



CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CHAPLAINS OF ONTARIO

June 2022
Issue #20



CSCO End of Year Newsletter

Dear fellow CSCO members,

Thanks be to God; we made it! What another remarkable year of unprecedented times!

The summer holidays are finally here, and thanks to our safety precautions and vaccination efforts, we're finally getting a foothold in the battle with the covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you, Creator God, for this much needed break!

We've worked hard, we've worked for the Kingdom; now, let us rest.

As tough as the new reality has been, we all have stories of good news: personally, in our schools and in the world.

We are a people of faith, hope and love, and we transmit this to everyone we meet.

We are bearers of the Good News wherever we go, whoever we meet: an awesome responsibility!

And life goes on because we haven't reached the Promised Land yet.

Thank you to our contributors for this edition: St. John's College Reflection with Andrew Hall, BHA article with Don Hall, New Chaplain Reflection with Molly Fisher, May Crowning with Don Hall, Year-end Prayer with Shawn Panio, Photos with Ann Clarke, Up Close and Personal with Dean Woodbeck, Stephanie Jarrett, Jeff Gendron, Joe Rogers, Adriana Rerecich, Kathleen Thompson, Margaret Palmer and Anita Bedore, Family Photo with Don Hall, Retirees' Acknowledgement with Deidre Pereira, Reflection with Paul Kozak, Photos with Mary Defayette, Retirement Club update with Joanne Belanger, Cycling Trip Reflection with Deb Legace and Gospel Reflection with Wydmarck Kwan.

Enjoy! Lorenzo

Mark Your Calendars!
CSCO 2023 Conference Dates
April 12-14, 2023.



2021-2022

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“Do You Love Me?” (John 21:15-19)

Wydmarck Kwan Chaplaincy Leader

Lakeshore Catholic High School

If there is one moment which I consider perhaps the happiest day of my life, I would say that it was the time when I first heard my son say that he loves me.

My sweet boy, Jeremy, is now 10 years old. He was diagnosed with autism when he was three. Hence, verbally communicating in an intentional manner is a huge challenge for him. This is apparent in the way he parrots things that he just heard. For instance, whenever I say, “I love you, Jeremy,” his usual response was always: “I love you, Jeremy.”

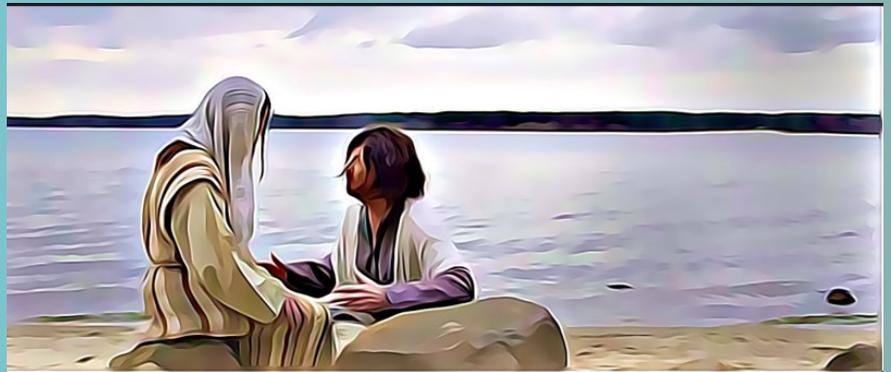
But not until that one unforgettable day sometimes three years ago. Jeremy and I were in the back seat of our car, with mommy Julie driving, when out of the blue he turned to me and gleefully announced: “Daddy!... I love you, Daddy!” I was dumbstruck, teary-eyed, and overwhelmed with much joy. It took me a minute or two to respond, “I love you too, Jeremy!”

Perhaps Jeremy did not really mean what he said. Perhaps it was just a spurt of a moment. Perhaps it was just a remark that was borne from something he saw on YouTube (like a Peppa Pig episode) which he recreated from imagination. But to me, it didn't matter. I know deep within that Jeremy loves me. He loves me in the way he knows how. He loves me in his own capacity. He loves me just the way he is. And I could want nothing more than that.

