

CSCO END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #8



O Canada, we stand on guard for thee, ...

Fellow CSCO members,

Thanks be to God; we made it!

What a remarkable year!

The summer holidays are finally here.

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

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

Thank you to our contributors for this edition: Don Hall (DREAMS article), Words of Wisdom from our Retirees, CSCO conference video on high school chaplaincy – Salt and Light, St. Jean de Brebeuf College, Toronto (trip to Rome), Andrew Hall's reflection on the 2019 March for Life, the Hamilton Diocesan Chaplains Association Retreat reflections, CSCO Treasury of Prayers Initiative, Ivan Canjar offers a couple of articles, photos from Joanne Belanger of the EOCCC (When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference , Eastern Ontario style) and an update from President Jolene. Enjoy!



Rachel and I have talked for years about taking a cycling photo together.

Don Hall is the Chaplaincy Leader at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School in Hamilton.



WE THE NORTH at St. Mary CSS.

St. Mary's DREAMS celebrates 20 years of good works

Hundreds of students transformed by DREAMS experience

A project that originated from an animated discussion on poverty in Paul Morrison's Religion class is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Over the years, hundreds of St. Mary students have participated in DREAMS (Dominican Republic Education and Medical Support), bringing hope to their Dominican brothers and sisters, and being transformed by their experience in the process.

In this anniversary reflection, St. Mary Chaplaincy Leader Don Hall describes the program's impact on the students who have travelled to the Dominican Republic, and the communities they have served:

At St. Mary Catholic Secondary School, in San Jose de Ocoa, in the Dominican Republic and in Brazil, we are blessed to see the fruit of what has happened twenty years after seeds were planted. Students in Mr. Morrison's Religion class wanted to do much more than study about poverty; they were inspired to make a difference with and for the poor in the Global South. Through the combined efforts of administration, staff, students and parents, St. Mary's DREAMS was born and the rest is history. During the past twenty years, hundreds of St. Mary's students, staff and chaperones have built a school, a teacher's residence and 60 homes in the mountainous area surrounding San Jose de Ocoa. As DREAMS alumni Camryn Majander commented: "While in the Dominican Republic, you not only build a house, you build friendships. You not only mix concrete, you mix cultures. You not only lift bricks, you lift the hearts of others while they lift yours."

We are forever standing on the shoulders of giants. Without the vision, inspiration and support of Fr. Lou Quinn and John Labatte, where would DREAMS be today? Our St. Mary C.S.S. community owes a debt of gratitude to both Ms. Filomena Tassi and Mr. Paul Morrison for co-founding DREAMS.

At the same time in South America, Brazilian photojournalist Sebastião Ribeiro Salgado and his wife, Lélia Deluiz Wanick Salgado have spent the last twenty years planting a 1,750-acre forest to transform a barren plot of land in Brazil's Minas Gerais state into a tropical paradise. When Salgado returned from a traumatic trip covering the Rwandan genocide in 1994, he was shocked to find his family's former cattle ranch in a state of natural degradation. Inspired by Lélia's idea, the couple started by planting 100,000 trees with the help of local school children. As a result, hundreds of species of flora and fauna now call the former cattle ranch home, including nearly 300 species of trees, more than 170 species of birds, 30 species of mammals, and 15 species of amphibians and reptiles -- many of which are endangered.

Is there something more in common than the fact there are more homes for poor families in the San Jose de Ocoa region of the Dominican Republic and more trees and wildlife in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais? In both cases, God didn't call the experts to bring about the needed transformation. The grassroots groundswell began with students and everyday people doing what appeared to be impossible at the time. As St. Mother Teresa reminds us "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called." While our St. Mary's DREAMS commitment over the past twenty years has brought hope to the people in the San Jose de Ocoa region, the reforestation in Brazil has brought hope to the world that we can do something about deforestation, climate change and renew the face of the earth. Never underestimate what you can do to make a difference with the grace of God.







WORDS OF WISDOM

Dear family, friends, colleagues, staff, students and C.S.C.O. friends

This is indeed an honor to actually state that I have had the privilege to work with so many beautiful people these past 25 years.

They say to “choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life “. Each day was filled with faith, fellowship, family and friends through the values of Jesus Christ.

Daily I would start my day in our Marion Chapel and each time I would ask Our Loving God to bless me with His choicest blessings. He would surprise me daily with a variety of events but I was never let down.

I believe God uses us as His to comfort others. He permits us to go through trial times to help others as they are going through the same trials. We should all ask God how can you use me today to extend comfort to others.

