

CSCO

Thanksgiving Newsletter



FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

(JOHN 6. 1 – 14)

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

We give thanks to God for the many blessings we've received.

Enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends!

And for all of our members who are suffering ailments of any kind, know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

"Grateful for each hand we hold

Gathered round this table.

From far and near we travel home,

Blessed that we are able.

Grateful for this sheltered place

With light in every window,

Saying welcome, welcome, share this feast

Come in away from sorrow.

Father, mother, daughter, son,

Neighbor, friend and friendless;

All together everyone in the gift of loving-kindness.

Grateful for whats understood,

And all that is forgiven;

We try so hard to be good,

To lead a life worth living.

Father, mother, daughter, son,

Neighbor, friend, and friendless;

All together everyone, let grateful days be endless.

Grateful for each hand we hold

Gathered round this table."

- *a Thanksgiving song of the musical artist, Mary Chapin Carpenter*



20 Years of DREAMS

You are invited to a reunion celebration of DREAMS success over the last 20 years. This year, we will be welcoming members of the ADESJO team to Canada and would love to have you join us in fundraising for a new ADESJO truck.

All past, current, and future DREAMS participants and supporters are welcome. Please spread the word!

Where? St. Mary Catholic Secondary School
200 Whitney Avenue
Hamilton, ON
L8S 2G7

When? Friday, October 18th 2019 at 7:00 pm
RSVP: 20 Years of DREAMS Facebook Group

Evening will include dessert as well as artisanal items for purchase.

We will be accepting donations at the door.

Thanks in advance for helping to spread the word about our 20th anniversary celebration at 7:00 on the evening of Friday, October 18.

Sr. Teo and a number of our ADESJO friends from San Jose de Ocoa will be in attendance with us.

We will be serving coffee and desserts.

If you have a prize or a gift to donate for the silent auction, please let me know.

We are raising money to replace the 20 year-old truck that ADESJO uses to transport us in Ocoa.

Muchas gracias!

Don Hall

Chaplaincy Leader
St. Mary Catholic Secondary School
Hamilton
Phone: 905 528-0214 ext. # 3420
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CSCO President's letter sent to all members October 2nd

Good afternoon CSCO Members,

As we are aware, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which represents school secretaries, school/system clerical staff, custodians, maintenance staff, EAs, Early Childhood Educators, Library Technicians, Child and Youth Workers and in some boards, Chaplaincy Leaders, have been working-to-rule in schools across Ontario for three days now and today they have announced their intention for a full strike beginning Monday.

Obviously, this affects everyone in our school system and for some of our CSCO members who are CUPE members, they are affected directly. These situations can be very difficult. It affects morale, causes frustration and stress.

As Chaplaincy Leaders, we are called to support our staff, students and their families. During these negotiations, I ask that you continue to do the good work that you do by being a presence, a listening ear, the hands and feet of Jesus. When things are challenging, we are called to do this in a unique and intentional way.

Your communities are blessed to have you and I'm sure will be looking to you for guidance and support and as a sign of our faith.

Be assured that the CSCO Executive is keeping all of our members in our prayers.

God Bless,

Jolene

Jolene Smith

President,

Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario

Jolene is the chaplain of St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Niagara Falls.

And, of course, due to last minute negotiations, this strike was averted. Praise God!



PRAYER DURING LABOUR NEGOTIATIONS

Loving God,

We know that life is messy
and unpredictable at times.

We know too that labour negotiations
often tops the list of messy times.

We pray for a quick and just resolution
to the labour negotiations
that are happening on a provincial level.

At the local level

may we remember

the wisdom from 1 Corinthians 12*

We are the body of Christ,

and each one of us is a part of it.

God has put us together

that we should have equal concern for each other.

If one suffers, everyone suffers;

if one is honoured, every one rejoices.

Let our words and actions

show respect rooted in love;

for in the end-

and at the start-

we are in this together.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(adapted from second person plural to first person plural).

Blessings,

Margaret Palmer

System Chaplaincy Leader of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board

Wallaceburg

Summer Memories...

It is difficult to believe that we are already into October, as I watch the leaves change colour and begin to fall. Memories of summer seem distant at this time, but the kindness and hospitality of the people of Newfoundland will stay with me for years to come.

My husband, Alan and I celebrated our 30th Wedding Anniversary this past summer and our gift to ourselves was a two-week trip to NL.

No matter where we went along the East Coast, we were warmly welcomed.

Perhaps though, the memory that will stay with me the longest will be what I learned on the “Beyond the Words Tour”, in Gander NFLD.

We had heard about this 3-hour tour from friends who had been there. If you happened to have seen the musical **Come From Away** sometime in the past year, you may understand the impact this tour had on us.

Al and I, along with 7 other people, were driven around the town of Gander to the schools, community centres and churches that had hosted the “plane people” during 9/11.

