

June 2021  
Issue #16



## 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.

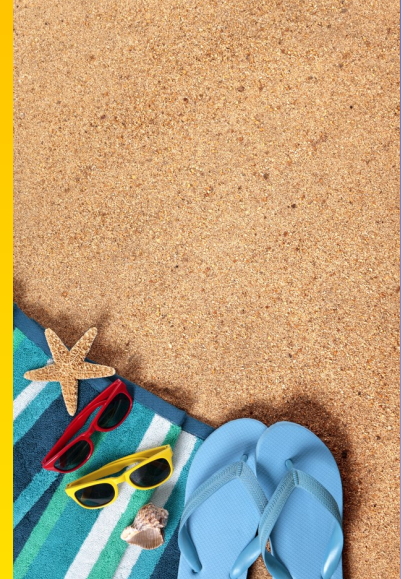
As tough as the new reality has been, we all have stories of good news: personally, in our schools and in the world. We are a people of faith, hope and love, and we transmit this to everyone we meet. We are bearers of the Good News wherever we go, whoever we meet: an awesome responsibility! And life goes on because we haven't reached the Promised Land yet.

Thank you to our contributors for this edition: Virtual grad retreat with Andrew Hall, Earth day with Don Hall, CSCO Conference 2022 with Leah Daly, Love reflection with Don Hall, May the 4th with Shawn Panio, The 'Mary' quiz with Gillian Federico, CEW pics with Andrew Hall, Up Close and Personal with Dean Woodbeck, Stephanie Jarrett, Jeff Gendron, Jolene Smith, Joe Rogers, Joanne Belanger, Nick Ali, Krista Wood, Fr. John Whyte and Anita Bedore, Students' prayers with Don Hall, Laudato Si reflection with Deidre Pereira, Kairos prayer with Gillian Federico, Retreat prayer with Krista Nolan, HDCA toast with Sue O'Keefe and Brian Dunn, Photos with Mary Defayette, 'Living with Christ' reflection with Adriana Rerech, Retirees' acknowledgement with Deidre Pereira, National Indigenous Peoples Prayer with Stephanie Jarrett and Retirement Liturgy with Andrea Taylor. Enjoy! *Lorenzo*.

### VIRTUAL GRAD RETREAT

On Monday, April 19th, students from St. John's College in Brantford, participated in a virtual grad retreat. One of the highlights of the virtual grad retreat was having a virtual grad lunch challenge in which students were challenged to create a lunch using the colours of our school crest (green, gold, white, and red.) After students presented their dishes, we enjoyed a virtual meal together and students shared how they have experienced the meaning behind our school crest colours during their four years and what this has meant for their faith. As a Chaplaincy Leader, this gave me great joy.

#SJCVIRTUALGRADRETREAT2021



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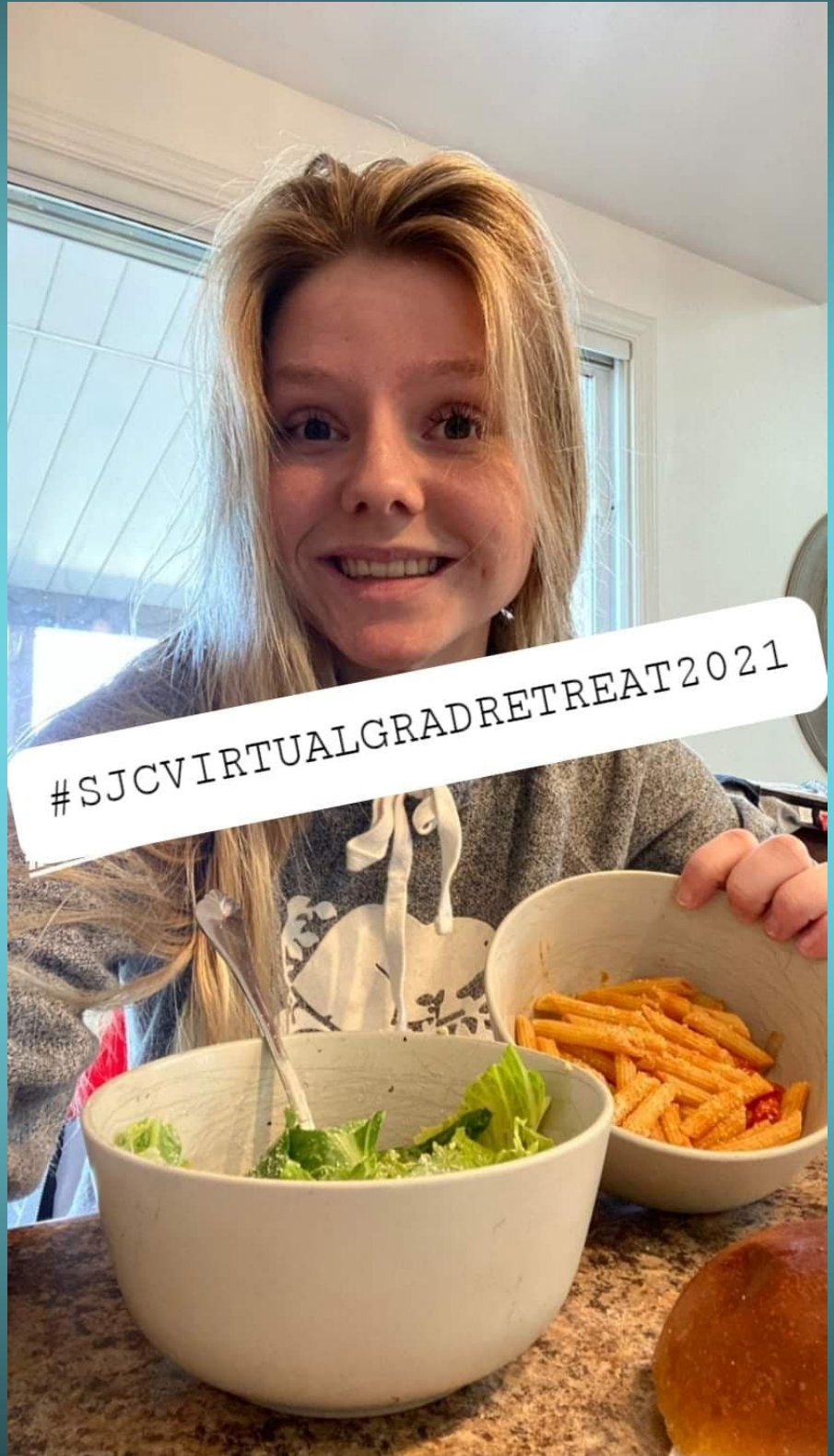