In the Gospel Reading for the Third Sunday of Easter Mass, we contemplate how Jesus entrusted Peter to “feed his sheep.” Jesus asked the question, “Do you love me?” three times. Bible scholars¹ say that in the ancient Greek Gospel, Jesus' first two questions referred to a love which is ‘agape’: Simon, do you love me with all your heart? Do you love me above all else?

In all three, Peter's response was the lesser kind of love – ‘philia’: Yes Lord, I do love you, but I can only love you with a brotherly kind of love. The love of a brother or a friend is what I can offer for now. I'm sorry but I cannot give you the most excellent kind of love that you seem to require. I know what I said before: that I was ready to give my life for you. But the truth of the matter is that I am a cowardly fool. I am proud, hard-headed, and broken. I apologize. But all I can offer you is my cowardly and stubborn heart. Will you accept this imperfect gift?

It was at this moment that Jesus reached down to accept Peter's humble offering of self. Jesus stooped lower so as to meet Peter where he truly is: “Simon, son of John, do you ‘philia’ me?” Jesus must have been overwhelmed with joy to receive Peter's honest and humble gift of self. After all, Jesus entrusted his flock - his Church - to a man who could only love him less.



Any earthly father such as I would be more than happy to receive a son's or a daughter's imperfect (or even hurtful) gift of love. I can only imagine how much more will our Heavenly Father rejoice at our honest and humble offering so long as we are true with ourselves.

“Take, O Lord, and receive, all my memory, my understanding, my entire will. All that I have is yours to begin with. Now I return them all to you, to be governed by your will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me.” (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

¹ Catholic Daily Readings, “Simon, Son of John, Do You Love Me? – John 21:15-19,” <https://catholicreadings.org/simon-son-of-john-do-you-love-me/>

WITH GRAD-ITUDE
FROM ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE



Grad Retreat - After two years of not having an in-person grad retreat, it was awesome to have our gr.12 Eagles celebrate at grad retreat. We began our day with a Liturgy of the Word in which we thanked God for the four years we have spent at St. John's College together as well as being able to gather in person. One of the best parts about the grad retreat was a MasterChef Food Challenge. In this activity, I split the students into teams, and they had to make appetizers using the colours of our school crest (green, white, gold, white.) The students made caprese skewers, guacamole, and goody bags. This led to a discussion where each student shared how they experienced the meaning behind our school colours over their time at St. John's College.



May Crowning Liturgy of the Word

- We had our first in-person Liturgy of the Word in two years on May 19th, with our May Crowning. It was awesome to be able to come together to celebrate our faith. For myself, it was amazing to once again play drums with our worship band as we played songs such as "Immaculate Mary," and an up-beat punk rock version of "Hail Holy Queen."



Eucharistic Minister Training - It was amazing to have our parish priests from St. Pius X lead some of our students in Eucharistic Minister training during the month of May. These students will be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at our closing school Mass in June.

Andrew Hall, St. John's College, Brantford



Month of Mary, May Crowning ...



-photos: D. Hall, Chaplaincy Leader ,
St.Mary Catholic S.S.-



...and a Wagon Ride!

We enjoyed our first wagon ride of
the year with Clara Alice riding shot
gun!

-Don Hall-



The Heart of War



Being of Ukrainian descent, the full scale attack by the Russian Federation on Ukraine this past February had a devastating effect on both myself and my community. I think the whole world was shocked by this senseless, indiscriminate attack that valued neither life, nor the rule of law as Russia crossed the border of a sovereign country. Watching our loved ones, friends and relatives being bombed, their homes destroyed and millions of Ukrainians fleeing their homeland left us sick in our stomachs, angry and willing to do whatever we could to help as we struggled to even process what was happening in front of our eyes.

Knowing how biased I was, I was hesitant to suggest a fundraiser in my community and focused on prayers and awareness. Then one day, not too long after the full scale invasion started, our art teacher, Carolyn Dyer came to me and suggested a fundraiser. She would bring her three art classes to the chapel, we would discuss what was happening in Ukraine together and then get them to paint original paintings, hearts and messages of support to the people of Ukraine letting them know they were not alone. When the paintings were done, we would give them away to the highest 70 donations to raise money for humanitarian aid.