In closing I ask God to bless you all with much happiness, amazing health and above all His Holy Presence in your life.

Judy

Judith Butera

Campus Minister

Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary

Leamington

When I first began my career as a high school Chaplain, I had no idea of what I was taking on, nor how, ultimately, I would be transformed by my experience. Through the kindness of colleagues, some hard work and determination and a great deal of humility,

I came to understand myself in different ways and to understand what it truly meant to be a Chaplain.

I learned that to be a Chaplain was not a result of my two university degrees in theology and religious education. Nor was it based on words of wisdom that might have come about after years of trial and error. The most important gift I could offer to another was a listening ear and the capacity to hold silence when silence was needed. In this momentary silence I could be the listening ear that students and colleagues needed as they grappled with the brokenness of human realities.

And it was in this silence where I learned most about myself as well. There were countless times when the voice of God would resonate in both the silence and in words shared. It is where I confronted my own fears, my own family and community dynamics – imperfect, yet in some ways, life-giving. It was in this mutual brokenness where I realized I could offer no one-size-fits-all solution, no sage advice that would protect someone from all harm as they journeyed through life. In the short time we had together, I learned to listen, really listen ... hopefully becoming a person they could truly trust ... the person who would hold their story as sacred.

So, as I sadly leave this post of privilege, I am grateful. Grateful for the wonderful students who have allowed me to listen. Grateful for the colleagues who have guided me along the way and offered their gift of listening when I needed it most, and grateful to my God for the opportunity to serve my little corner of the world in this way.

So, let us serve. Let us serve each other in kindness, humility, trust and most importantly, love.

Shalom my friends, shalom.
Brenda Reinkeluers
Notre Dame Catholic High School
Carleton Place

The word that would sum up my year and indeed the last 34 years is BLESSED!
I have had the privilege of being a Catholic school teacher for 24 years and a Chaplain for the past 10 years. I have been able to come to work and profess my faith and interact with students in a way that no other profession can. We use the word vocation, sometimes very lightly, when we talk about our job. But it truly has been a profound calling for me and I thank God every day that I was chosen to do this wonderful work.

We gain insight into the students we encounter in a special way. When they are lost and vulnerable we are there to comfort them and give them direction. When they are happy and excited we can be there to celebrate. We share some of the most joyous, stressful, heartbreaking, life changing events in their lives with them. We ease their pain and help them carry their crosses. We make them understand that they are strong enough and loved enough to carry the cross on their own when they turn to God and receive God's amazing grace.

I will miss St. Augustine and the work I do. I will miss the CSSO and all of the inspiration I gain from each of you as part of the collective group chosen to minister to the youth of our schools. Take care and keep doing God's work!

Blessings,
Kathleen Ware
St. Augustine SS
Brampton

Encouraging high school chaplains to be compassionate disciples | Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation

<https://saltandlighttv.org/blogfeed/getpost.php?id=90116>

Check out this video (link above) about you.

TRIP TO ROME

Here's a description of the 2019 Holy Week Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi & Orvieto.

The Chaplaincy team at Brebeuf College led 28 students from grades 9 to 12 in a 12-day pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi & Orvieto, Italy for the 2019 Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. This annual pilgrimage (inaugurated in 2014 at a cost of \$2,500 per person) offers students an extraordinary opportunity to broaden their historical and theological knowledge of the Catholic Church while providing edifying experiences for personal spiritual growth.

The pilgrimage featured many sacred and historical points of interest, some of which included: a Mass in the Crypt of St. Francis, ascending the Holy Stairs of Christ's passion (exposed for the first time in 300 years), a tour of the excavations of the Necropolis & St. Peter's tomb, visiting the four major Basilica's of Rome, a viewing of the Shroud of Turin, a General Audience with Pope Francis, visiting the Catacombs, Coliseum, Roman Forum & Palatine Hill and, Easter Sunday Mass with the Holy Father. All guided tours, Masses, meals and accommodations have been facilitated by the Legionaries of Christ religious order through the Center for Educational Studies (CES), Legion of Christ in Rome, Italy.

This inspirational spiritual journey and life-altering pilgrimage continues to captivate the imagination and interest of students each year within our high school and our feeder schools communities.

In Christ,
Eric

Eric Guy and Rob Gregoris are the chaplains at St. Jean de Brebeuf College in Toronto.