# Virtual Grad Retreat

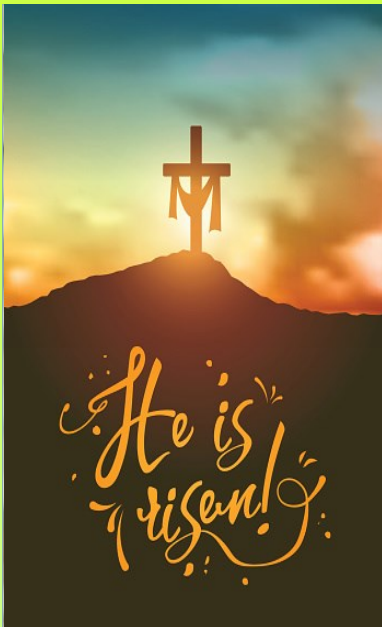








## Easter Season Faith Activities at St. John's College



Prior to our move to remote learning, I challenged the drama class at St. John's College (Brantford) to film a dance to the song "God's Not Dead", as a way of living out the joy of the Easter season. I also challenged students to write some Easter themed poetry and to record themselves reading it so we could share it virtually with our school community.

Easter Dance by St. John's College Drama Class "God's Not Dead"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rqheorGCUo>

Easter poetry by gr.9 St. John's College student Caroline

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDYZPlhRgPM>

Easter Poetry by gr.10 St. John's College student Madison

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRgS\\_uVy43s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRgS_uVy43s)

*Andrew Hall  
Chaplaincy Leader  
St. John's College, Brantford*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the Risen Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Praise to God's name!*



Let go . . . let God and move on as  
you cannot live in the past.  
WONDERFUL blessings that you could  
never imagine await you in the  
future.  
- Don E. Hall



### EARTH DAY

We have broken the bonds of our relationship with the Creator, with our fellow human beings, and with the rest of creation. We need to heal the damaged relationships that are essential to supporting us and the entire fabric of life.  
~ Pope Francis



*Don Hall  
Chaplaincy Leader  
St. Mary Catholic Secondary School*





## LAUDATO SI' REFLECTION

### Practicing Resurrection for the Love of Creation

On April 20th and 21st, CSCO hosted Luke Stocking of Development and Peace to speak on "Practicing Resurrection for the Love of Creation". Beginning with the beautiful Easter Greeting of "**Christ is Risen!**", we were asked to consider, given all that was going on in the world, does it feel like Christ is risen or does it feel like we are "being put back in the tomb"? How can we be signs of the Resurrection in a dark time? How can we 'practice resurrection'? What an intriguing phrase- 'Practice resurrection'. It is the very last line in a poem written by Wendell Berry (Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front, first publication in 1973). The poem is an interesting read.

Luke shared that for himself, two things were important in this practice of resurrection: Firstly, learning to listen; to cultivate a sense of peace and secondly, being 'obstinate in hope'. In small group we were then asked to reflect on the following questions: How do I receive these words – "Christ is Risen!" and how have I felt the call to be a witness to the Resurrection and to practice resurrection in this Easter Season?

I am thankful for the open, honest, and rich conversations. 1 Peter 3:15 tell us "Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence."

Our challenge after the first day's talk was to find an image of "Resurrection in Creation". Photos and stories of the 'new green' sprouting from withering browns, tulips in the snow, blooming trees amidst the concrete, crows and red foxes, garlic peeking through the snow, resilience of social movements; were shared as signs of great hope and joy amidst this time of pandemic.