Our principal not only supported the [project](#) but got local [television](#), [radio](#) and [newspapers](#) to report on the project. Our community stepped up, especially our staff and when all was said and done, we were able to raise over \$8000 for humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

As horrible as the war was, it also brought out the best in humanity with so many stepping up to support Ukrainians and show their solidarity with them. Perhaps the heart of war is not evil, but the goodness that responds to the evil: love in hope that will conquer all.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Paul Kozak, Chaplaincy Leader,
All Saints Catholic High School in Kanata, Ontario,

ST. MARY CHAPLAIN RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE —FROM HWCDSB.CA

A secondary school chaplain known for his zealous promotion of students and staff has found himself on the receiving end of an award.

Don Hall, Chaplaincy Leader at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School, was presented with the 2022 Brian J. Halferty Chaplaincy Award in a surprise visit by executive members of the Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario (CSCO) on May 6. The award, named after CSCO founder Brian J. Halferty, is presented annually to a high school chaplain who goes above and beyond the regular demands of his role.

Since 2004, “Don has made, and continues to make, a significant impact on our school community,” said St. Mary Principal, Anthony Macaluso.



“Whether it’s leading the prayer and liturgical life of the school, mentoring and supporting students in community initiatives such as We Are Silent and our St. Joseph’s Villa letter campaign, or his years of working with our DREAMS program to support our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic, Don’s leadership and Christian witness make him an extremely worthy recipient of this honour, and we are proud to see him recognized in such a fashion.”

Students have always been at the heart of his ministry.

Parents Debbie Ciotti-Bowman and Dan Bowman described Chaplain Don as a “standout” to their four children during their high school years at St. Mary.

“His door was literally always open to the students, and he was there to greet students right from the beginning of their Grade 9 year.”

His unconditional acceptance and encouragement enabled students to grow into leaders, they added.

“He was always interested in their ideas for projects that would promote care, love and faith in the school community and beyond.”

The Bowmans also praised his work with the DREAMS (Dominican Republic Education and Medical Support) program.

“The encounter between two cultures and lifestyles and what was shared in both directions between the two was, and still is, life changing for our children and all participants.”

Hall represents what Chaplaincy Leaders are all about, said Superintendent of Education Julie Angiolillo: “supporting others on their faith journey to encounter Christ, immersed in the teachings of the Catholic Church, Gospel values, and Catholic Social Teachings.”

“Specifically, his passion for the preferential option for the poor, solidarity, and the dignity of the human person is evident in his commitment to the culture of life and the many DREAMS trips he facilitated.”

“Chaplain Don lives and loves by example and is to be commended for his dedication to the HWCDSB students and staff. He invites all to join in serving others, most especially those in most need.”

For a man focused wholly on others, the recognition was, admittedly “the shock of my life,” said Hall.

In humble words of acceptance, he credited CSCO for their leadership and guidance in shaping the chaplaincy work he and other high school chaplains do in schools. He also thanked the St. Mary’s staff, administration, and students “for giving me the privilege, the blessing to be a chaplain.”

“There really could not be a more deserving winner of this recognition than Don Hall,” reflected Director of Education David Hansen.

Congratulating the St. Mary’s Chaplain on his meritorious award, he noted, “his ministry in supporting students and staff at St. Mary’s Catholic Secondary School is beyond exemplary. His passion for supporting the marginalized of our world and his commitment to the promotion of a culture of life is a model for each of us who have the pleasure to know and work with Don.

“The best ‘teachers’ are those who teach through action – that is Don,” added Hansen. “He is a blessing to his school community and to our school board.”