2019 Rome Pilgrimage Day 5



MARCH FOR LIFE 2019

For the fifth year in a row, I have traveled to Ottawa for March for Life with my high school, St. John's College in Brantford. We share a bus with Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School from Simcoe. I have always been pro-life and I am passionate about trying to build a pro-life culture at St. John's College as abortion is such a horrible injustice. Before attending March for Life this year, our students and I wanted to do something we have never done before. We planned to host our first ever 'Pro-Life Week' when we returned from Ottawa. Leading up to the trip, I was so excited for the March, for our students to lead the Pro-Life week and to see it unfold.

Every year, we attend the candle light vigil in Ottawa which is always an amazing experience as students get to hear testimonies of people who had abortions and how it has affected them. I loved hearing from Abby Johnson who is a former employee of Planned Parenthood and is now pro-life and part of the movie 'Unplanned'. She spoke about the experience that led her to quit her job at Planned Parenthood which was awesome for students to hear.

The March is always a powerful experience for our students. Equally amazing is the comments from students who are more passionate about being pro-life or they didn't know where they stood on the issue before but now they consider themselves pro-life. One of our students who attended March for Life for the second time told me that she wants to be a Chaplain someday. This makes me so excited as I believe trips like this help to strengthen our faith and can direct where people are passionate to make changes in the world, such as Chaplaincy. This same student is speaking at CWL dinner this week about her transformational experience at March for Life.

Once we returned, we kicked off 'Pro Life Week' with an outdoor May Crowning Prayer Service in our school courtyard. We chose to begin the pro-life week with a May Crowning service as we wanted to frame the pro-life week as looking at life through the eyes of Mary, how Mary had a choice and she said 'yes'. As we moved forward in the week, we had Marian themed guided meditations as morning prayer which told the story John the Baptist leaping for joy in his mother's stomach. Students shared their March for Life experience on morning announcements, and our Campus Ministry group made a video explaining what Mary means to them and how she adds meaning to our lives as part of pro-life week. Students prayed the chaplet of Divine Mercy for the unborn, and we also had a day of silence where students took a vow of silence for the unborn. I was very proud of Pro-Life Week for many reasons but mainly for seeing our March for Life students share their experiences, and get involved in pro-life week as we live in a culture that says the opposite.

~ Andrew Hall

Andrew is the chaplain at St. John's College in Brantford.





Other chaplains at the March for Life: John O'Connor, Aaron Pellarin, Don Hall, Roger Richard, Lorenzo Campanelli, Natalie Hlebka, Dahlia Brannigan, Elise Dunn, Divina Feliciano-Clark, Kim Pastrak and Maciej Blok (not in photo).

HAMILTON DIOCESAN CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION RETREAT

On June 7th we gathered together at Loyola House in Guelph for the annual Hamilton Diocese Chaplains' Association retreat. Our guest speaker was Dr. Richard Shields, professor at USMC. His interactive time with us focused on the theme of Accompaniment and Encounter: Chaplaincy in increasing religious diversity and secularism and other emerging issues in Catholic education: ministry in the world our students live in. This was followed by Mass celebrated outdoors by Fr. Greg Kennedy, SJ. Some of the chaplains present would like to share their thoughts of the day. (Deb Sheldrake, chair of HDCA)

The Good Samaritan story and our desire to support meaningful relationships with God and the Church really stressed the idea and critical belief that we are all of one family. As members of one family we all have rights and privileges. We have the right to inclusion but also the responsibility to include; the right to be treated with dignity but the responsibility to uphold dignity in all we meet. It is a necessary but challenging task. All people who enter our schools and our circle of relationship need to feel wanted and needed whatever their religious belief, ethnicity, gender or orientation. I found this theme continued in the Mass celebrated by Fr. Greg Kennedy. Mass was brought outdoors and celebrated literally upon sacred ground. The simplicity and feel of a "family called to break bread" together was beautiful in the lack of formality and the desire to

*simply be in "communion" with each other and God. It was a truly blessed experience!
(Laurie)*

I enjoyed Richard's discussion topic of Diversity in our Catholic Schools. Hearing from other chaplains on what the dynamics of their school looks like and how they promote Catholic teachings and values while also creating an inclusive environment for all faiths was inspiring. I also enjoyed Fr. Greg and his relaxed nature. Having mass outdoors, holding hands, singing and praying together was a wonderful part of our retreat. I liked how Fr. Greg gave his sermon on the sheep, but then allowed for our participation, sharing what we were thinking and feeling while listening to the day's Gospel. The whole day was beautiful, filled with thoughtful discussion, shared stories, and lots of laughter. (Mary S)

What really stood out for me was the beautiful mass we did outside. It was simple, earthly and soooo meaningful.