On the second day Luke introduced us to the "For the Love of Creation" initiative ([www.fortheloveofcreation.ca](http://www.fortheloveofcreation.ca)) and the "Letter of the Faithful" project. We were now invited to go deeper in our reflection on our spiritual experience with creation. Paraphrasing Luke, "In order to live during this time of pandemic, we need to have a long view-to think about the future of humanity on this planet-and in particular, we need to face the ecological crisis that we have." In small groups and using the "Letter of the Faithful" guideline we shared our responses to questions such as "How is the Creator's wisdom revealed in Creation? What can other creatures teach us? In the context of climate change, what do you fear, and where do you see possibility or hope?"

With the upcoming COP26 summit in Glasgow being held in November 2021 we urgently need to be carbon free in the next decade. Lives and livelihoods depend on this. Commitments to have a low-carbon economy are imperative. Do we know the significance of below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030?

"For the Love of Creation wants to hear how our faith speaks to the climate crisis our world is facing. Caring for the Earth and protecting it is both a moral and a spiritual imperative. Everyone in Canada and across the world must respond to that imperative in their own way." (From their website)

This two-day journey sowed many seeds in fertile soil. I left with a greater resolve to learn more about the work of FTLC and a deeper sense of my interconnectedness to creation. Laudato Si'!

I encourage all of us as Chaplaincy Leaders to get to know and use the For the Love of Creation website both for professional development and in ministry. It is a concrete way to practice resurrection and build hope.

*Deidre Pereira of St. Joseph C.S.S. Chaplaincy Leader, Mississauga*



## REFLECTION ON LOVE

*The original reflection continues to touch people.*

### Love is For ... Giving

*Nothing is sweeter than love; nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing more generous, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth: for love proceeds from God, and cannot rest but in God, above all things created. ~ St. Therese of Lisieux*

In sharing these insights and quotes, it is my sincere hope they will be helpful to others. How do you know if someone is a blessing or a lesson in your life? Although it is possible for people to be both a blessing and a lesson, they are usually one or the other. Are you being loved or are you being deceived? Pause and prayerfully ask God for signs to help you discern. In the end, people never abandon people they love. People abandon people they are using. Too often, we love things and use people. We do not live in a black and white world and relationships are often complicated and messy. We are an imperfect people in an imperfect world. St. Mother Teresa reminds us that *“If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive.”*

Are you holding onto your friends too lightly or are you holding onto them too tightly? It is a delicate balance. Is there mutual compatibility? What happens when one person holds on lightly while the other person holds on tightly? There is no common ground. If you hold on too lightly, there is not enough to hold the relationship together. On the other hand, when you hold on too tightly, there is undue tension and stress. Often these friendships are short-lived.

Be thankful and happy for the gift of friends and never take them for granted. Friendships are special gifts that need to be gently cared for, tended to and cultivated like a garden. It takes mutual commitment, genuine love, prayer, sacrifice, communication, respect, trust, authenticity, honesty, discipline, patience, creativity, humour, maturity, timing, chemistry and the grace of God for a life-giving relationship to take root, grow and bear fruit. “

*To love is nothing, to be loved by someone is something but to be loved by the one you love is everything.” ~ Bill Russell*

Genuine love is a decision of both the mind and the heart. It is not based on convenience, a passing feeling, a mood swing, the time of day or the season of the year. There is a world of difference between someone who is committed to the relationship only on certain days versus someone who is faithfully committed to the relationship every day. Are you viewed by the other as a priority or merely an option?

Mark Twain wisely reminds us: *“Never allow someone to be your priority while allowing yourself to be their option.”*



Are you being valued as a higher priority in the relationship with the passage of time? In contrast, when you are still seen as only an option in a long-term relationship, it is time to end the relationship and move on with your life. You deserve so much more. In relationships, we need to recognize that not everyone is ready to make a lifetime commitment. It is liberating when you appreciate that people are free to accept or reject the love that is being offered. There is no need to judge or to be upset with someone who chooses the latter as some are incapable to make such a commitment. As difficult and painful as this reality is to accept, choice is one of the profound mysteries of love.

It is impossible to love someone if you do not love yourself. This is foundational and will determine what you accept and how you allow someone to treat you. Words are important, but too often they are cheap, dishonest and meaningless while actions are usually invaluable. Mixed signals and red flags are present for a reason and should never be ignored. When you are blindly in love, this is often difficult and almost impossible to perceive.

Balance is so vital in everything. For example, when a wheel is out of balance or if your workday is out of balance, you will soon know it and the results will take their toll. There are times when relationships are out of balance for a variety of reasons. Do both people have a voice in the decision making? Timing is also a factor that should never be underestimated. People have different needs, values, and priorities and these do not always remain the same over time. Are these predominately in sync or are they usually in conflict in the relationship? In the end, the writing is on the wall if the relationship is in a perpetual state of imbalance. Would your relationship exist if you treated your significant other the way they treat you? The answer to this question tells you everything you need to know, or possibly already feel in your heart.

There is much to be said about the importance of moderation. At no time can love ever be rushed or forced. A relationship that heats up too fast usually ends just as quickly. Never beg to remain in a relationship. No matter who you are, what you said or what you did would not have made a difference in a one-sided relationship.