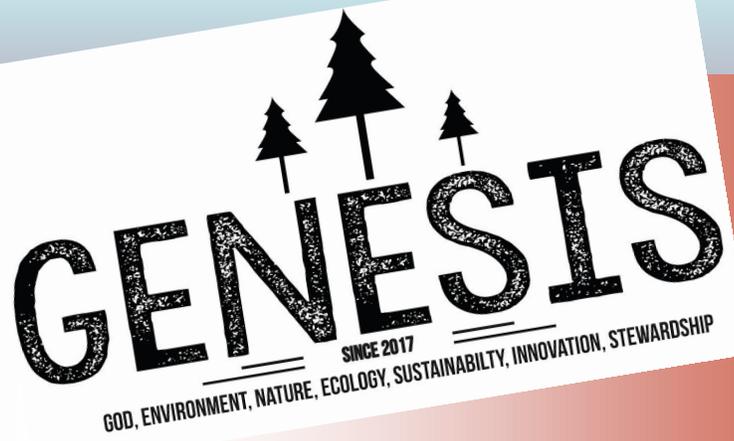
Award presentation: <https://vimeo.com/707875479>



From left to right: Lorenzo Campanelli, Vice-President, CSCO; Don Hall; Andrew Hall; and St. Mary Principal Anthony Macaluso

Accompanying a group of students as they have the opportunity to build a relationship with creation whilst experiencing a new culture and doing it in a sustainable way is a highlight for me at this time of year. The goal of the GENESIS program is for students to learn to be God centered, environmentally aware, nature bound, ecological stewards, who will embrace innovation to promote sustainable living." The Quebec Cycling Trip is the final trip of the program. Students will be cycling for 9 days on the route verte starting at Yamaska National Park. The students will cycle on average 65 km per day with the entire trip being approximately 380 km.

Deb Legace, Sacred Heart High School, Walkerton ON



Reflection of a New Chaplain

As one of the newest chaplains in Ontario, I am grateful for all the support offered to me over the past 6 months. I started this role in January with excitement. I have always felt called to high school chaplaincy, so I was excited to be hired by LDCSB for the virtual school, followed quickly by covering a long-term leave at JPPI. I'd be lying to say I wasn't also nervous that I wouldn't be able to help everyone. The most humbling fact I have learned in my past 6 months is that it's true. I can't. I can't help everyone, but I learn time and time again that God can. I am fallible, but God is not. How cool is it to work in a position that allows us to explicitly and implicitly serve God? No matter what school board we all work for, who our admin is, or what happens in our days, we all have the same boss, the same Master, the same Father. Chaplaincy is an invitation to constantly surrender everything to God's will and be open to letting the Holy Spirit work through you.

The past 6 months have proven to be a grand opportunity for growth. When I graduated from Catholic Studies for Teachers at King's University College, I was oriented toward becoming a Religion and English teacher, but I always knew that my passion for teaching would need to be practiced outside of the "traditional classroom walls." In my journey towards teaching, I found joy in leading high school youth groups, sitting on the Development and Peace National Youth Council as the Southwestern Ontario representative, and working with King's University College Campus Ministry. I answered a strong calling to pursue a Masters in Environment and Sustainability, with the recognition that the environment is the foundation of everything that we have and if we continue living our lives at our current rate of consumption and exploitation, preparing for the future seems futile. I had the pleasure of working in the Ignatius Jesuit Centre's Old-Growth Forest Project following my post-grad where I learned a lot about living with the land, ecological restoration, and many forms of caring for our common home.

My journey has not been straight and narrow, but no journey ever is. I am happy that it has led me to chaplaincy right now. Back when I was in high school, my own chaplain was instrumental to my spiritual growth (shoutout to Kandy Harkin). High school allowed me to get involved with ECyD (Regnum Christi), joining, and then leading high school youth groups, and participating in social justice activism. Ever since I was a student, I have wanted to give back to allow future students the opportunity to find their passions and joys in making the world a better place. Chaplaincy is a unique and extremely important role not only for the sake of our Catholic school system, but for each life that we encounter. I have learned that apart from liturgy planning and connecting the schools with the sacraments, chaplaincy is about active listening, feeding hungry students, and serving through a ministry of presence. Sometimes the best we can do is be available.

