In the letter Bishop Durocher writes: "This initiative from the Ministry of Education should be seen as an occasion to review our vision of education." We must not only speak of this vision we must implement it. Perhaps the vision of Character Education can be integrated in our schools in a way that allows us to evaluate the implementation of our vision and ensure its realization.

CARFLEO Letter to Partners

CARFLEO is sending a letter to its partners in education advocating for three important steps to support the teaching of Religious Education and Family Life Education in the province. Firstly, the cycle of renewal of the CCCB Religious Education Programs needs to continue. The Grade One project at the National Office of Religious Education is currently on hold until administrative issues at the CCCB have been resolved. Meanwhile, teachers are currently using a program in those years that is over a decade old. Secondly, and even more dated is the Family Life program, *Fully Alive*. CARFLEO is writing our partners in education to encourage the update of the program. Thirdly, in the new electronic report card being piloted in some schools this year, the place of Religious Education's comments on the second page seems to diminish its importance. We urge our partners to advocate for the placement of Religious Education comments on the first page of the document to symbolically reinforce the importance of this subject for our Catholic curriculum.

The CARFLEO executive extends to you the blessings of the Advent season. May your hearts be filled with hope, peace, joy and love.