If a person has pure intentions, and the other person cannot commit, both lose each other. In contrast to the confusion that is common in a lop-sided relationship, when you are genuinely loved, you will know it. Authentic love is both a human and divine gift. The proof is always in the pudding. St. Therese of Lisieux summed it up beautifully: *“Love proves itself by deeds. Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, hereby a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest things right, and doing all for love.”*

It takes two mature, honest, and committed people who know what they want, and joyfully and unconditionally love each other for the relationship to grow and stand the test of time. St. Paul reminds us that “there is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance.” When you are mutually blessed with a loving friendship and relationship, do not ever let the sun set on your spats and disagreements. In the profound words of St. Francis of Assisi: *“Love lightens all difficulties and sweetens all bitterness.”*



Know and believe that you are always enough. When this is not mutually acknowledged and affirmed, the relationship is over. Although this is much easier said than done, do not give in to the temptation to ponder the million and one unanswered questions why the relationship ended because nothing will ever have made a difference.

You will waste your precious time and only add to the disappointment. You will always be more than enough for someone who is right for you and never enough for someone who isn't. If you have done everything possible for the relationship to grow and it falls apart, be at peace and trust that God is calling you elsewhere. Providentially, some relationships are blocked for reasons that we may never fully understand on this side of eternity. It is okay to not have all the answers and to not have complete closure. Let go ... let God and move on as you cannot live in the past. WONDERFUL blessings that you could never imagine await you in the future. When God answers our prayers, we are being directed. When our prayers are not answered, we are being protected. Trust that *“there are more tears shed over answered prayers than over unanswered prayers. When we accept what happens to us and make the best of it, we are praising God.”* ~ St. Teresa of Avila

What is the one thing that people wish they could do if they had one more chance at life? Would we love more deeply God, others and ourselves in thought, word and deed? St. Augustine of Hippo succinctly describes what is the essence of love. “What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.”

*True love begins when nothing is looked for in return.* ~ St. Therese of Lisieux

*Don E. Hall who serves as the Chaplain at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School in Hamilton, Ontario. He and his wife, Maureen look forward to celebrating their 36 th wedding anniversary! They are blessed with 2 children and 4 grandchildren*

Here is some fun Chaplaincy at St Stephen for CEW. Enjoy. LOL

<https://youtu.be/VKWHGulKync>

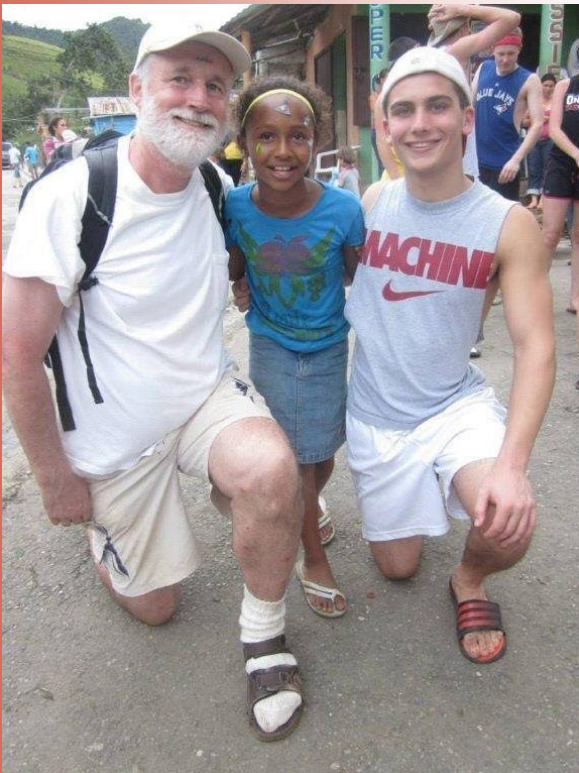
Take care and God bless, **Deacon Shawn Panio, Chaplain**  
*St. Stephen's CSS, Bowmanville*





Authentic love is both a human and divine gift. It takes two mature, honest, and committed people who know what they want, and joyfully and unconditionally love each other for the relationship to grow and stand the test of time. When you are mutually blessed with a loving friendship and relationship, do not ever let the sun set on your spats and disagreements. In the profound words of St. Francis of Assisi: "Love lightens all difficulties and sweetens all bitterness."