On a retreat to Holy Family Retreat Centre in Oxley last month, chaplains from across the London Diocese met to reflect and learn together from Dr. Josephine Lombardi. One of my fellow chaplains shared a lesson they had gained from someone else that struck me greatly: "As a Chaplain, we must work hard to under schedule." Initially this is a shocking sentiment, as there is always so much to do, so many people to serve, and much to plan... but that's exactly why it makes sense. If we overschedule ourselves and keep our days so packed, we make it more challenging to encounter people in the moment and to meet immediate needs. I am happy to be here, part of the CSCO community, part of the Chaplaincy family. As life continues to change rapidly and much change is in my near future as well, I am ready to continue surrendering to God's will, striving to see the light of Christ in each person, and to let the holy Spirit work through me. I'm open to all advice and resources you care to share

Attached are some photos from my first 6 months with JPPI, working with Jags FM (our chaplaincy club). High school students are so awesome.

Molly Fisher

(London CDSB)

New Chaplain reflection continued!



Photo captions:

1. Jags FM students and Ms. Fisher handing out Mental Health Awareness Week goodies
2. Students helping distribute fruit for Alpaca Day!
3. John Paul II Chapel



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL CSCO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

A diamond is just a piece of charcoal that has handled stress exceptionally well. (*not too sure who wrote this but I like it!*)

In this newsletter, we shine the spotlight on the members of the 2022-23 CSCO Executive.

First up is **Dean Woodbeck**, who became a Chaplaincy Leader in September 2004, when he was hired by the Kenora CDSB to serve at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Kenora.

Some things to know about Dean:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

17 .5 years

Morning Drink?

Water

Favourite meal/snack food?

Pizza

What is your favourite holiday?

Christmas

Anything you really don't like?

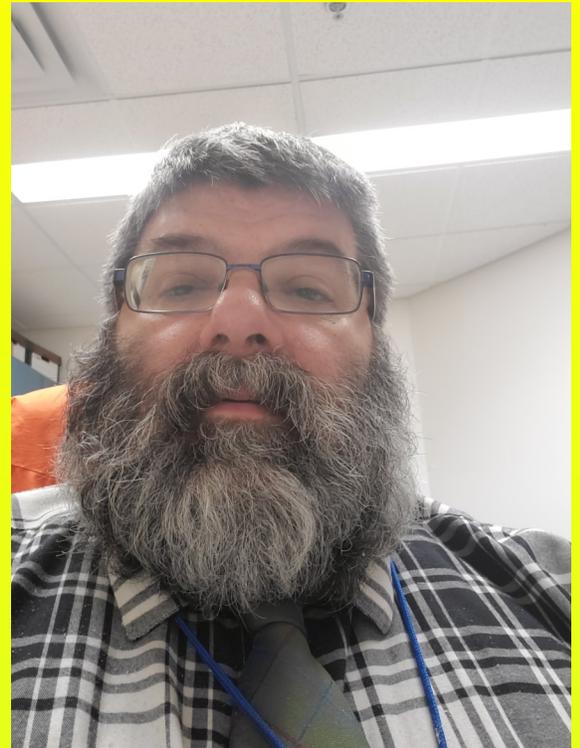
nope

Favourite movie?

The Shawshank Redemption

What music do you like to listen to?

Blues and country



Any hobbies you'd like to share?

Reading, TV

If you could spend a day with anyone-alive or dead-who would it be and why?

Pope Francis, he fascinates me or Richard Rohr

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

Florida with my wife and children



Anita Bedore, became a Chaplaincy Leader in October 2003. Anita currently serves at St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School in Belleville

Some things to know about Anita:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

19 years

Morning Drink?

Tea

Favourite meal/snack food?

Pasta/Dry Cereal!

What is your favourite holiday?

Christmas

Anything you really don't like?

Some seafood-like octopus, squid

Favourite movie?

Any spy movie

What music do you like to listen to?

Anything but hard rock

Favourite dessert?

French Vanilla Ice Cream.

Any hobbies you'd like to share?

Crochet, Sewing.

If you could spend a day with anyone-alive or dead-who would it be and why?

I'd like to spend a day with each grandchild-getting to know the person they are becoming and making memories.

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

Any vacation spent with family.