38 planes landed at the Gander Airport that day and the town of Gander, with a population of only about 10,000 people, opened its doors to approximately 7,000 visitors. Along with our tour of the places the “plane people” stayed, we were blest to hear a first-hand account of what unfolded by Dawn Baker, whose family had hosted a young 17-year old girl, flying on her own. Dawn’s husband was an air traffic controller during the crisis and she herself is now a well celebrated children’s author. She is a marvellous storyteller and as she shared her memories of that week 18 years ago, she brought to life, an almost unbelievable story of generosity and kindness at its very best. She spoke about simple acts of hospitality, blankets and pillows, home-made food and the offer of a ride, or a shower, or a loan of a vehicle. I do not have time within the scope of this article to describe all that we heard but I can tell you that there were particular phrases that have stayed with me, some from the documentaries, some from Dawn and some from the play, which we were lucky enough to see when it came to Ottawa in August.

Here are a few “take aways” for me:

“The road to Jericho ran through Gander that day.”

From the musical, **Come From Away**: “Come on in, the door’s open....

“We are what was lost, we also commemorate what was found...”

“We all looked the same, but we’re different than we were ...” (after the 5 days in Gander)

From one of the documentaries, Tom Brokaw's Story, "*Operation Yellow Ribbon*"

created because so many of the younger generation were not around during 9/11 or were too young to remember – he felt the story needed to be re-told.

"If Gander could be shared with the world, the world would be a better place..."

He spoke about the "enormous contrast between the darkness of the events in the U.S. and the goodness of that was going on in Gander – an example of what humanity can be at its best."

When the people of NL were praised for what they did, their response was "This is how we live our lives, (they didn't know what the fuss was about), we help each other during troubled times."

The whole documentary was a reminder of how people in community, even across borders, can help each other – it brought out the best in human kind.

Our board's spiritual theme in Ottawa this year is the second line in Micah's framework for justice, "Love kindness and mercy."

I created our opening staff prayer service this year, using the thoughts and reflections I had journalled while on the tour. I invited each staff member to take a piece of birch bark and asked them to write their blessings, dreams and wishes for their students this year and we hung them on a line in our Tranquillity Garden. I gave each staff member a tiny spool of thread as a symbol to remind them that we are the threads of kindness that run through the lives of our families, our classrooms, our school community and our neighbourhood, connecting us all to the Source of all that is good, kind, loving and merciful.

Finally, on September 11th, as a follow-up to this moment of prayer and reflection with our staff, our PA. morning prayer focussed on peace and on Pay it Forward 9/11, – a movement that began in 2002 in the States, with Kevin Tuerff, one of the "plane people", as way to help people focus on the light of that day and the goodness that came out of Gander. If people were recipients of random acts of kindness, the world would be a better place. The prayer was followed up by a slide show on kindness that I sent to the homeroom teachers. That day, we also did a small fundraiser that would allow us to purchase sports equipment for our 6 feeder schools, as a way to Pay It Forward – a thank you to the educational communities that had shaped and formed our students and sent them on the path to our high school.

I am thankful, so thankful for the people in my life who have shown me kindness, who have opened their doors and their hearts to me time and time again, who have taught me the true meaning of hospitality by the living out of it in their own lives.

Thanksgiving blessings to each one of you, as we all reach out to our staff, especially our CUPE support staff, navigate through these stressful times.

The photos included are the expressions of gratitude written to the people from the town of Gander and nearby areas who hosted the “plane people” during 9/11. The others are photos of the tour bus that drove us around, as well as Al and I in the Town Hall with Dawn Baker, who was our storyteller and who wrote the children’s book, Commander Gander Comes From Away.

Maureen Dufour

Chaplain

St. Paul High School

Ottawa

א ווסטער עזניה באר צוה,

א נאח העקעבליג וקעהא

אויס אף הילף.

שיינה אפס נאכ אלס
-א

If we could only GANDERIZE the whole
world what a lovely little planet we
would have!! Lee + Wilson Harwood

from
Gander

THANK YOU
FOR THIS TO
OVERCOMING
YOU ALL DID
THESE DAYS
MADE OUR
NEWFOUNDLAND
UNFORGETTABLE
ANNE & CONN
GERMANY 91

God Bless Canada!

For the Light & Goodness of
God shines from the People
in Newfoundland in the midst
of Darkness! More Power

Baby Miguel
Merric Emb. Expo
congrat. Mal. Bul. Ph

WORDS CAN NOT
EXPLAIN THE GRATITUDE
& THANKS WE ALL FEEL
TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF
GANDER. YOUR OUTPOURING OF
KINDNESS & LOVE HAVE RESTORED
MY FAITH IN THE GUNS OF HUMANITY.
YOU SET EXAMPLES FOR EVERYONE.
GOD BLESS YOU ALL. YOU WILL
ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED.
MANY THANKS.
ERIN WILT
New York, NY

YOU'RE WELCOME

fr. SANDER.
... very much
... kindness and
... hospitality
... us here in
... the very nice area of G
... thank you. We will
... never forget the people
... Thorsten, Karin and
... Siegfried Paul
... from Germany

Thousands of thanks
Hans & family and friends
helped us in this very difficult
situation. I wish to see the place
again with my family. Shalom A.A.
12.9.2018

So much warmth
So much help
... and smiles
We shall never forget you people!
Thank you, Annela Bismuth
Forget me to you

Thousand Thanks to these

I can't thank you enough for all of the smiles, warmth





COME FROM AWAY

THE REMARKABLE TRUE STORY

NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

COMEFROMAWAY.COM

1. one summer memory:

Creating a new garden at home was a very unforgettable experience. The memory of digging, planting and creating something so beautiful from the nothingness of a plain grass, it's an amazing feeling. Playing with the dirt and caressing the plants and flowers and further on admiring the new life coming and the flowers blooming and resurrecting, it's an incredible blessing!