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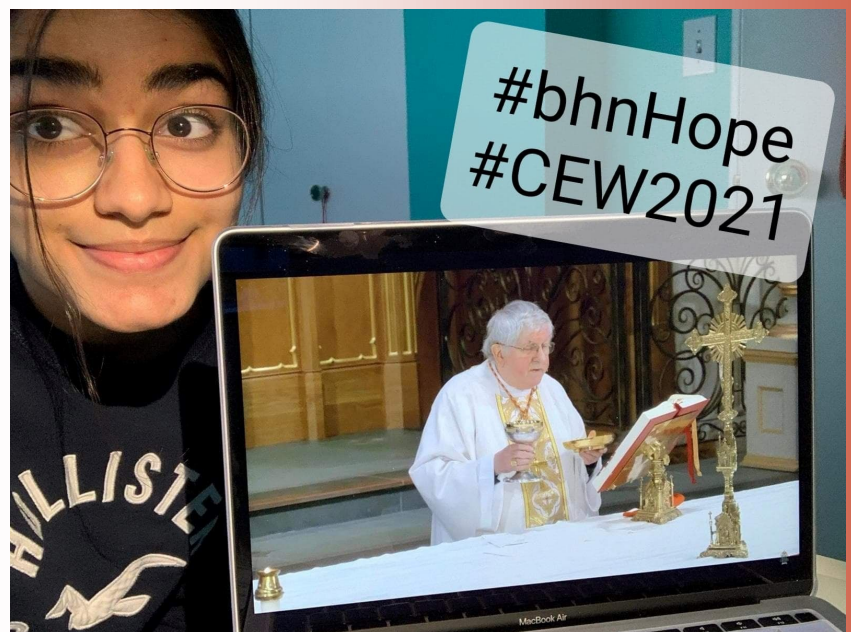
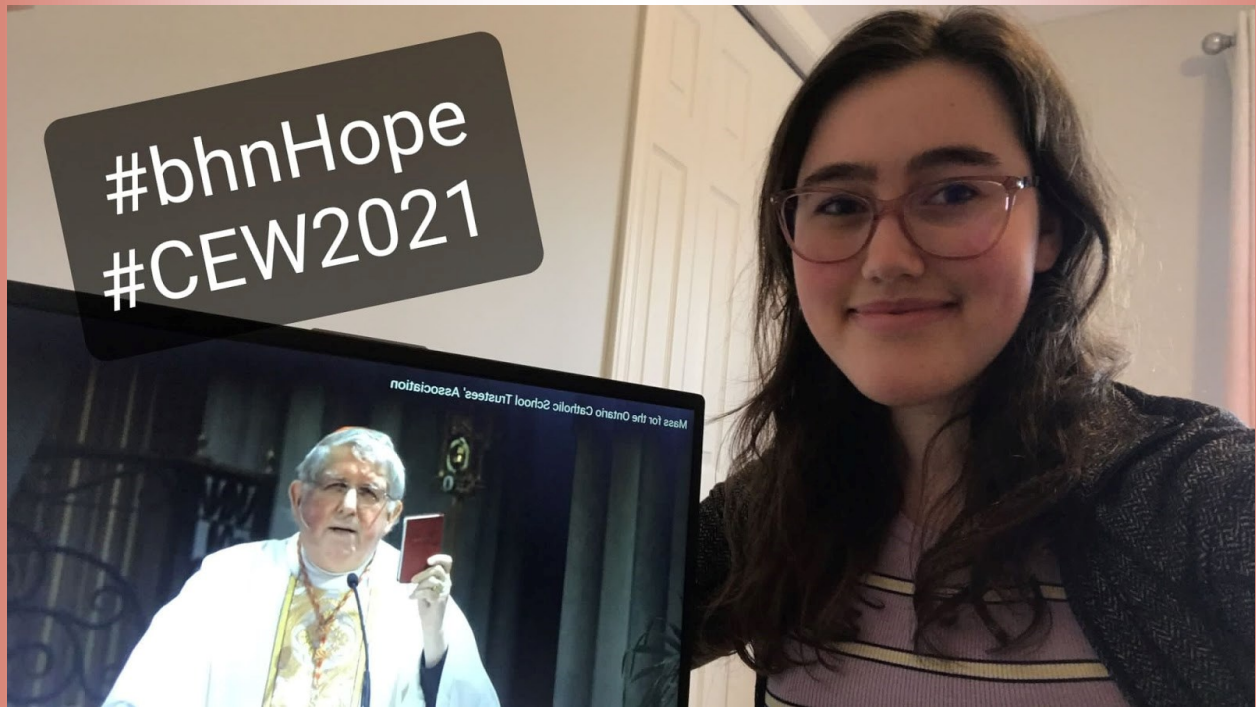


Authentic love is both a human and divine gift. It is impossible to love someone if you do not love yourself. This is foundational and will determine what you accept and how you allow someone to treat you. Trust that you will always be more than enough for someone who is right for you and never enough for someone who isn't



## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Included are a few pictures of our students tuning in virtually to the province-wide Mass for Catholic Education Week, celebrated by His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins.





Also attached are some pictures of our students participating in our board CEW Twitter campaign which invited students to take pictures of themselves with flowers. This allowed students to draw attention to the theme of "Nurturing Hope - Together We Can" as the flowers represent an expression of unity and a symbol of how we can nurture hope in our lives.

*Andrew Hall, Chaplaincy Leader  
St. John's College, Brantford*





## LIVING WITH CHRIST REFLECTION

### 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings today are a reminder of who we are and whose we are. God answers Job after Job's struggle to understand why tragedy has come into his life. Paul's letter reminds us that God is still active, recreating us and the world around us. Mark's Gospel shows us disciples who are frightened by the weather: their boat that appears sturdy and capable when the waters are calm now appears so tiny and vulnerable. Once the disciples waken him, Jesus calms the storm and asks why they are afraid. In all these readings, we have very strong images that speak to us of trust and peace.

We find ourselves often getting swept up in the storms of life and this can be overwhelming. We can relate to Job and the disciples - we struggle with trusting God and we easily get anxious. We wonder where God is as we face challenging circumstances.