-student art from St. Joseph C.S.S., Mississauga-



Next up is **Stephanie Jarrett**, who became a Chaplaincy Leader in September 2006. She presently serves at Notre Dame College School in Welland, Ontario.

Some things to know about Stephanie:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

15 + years

Morning Drink?

After many years as a coffee fiend, this year I switched to tea!

Favourite meal/snack food?

Ice Cream.

What is your favourite holiday?

Christmas

Anything you really don't like?

Hockey, Seafood and Beer

Favourite movie?

You've Got Mail

What music do you like to listen to?

Many, many genres-I love just about all music!

Favourite dessert?

My mom's cherry cake

Any hobbies you'd like to share?

Reading and watching baseball.

If you could spend a day with anyone-alive or dead-who would it be and why?

My Dad.

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

Trip to Red Rocks in Morrison, CO for my 40th birthday to see John Prine, the Avett Brothers, Wilco, Death Cab for Cutie, and Dawes in the most beautiful venue in North America.



Adriana Rerecich became a Chaplaincy Leader in September 2002. Adriana currently works at Assumption Catholic Secondary School in Burlington, ON.

Some things to know about **Adriana:**

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

20 years

Morning Drink?

Coffee

Favourite meal/snack food?

Anything barbecued/Skinny Pop Popcorn

What is your favourite holiday?

Christmas (Does the summer break count??)

Anything you really don't like?

Loud noises, rudeness

Favourite movie?

Moneyball

What music do you like to listen to?

Ludovico Einaudi

Favourite dessert?

Apple pie and ice cream

Any hobbies you'd like to share?

reading

If you could spend a day with anyone-alive or dead -who would it be and why?

Michelle Obama-she is smart, funny and I'd love to enjoy a meal with her and hear it all!

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

My trip to Scotland in 2019 where my husband started his life and meeting his relatives.

Joe Rogers, started Chaplaincy in September 2009. He currently works at Lester B. Pearson, Ottawa ON.

Some things to know about Joe:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

13 years

Morning Drink?

Coffee

Favourite meal/snack food?

Salt and Vinegar Potato Chips

What is your favourite holiday?

Christmas and Halloween

Anything you really don't like?

licorice

Favourite movie?

Anything Horror



-Joe Rogers cont'd-

What music do you like to listen to?

Jazz

Favourite dessert?

Cannoli

Any hobbies you'd like to share?

Board games and Legos

If you could spend a day with anyone-alive or dead-who would it be and why?

Meister Eckhart-the mystics have always been fascinating to me

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

Anywhere in Mexico



Margaret Palmer apprenticed in university chaplaincy for one year in 1989. She began Catholic school chaplaincy in September 2000 and is presently serving in System Chaplaincy at St.Clair Catholic (Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton)

Some things to know about Margaret:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

21 years (had two years off)

Morning Drink?

Water. Occasionally tea or juice.

Favourite meal/snack food?

I can never choose one.

What is your favourite holiday?

Thanksgiving. Because it is about the gathering.

Anything you really don't like?

Oysters.

Favourite movie?

Not really attached to any particular movie. I enjoy them and soon after forget them.

What music do you like to listen to?

Usually mellow, quirky, nostalgic or/and fun. Genre is irrelevant.

Favourite dessert?

Pies

Any hobbies you'd like to share?

Chalk painting/board games/beach combing/camping.

If you could spend a day with anyone-alive or dead-who would it be and why?

My immediate family on earth and in heaven.

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

Scotland

Jeff Gendron, became a Chaplaincy Leader in September 2012. He works at Catholic Central in Windsor, ON.

Some things to know about Jeff:



How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

10 years

Morning Drink?

Coffee

Favourite meal/snack food?

Steak

What is your favourite holiday?

Easter

Anything you really don't like?

Brussels Sprouts

Favourite movie?

Sunset Boulevard

What music do you like to listen to?

Jazz

Favourite dessert?

Cheesecake

Any hobbies you'd like to share?

Music, gardening, cooking

If you could spend a day with anyone-alive or dead-who would it be and why?