2. how's the start-up been at school?



Great like if I had never left.

3. what are you thankful for?

For everything God has given me. For the love of my family, children, grandchildren, parents, nephews, siblings, my beautiful friends, the gift of life, health, laughter, joy and work. For the gift of my faith and my vocation, for the gift of my mission and God in my life. For today and every moment, for our home and for all thank you God.

Believe in Miracles!...for with God all things are possible.

Nuri Garza

School Chaplain

St. Joseph's Catholic High School

St. Thomas



WORDS OF WISDOM

I am enjoying retirement so far, much as I miss my amazing co-workers and beloved Chaplain friends. My life has fallen into a new routine with the same intention that has lead my life in Chaplaincy and every chapter before that: lovingly nurturing life.

My summer was spent mainly looking after my 90 year old mother as she was experiencing some serious health concerns. She is doing really well now, thanks be to God and the great care she is still getting from my sisters and the social and therapeutic supports we have put in place for her.

Now, mornings are my own, for prayer and reading, nurturing and harvesting my garden, and exercise. My afternoons are about supporting and caring for my eldest daughter's family: my beautiful energetic grandson, Albert who was 1 year old on

Saturday, and my granddaughter Roisin, who is 10, my daughter, Erin (who teaches at a school in one of the most impoverished communities in Oshawa , by choice) , and her husband Rick, who works an afternoon/evening shift at Sobey's warehouse. I am also mentoring Paola, (my successor at All Saints), a little bit and she is doing amazingly so far! I am so proud of her! I am also helping to facilitate Retreat leader training and facilitating Grade 9 Retreats. As always, I continue working with the Children's and Youth Choir at our parish.

So, it looks like the next chapter of my life has a lot to do with nurturing life and mentoring , no big change...just a change of pace, of community, and of focus. The continuity besides my family is my parish community, and my role there as Cantor and Children's and Youth Choir Director continues. It gets pretty humbling when you realize that many of the children you are working with are grandchildren of the families you knew working in parish programmes when your kids were little.

For many years, prior to becoming a Chaplain, I carried this prayer with me. This has been my mainstay through the most painful, the most tedious, and the most joyful moments of ministry and life. I found it first in Rachel Naomi Remen's "My Grandfather's Blessings" I have since learned that it comes from the Jewish Shabbat prayer. To me, this says it all!

"Days pass and the years vanish

and we walk sightless among miracles. \

Lord, fill our eyes with seeing

and our minds with knowing.

Let there be moments

when your Presence

like lightning,

illuminates the darkness

in which we walk.

Help us to see, wherever we gaze,

that the bush burns, unconsumed.

And we, clay touched my God

will reach out for holiness
and exclaim in wonder,
“How filled with awe is this place
and we did not know it.”

Lots of love and prayers for all of my Chaplain Friends

Eileen XOXOXOX

Eileen McGowan retired in June. She was a chaplain with the Durham Catholic District School Board.

Congratulations Eileen and God bless you!



UPDATE ON RETIRED MEMBER PAUL MAYNE-DEVINE

-sent September 26

I heard from my daughter last night that Paul came through his surgery well and was resting comfortably. Thanks be to God!

Gillian

-from Gillian Federico, System Chaplain of the Halton Catholic District School Board

Paul retired from the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board in June.

CSCO EXECUTIVE MEETING

The executive members returned to business one week before school started. We met in Belleville at the St. Michael Parish Centre. As usual, it was a productive meeting. After the meeting, some of us stopped at the Big Apple in Colbourne. Our next meeting is in November.



DON AND MAUREEN HALL'S SUMMER TRIP TO FRANCE AND SPAIN

Maureen and I visited a mountain top Benedictine Monastery at Montserrat in Spain.

Some highlights were Mass with the monks, touching a statue of the black Madonna and a rugged 10 kms mountainous hike.









Antoni Gaudi was inspired by the beauty of the cone shaped mountains at the Benedictine Montserrat Monastery.

This is reflected in his design of the Basilica of la Sagrada Familia where he lived and worked for the last 43 years of his life in Barcelona.





Don is the chaplain of St. Mary Catholic Secondary School in Hamilton.



Thank you Don, Maureen, Margaret, Eileen and Nuri for contributing to the latest edition of the CSCO newsletter.

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2019

Please consider sending me your 'Reflections of 2019'.

It could be related to your personal, family or school life.

A paragraph or two is good.

A prayer or a poem is always appreciated.

And photos are always great, too!

Send to Lorenzo Campanelli at csc.vp@gmail.com.

Deadline for submissions: December 19 at 12 noon.