"Peace! Be still." Jesus is inviting us to trust him fully. Though we may be feeling uncertain or scared, God is letting us know God's faithfulness is stronger than what we are feeling in any given moment. We are to trust God's perspective rather than our own.

We always want to know why things are happening. Instead, let us ask God how these circumstances can help us grow in holiness.

Adriana Rerecich

Hamilton, ON

*Adriana is the chaplain of St.*

*Thomas Aquinas CSS in Oakville*

## Test Your Knowledge of Mary

It's the Month of Mary—see how much you know about our Blessed Mother. Take this quiz to find out!

<https://stpaulcenter.com/the-bible-and-the-virgin-mary-quiz>

### Gillian

*Gillian Federico  
System Chaplain and Faith  
Formation Lead  
Halton Catholic Education  
Centre, Burlington*

## THANK YOU MARY!

The last day for most was Friday, June 25. However chaplains are supposed to work the first two weeks of July and a week at the end of August. I am working a bit this week and next then will work the last two weeks of August. I am responsible for uniforms. Currently washing donations, next sorting, then redistribution in August. I am trying to get the school to consider a laundry service as I am pretty sure the chaplain that follows me won't want this particular job. Check out the pile. Laundry is in the complete opposite location from

the chapel....and it's not air conditioned anywhere...but I digress.

*Mary Defayette is the chaplain of Immaculata CHS in Ottawa*



## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DAY REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Today is National Indigenous Peoples Day, a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Today is National Indigenous Peoples Day, a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. As we celebrate today, we also acknowledge the harm done to Indigenous Peoples by churches and governments. We hold in our hearts the grief and pain of the confirmation of hundreds of children in unmarked graves at former residential schools across the country. We know from survivor testimonies given during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and from the final

TRC report, that many thousands more never came home, and their resting places have yet to be confirmed. We know as well through testimony to the TRC that survivors experienced unspeakable trauma, suffering and loss at residential school, which they then carried back to their families and communities. We know that too many of those communities still struggle with the trauma of systemic racism and carry the burden of those policies in

lack of clean safe drinking water, adequate housing and access to education and medical care. May each of us make time today to learn about the culture and lived experiences of Indigenous peoples in our own community and throughout Turtle Island. May each of us recognize the work we still must do towards reconciliation and right-relationship with the Indigenous peoples with whom we share this land we call Canada. May we commit as a community and as individuals to the work of listening, of acknowledgement and of nurturing relationships of dignity and respect.

Creator God,  
we pray that your Spirit move in our hearts and our communities, breathing new life into the broken relationships between Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Canada.

May your Spirit work  
in us to be witnesses and allies in this journey towards truth, reconciliation and justice.

In our own daily lives, as well as in our systems of government, may our actions always honour the dignity of each person and nurture right relationships with Indigenous people.  
We ask this in your name. Amen.

*Stephanie Jarrett is the chaplain of Notre Dame College School in Welland*

## 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 section of the Newsletter, we shine the spotlight on all the members of the CSCO Executive.**

First up is **Dean Woodbeck**, who became a school chaplain in September 2004, when he was hired by the Kenora CDSB to be the chaplain 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 years**

*Favourite food?*

**Pasta**

*Favourite movie?*

**The Shawshank Redemption**

*What do you love most about school chaplaincy?*

**Watching students have an AHA moment regarding faith**

*What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?*

**student visits to my office**

*What was your favourite trip/vacation?*

**senior travel club trip from Rome and Athens**

*What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?*

**travel in Canada**



*Have you ever met a celebrity?*

**Yes. So I have met Jill Officer who is a world and Olympic champion curler, Pope John Paul II, Steve Bell who is a Christian singer, songwriter**

*What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?*

**i like to laugh, a lot**

*What would you like to tell others about your family?*

**I have a beautiful wife and three awesome young adult children, and my mommy is awesome**

*What is your background?*

**French, Ukrainian, but staunchly Canadian**





Next up is **Jolene Smith**, who became a school chaplain in October 2004, when she was hired by the London CDSB to be the chaplain at Holy Cross High School in Strathroy.

Some things to know about Jolene:

*How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?*

17 years

*Favourite food?*

Pizza, a good steak, chocolate

*Favourite movie?*

So many - Love Actually, Shawshank Redemption

*What do you love most about school chaplaincy?*

I love being with young people. I learn from them all the time and I hope that every once in a while they learn from me too and that I'm able to help them if needed.

*What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?*

I have so many! I could write a book filled with favourite memories. Some of my favourites have been with our spec Ed students. They often have shown a beautiful, deep faith and desire to love Jesus. They also make me laugh and remind me of the important things in life.

*What was your favourite trip/vacation?*

I have travelled quite a bit, so that's hard... my trip to Iceland in 2016 was pretty special. An amazing place. Every day was like being on another planet. Also met some great people.

*What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?*

I still need to visit Nunavut and the Northwest Territories to visit all provinces and territories in Canada.

*Have you ever met a celebrity?*

Several times starting with Mr. DressUp with Casey and Finnigan.