From Dr Richard, it was the ideas he shared on new evangelization:

-Be authentic in our Chaplaincy.

-Holy Spirit vs the delusions of the world.

-Gospel vs natural law.

-The Eucharist is worth living for and it is worth dying for.

-God is a God of surprises.

(Shawn)

A lot of soul food (and food!) was exchanged. The expression "You are the face of God" was gracefully shown to us when Fr. Greg Kennedy, SJ broke bread with us outside. When he shared that Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ used to say mass on the grass during the war because he didn't have an altar, I knew we were communing not only with God during the consecration but with nature. It was indeed a simple yet majestic Mass. Following our potluck we reconvened to share chaplain best practices and concerns in our own schools/boards which was another moment of grace (for me) to be validated by my chaplain colleagues; this can be a lonely and sometimes frustrating ministry. To be lifted up with laughter, food, the Eucharist and words of affirmation was a lovely way to end our school year. (Annabel)

The annual HDCA retreat was another beautiful reminder to remember who we are and whose we are. We had the opportunity to reflect on how to best be Chaplains in the current cultural and political climate in which we find ourselves. Reflecting and worshipping with fellow workers in God's vineyard is always a blessing and helps my soul be recharged for another year. The Mass we celebrated was balm for our spirits, celebrating together in God's nature, with all creation singing the glory of God. These retreats are crucial for my ministry. (Adriana)

For me, the highlight of the day, besides fellowship with my chaplain friends from across the Diocese, was the Mass we celebrated together. Gathered outdoors on the side

porch, with a simple white cloth laid out on the grass for the altar, the setting was both simple and profound. It was a beautiful time of prayer, community and thanksgiving – a true expression of Eucharist. (Krista)

Peace,

Deb

[Debra Sheldrake](#)
Chaplaincy Leader
Assumption College School
Brantford



Deacon Shawn Panio, Fr. Greg Kennedy, Andrea Taylor, Annabel MacDonald, Maciej Blok, Marie O'Connell, Fr. Andrij Figol, Krista Nolan, Adriana Rerecich, Laurie Young, Mary Skiba, Mary Lozowsky, Kandy Harkin, Dr. Richard shields, Gillian Federico and Marianna Worth.

TREASURY OF PRAYERS

Hi chaplains,

Please consider sending me a prayer(s) you like to use for any occasion: Beginning of the School Year, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time, Graduation, End of the School Year, Bereavement, Crisis, Tragedy, Discernment, Friendship, Celebration, Meetings, etc. The prayer may be a personal or a contemporary or a traditional one. It could be a Saint's prayer or one that you've composed.

The prayers that you send me, I'll organize for the CSCO website (with the Communication Coordinator's help, of course).

This new section could be used by chaplains or anyone else who is looking for a prayer for a particular purpose or event.

The prayer may be short or long.

Please send me the text of the prayer and as always, if you like, please add a photo or image, to go along with it.

WE'RE GOOD AT PRAYING AND COMING UP WITH PRAYERS.

Send to cscovp@gmail.com.

Lorenzo Campanelli

Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School

Milton



EASTERN ONTARIO CATHOLIC CURRICULUM CORPORATION CONFERENCE

The EOCCC Conference was held at the NAV Centre in Cornwall this past April. It's like the When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference held every October in Toronto. The theme this year was "Living as Joyful Disciples! Vivre en Disciples Joyeux!"







Photos taken by Joanne Belanger, chaplain at Nicholson Catholic College in Belleville.

UPDATE FROM CSCO PRESIDENT

We also include prayers for Judy Butera and Eileen McGowan who retired last week.

“Please keep our retirees in your prayers: Mitch Cairoli, Chris Forster, Paul Mayne-Devine, Shelagh Peterson, Dominic Pullano, and Kathleen Ware. My continued prayers are with all of you. May the summer months be well spent resting, relaxing and enjoying time with family and friends.”

Jolene Smith is the chaplain at St. Michael Catholic High School in Niagara Falls.



Thanks again to Don, Judy, Brenda, Kathleen, Gen, Eric, Andrew, Deb, Ivan, Joanne and Jolene for their contributions.

The Thanksgiving Newsletter will be issued in October.

Please consider submitting any good news, prayers, stories, reflections, or insights by October 4th.

Send it to Lorenzo at cscovp@gmail.com.

Include a photo or image.



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

Give thanks and praise to the Lord!