Nelson Mandela-Inspirational Leader

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

Cottage in Algonquin Park



Kathleen Thompson, started as a Chaplaincy Leader in September 1995. She serves at Bishop Ryan CSS, Hamilton ON.

Some things to know about Kathleen:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

27 years

Morning Drink?

Coffee...and more coffee

Favourite meal/snack food?

Chocolate and peanut butter together or separate

What is your favourite holiday?

Summer! Actually Christmas.

Kathleen Thompson continued

Anything you really don't like?

Reality TV

Favourite movie?

Baz Luhrmann's Strictly Ballroom

What music do you like to listen to?

A little bit of everything but more on the indie side

Favourite dessert?

A cake that I baked myself-chocolate with chocolate ganache and mocha butter cream.

Any hobbies you'd like to share?

I enjoy taking pictures especially of nature.

If you could spend a day with anyone-alive or dead-who would it be and why?

Good question...so many.

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

My favourite place-Isle Madame (small island on the east coast of Cape Breton Island)



THIS SUMMER...

WALKING TOGETHER

JULY 24-29, 2022

Healing and Reconciliation:
An Historic Journey

Pope Francis will make a pastoral visit to Canada from July 24 to 29, 2022. The Pope's visit will provide a unique opportunity for him, once again, to listen and dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, to express his heartfelt closeness and to address the impact of colonization and the participation of the Catholic Church in the operation of residential schools throughout Canada. The papal visit will also provide an opportunity for the shepherd of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics to connect with the Catholic community in Canada.

The Catholic Church has a responsibility to take genuine and meaningful steps to journey with Indigenous Peoples of this land on the lengthy path to healing and reconciliation. This site will provide information on the historic journey of Pope Francis to Canada, a significant step on the road to truth, understanding and healing. We invite you to join us as we reflect, pray and prepare to welcome the Holy Father for these special days among us.

Text from:[https://
www.papalvisit.ca/](https://www.papalvisit.ca/)

Photo Credit: Vatican

<https://www.papalvisit.ca/healing-and-reconciliation/>

There is a Great Horned Owl pair who have been nesting in the same spot at one of our London parks year after year. When the snow is still on the ground I love to get outside to see this sign of new life and ponder the splendor of God in the birding world.

Mom patiently sitting on the nest.

Ann Clarke, Chaplaincy Leader
St. Patrick's Catholic High School



Here are the Great Horned Owl family photos from this spring. Dad on guard for predators from a distance...Wait, is he sleeping on the job!

Two beautiful babies



O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

There are many beautiful images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, but in many ways, none as beautiful as this one.

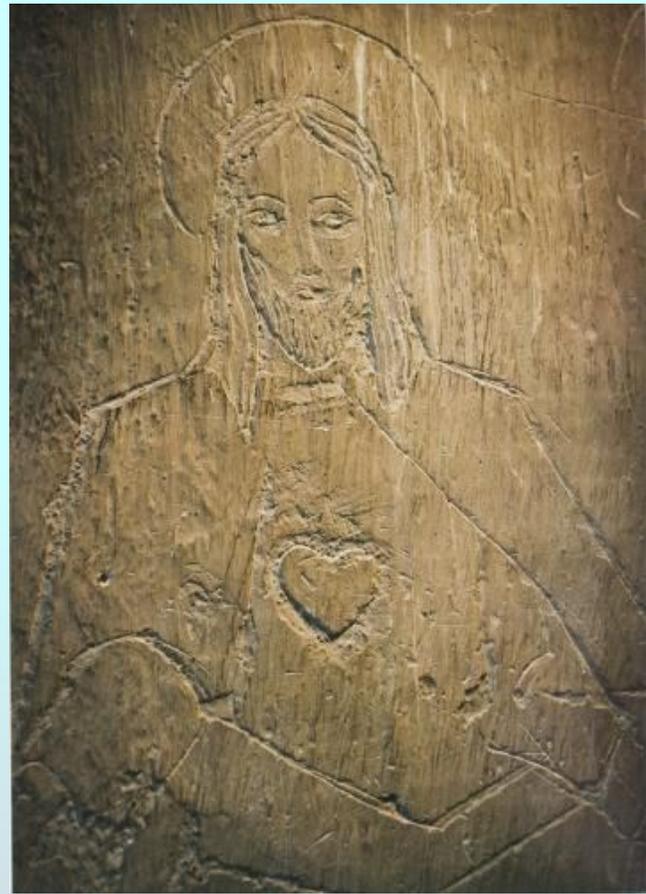
It was etched with fingernails into the wall of cell 21 in Auschwitz, by Stephan Jasienski, a prisoner of war and a senior polish officer and member of the elite Silent Unseen unit.