*What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?*

Hmmm.... I wasn't sure about this one so my mother says the answer is that I am adventurous. I didn't think this was unique but she says it is. She says I'm not afraid to do things, try things or do things on my own. That part is true. I'm super independent. Not always a good trait.

*What would you like to tell others about your family?*

My family is very important to me. I have been blessed to have several families... my blood family and my chosen family. I grew up with a very eclectic chosen family and they have taught me the importance of diversity and acceptance of all people. My chosen family was also the epitome of "it takes a village to raise a child".

*What is your background?*

I'm going to say Canadian, White Chick.



Next up is **Fr. John Whyte**, who became a school chaplain in September 2002, when he was hired by the CDSB of Eastern Ontario to be the chaplain at St. Francis Xavier CHS in Hammond.

*What would you like to tell others about your family?*

I was born and raised in Vancouver. My sister and brother still live there with their families. They tease me that no one goes from Vancouver to live in Ottawa, but the opposite. I wonder about that myself sometimes.

*What is your background?*

My family ancestry is Scottish Presbyterian on my Father's side and Irish Catholic on my Mother's side. My parent's marriage is living proof that opposites attract.

Some things to know about Fr. John:

*How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?*

19 years

*Favourite food?*

Anything cooked by someone else.

*Favourite movie?*

North by Northwest

*What do you love most about school chaplaincy?*

Those breakthrough moments with a student or a class where you can see that your words of guidance have made an impact.

*What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?*

Amazing student mission trips to Mexico, Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

*What was your favourite trip/vacation?*

I lived in Rome for 4 months, near the Trevi Fountain, and took my time exploring the ancient city. It was memorable.

*What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?*

Giving back. Still a work in progress.

*Have you ever met a celebrity?*

In the year 2000 I met Saint John Paul II in his apartment in Rome. He was just Pope John Paul then.

*What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?*

I'm quite musical and I wrote the song "God's Good News" to support our new board theme.



**Nick Ali**, became a school chaplain in March 2016, when he was hired by the Niagara CDSB to be an elementary chaplaincy leader with 16 schools in the Niagara region.

Some things to know about Nick:

*How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?*

5 years

*Favourite food?*

mmmm... all food... maybe sushi if I had to pick one

*Favourite movie?*

Star Wars (the originals)

*What do you love most about school chaplaincy?*

Everything! The privilege of being able to help students journey through some of their most difficult times; assisting them in seeing their value and worth through the eyes of Christ; planting seeds of faith; helping to facilitate access to the sacraments; finding ways to make the faith relevant to young people... all of it!

*What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?*

Hard to pick one, but I would have to say, it would be when I was a student. My chaplain really provided me with some incredible opportunities and helped to foster my faith. Another favourite memory would be having the opportunity to be a chaperone on our mission trips.

*What was your favourite trip/vacation?*

Our honeymoon - Rome and the Holy Land =) super blessed to have had that opportunity. Followed closely by the many service/ mission trips I've been privileged to take part in.



*What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?*

Tough one to pin down right now. Not a "goal" but hoping that God will bless us with children. (pray for us!)

*Have you ever met a celebrity?*

Does Lorenzo count?...

*What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?*

I'm colour blind =)

*What would you like to tell others about your family?*

I'm #2 of 4 boys. God bless my mother.

*What is your background?*

I was born and raised in Brampton, but my parents are from Trinidad.



**Joe Rogers**, became a school chaplain in September, 2009, when he was hired by the Ottawa CDSB to be the chaplain at St. Peter HS in Orleans.

Some things to know about Joe:

*How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?*

**12 years**

*Favourite food?*

**Mexican mole (a delicious sauce put on meat dishes that consists of numerous chiles, chocolate, nuts, and aromatic spices)**

*Favourite movie?*

**too many to count, but here are some: Raiders of the Lost Ark, The Shining, Pinocchio**

*What do you love most about school chaplaincy?*

**Meeting so many diverse staff and students and each of them at different places on their spiritual journey. It is such a privilege to walk with them**

*What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?*

**Doing a staff retreat that included faith sharing, visiting an escape room, and discussing our lives over a meal together all in one experience.**

*What was your favourite trip/vacation?*

**Two years ago I was able to visit Munich, Salzburg & Vienna. Amazing cities.**

*What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?*

**Getting a chance to visit Japan**

*Have you ever met a celebrity?*

**During a school trip to NYC we were doing a tour of NBC studios on a quiet afternoon and I accidentally walked into a room where the actress Laverne Cox was waiting. While I didn't officially meet her, I quickly apologized and moved on. That's the closest I have ever gotten to meeting a celebrity..lol**

*What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?*

**Not unique at all, but folks are often surprised to hear that horror movies are my all-time favorite film genre.**

*What would you like to tell others about your family?*

**Love my family**

*What is your background?*

**I'm originally from the United States but moved to Canada in 2008 and became a citizen in 2013**





**Joanne Belanger**, became a school chaplain in February 2006, when she was hired by the Algonquin and Lakeshore CDSB to be the chaplain at Nicholson Catholic College in Belleville

Some things to know about Joanne:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

**14 years**

Favourite movie?

**Babette's Feast**

What do you love most about school chaplaincy?

**I loved my mission trips to Jamaica with staff and students. I loved planning and leading prayer liturgies.**

What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?