During his lockdown, in the midst of his suffering, he could have chosen many images to carry him through his trial, but he chose this one.

“What prevented Stephan’s heart from becoming hardened with bitterness? What prevented him from ‘hating’ his enemies? Clearly his prayer, his goal, as he sat in his prison cell sketching this image with his fingernail, was to have his heart become like Christ’s heart.” -Sr. Kathy DeVico

Sacred Heart of Jesus, may you be known, loved and imitated!
Amen

Shane Byrne (Chaplaincy Leader, DPCDSB)



Retired Chaplains' Group

By Joanne Belanger (retired Chaplaincy Leader, Algonquin and Lakeshore CDSB.)

Due to personal circumstances, only one meeting of the Retired Chaplains' Group was held during this academic year – on April 25th, 2022. Brian and Mary Lou Halferty attended along with Deb DeBruyne, Cathy Cavanagh and myself. We met over Zoom and caught up on all things health related, Covid related and empathized with our colleagues who have had a very challenging few years in Chaplaincy!

We will meet again in early fall to discuss the direction in which we would like to see the group move – as it is becoming clear that some folks are happy to socialize and catch up but others would like the group to become more active and resourceful, sharing the expertise built up over many years working in the field. Perhaps we can become a hybrid model – and accomplish both purposes as opportunities arise!

Retired Chaplains'-Where are they now?

Getting accustomed to slow country life. Here are some photos from around our place. Mary Defayette (retired Chaplaincy Leader OCSB)



At St Stephen we had a wonderful year of daily meditations in classrooms, Friday Liturgies, and back to Full School Masses. There were many blessings this year, even amongst our challenges. It was wonderful to be face-to-face with our students and staff, and finally the ability to see everyone's smiling faces. God bless everyone this summer. May we all enjoy the much deserved rest and recuperation.

Dcn Shawn Panio (Chaplaincy Leader with Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington CDSB)

Prayer to End the School Year

God of wisdom,

We thank you

for all the gifts you have given us

throughout this school year.

We praise you for giving us life,

for saving us in Christ,

and for choosing us to be your people.

As we come to the end of this school year,

we voice our gratitude

for the good things you have done in us,

and we praise you for all who have shared

in the work of this school.

We ask you to bless them in your love

and give them refreshment and peace.

We praise you, God,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

(USCCB website)

BLESSING FOR RETIREMENT

by John O'Donohue

This is where your life has arrived, After all the years of effort and toil;
Look back with graciousness and thanks
On all your great and quiet achievements
You stand on the shore of new invitation
To open your life to what is left undone;
Let your heart enjoy a different rhythm
When drawn to the wonder of other horizons.
Have the courage for a new approach to time;
Allow it to slow until you find freedom
To draw alongside the mystery you hold
And befriend your own beauty of soul.
Now is the time to enjoy your heart's desire,
To live the dreams you've waited for,
To awaken the depths beyond your work And enter into your infinite source

In thanksgiving for their years of service to the ministry of school Chaplaincy in Ontario, we wish the following retirees many blessings as they embark on the next stage of their journey.

Teresa McFadden (Dufferin Peel)
Mary Defayette (Ottawa)
Anne Heemskerck (Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington)
Jo-Anne Stasiuk (Ottawa)
Maureen Dufour (Ottawa)



Please note: Retirees names were received as of notices before May 31,2022.

We will note any retirees after this date in the 2022-2023 Retiree's List.

Faith- and joy-filled summer holidays to all of you!

Give thanks and praise to the Lord!