**Having morning coffee with staff in my office and just catching up. Coffee houses with my Social Justice Club members and my co-advisor Meaghan. So much fun!!**

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

**Hawaii and Ireland for our daughters' weddings in 2015 and 2019 respectively. Awesome!**

What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?

**Spend time at Iona - like for a month or more.**

Have you ever met a celebrity?

**Yes - I worked at Hamilton Place in the late 1970s and actually got to meet Karen Kain.**

What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?

**I ran for politics in 2018 and had a wonderful time - met lots of really neat people.**

What would you like to tell others about your family?

**We have seven children and they are all married and we have 8 grandchildren!**

What is your background?

**French Canadian, Irish, English and German**



**Jeff Gendron**, became a school chaplain in September 2012, when he was hired by the Windsor-Essex CDSB to be the chaplain at Catholic Central in Windsor.

Some things to know about Jeff:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?

**9 years**

Favourite food?

**Steak and Mushrooms**

Favourite movie?

**Rent**

What do you love most about school chaplaincy?

**The ability to extend the hand of God to the hand of our students. Sharing in our faith and helping them to understand that having a relationship with God does not have to be complicated.**

What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?

**Most defiantly, the Holy Week Celebration. Our students are always so solemn and respectful. In particular, during the procession of the Sacred Cross, which our students created themselves. At that moment, we are very aware of the presence of God within the walls of our school community.**

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

**The Cottage in Algonquin. It's the only place where I can truly be myself. No schedules, no devices, peace, quiet and just being present in the moment.**

What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?

**Improved self care through weight loss, meditation, prayer and stress relief.**

Have you ever met a celebrity?

**Yes - Jan Arden**

What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?

**I am very enthusiastic about my faith and I love to find creative ways to share it with my students, friends and family.**

What would you like to tell others about your family?

**They always have my back.**

What is your background?

**French Canadian**





**Stephanie Jarrett**, became a school chaplain in September 2006, when she was hired by the Niagara CDSB to be the chaplain at Notre Dame College School in Welland.

Some things to know about Stephanie:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy? **15 years**

Favourite food? **Lemon Meringue Pie**

Favourite movie? **You've Got Mail**

What do you love most about school chaplaincy? **Seeing God each day in members of our school community.**

What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?

**There are many... probably the candlelight portion of our Pilgrimage Mass each year.**



What was your favourite trip/vacation?

**School trip: Peru 2008; Family: NYC US Thanksgiving 2009; Friends: Ireland 2017**

What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?

**I would like to hike the Camino de Santiago one day and I also hope to attend a New York Yankees World Series Game(s)- a winning game would be a bonus!**

Have you ever met a celebrity?

**A few in my previous career as a Customs Inspector - a favourite was Bruce Smith, Hall of Fame Defensive End for the Buffalo Bills. He made the giant Escalade he was driving look like a Smart-Car!**

What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?

**I keep score for just about every Yankees baseball game I watch (in person and on tv) in my own (Bob Carpenter) score book.**

What would you like to tell others about your family?

**They are my rock and my joy and the thing in life that I am most proud of and grateful for.**

What is your background?

**I am a Newfoundlander, born and raised**

**Krista Wood**, became a school chaplain in November 2011, when she was hired by the Niagara CDSB to be the chaplain for its Gr 8 Retreat program "Journey" which took place at Our Lady of Grace Spiritual Centre in Ridgeway

Some things to know about Krista:

How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy? **10 years**

Favourite food? **icecream**

Favourite movie? **The Mighty Ducks**

What do you love most about school chaplaincy?

**Supporting students and staff as they journey through the ups and downs of life.**

What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?

**When a gr.4 class asked if I would come back for another visit so we could pray together again.**

What was your favourite trip/vacation?

**World Youth Day 2008 - It was held in Australia but along the way we stopped in South Korea and Singapore. It was amazing to experience such diverse cultures from my own.**

What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?

**to walk the camino**

Have you ever met a celebrity?

**does Rubble from Paw Patrol count?**

What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?

**In my spare time I bake wedding cakes.**



What would you like to tell others about your family?

**I'm from a family of 5 girls and as of this moment have the blessing of being an aunt to 12 nieces and nephews. I'm also looking forward to starting my own family with my fiancé Eric, whom I am excited to marry at the end of December!**

What is your background?

**My mother's family hails from the beautiful sands of Prince Edward Island, and my father family comes from Ireland and Scotland**





**Anita Bedore**, became a school chaplain in October 2003, when she was hired by the Algonquin and Lakeshore CDSB to be the chaplain at St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School in Belleville. *Anita (seated to the left)*

Some things to know about Anita:

*How many years have you been involved in school chaplaincy?*      **18 years**

*Favourite food?*      **Pasta!**

*Favourite movie?*      **anything with Star Trek in the title**

*What do you love most about school chaplaincy?*

**The students and staff - getting to walk with them through their journey is the most amazing gift**

*What is your favourite memory of school chaplaincy?*

**Being able to facilitate life-changing experiences through faith-based travel. Mission trips to Consuelo DR and taking students to Italy to a General Audience twice!! Once with Pope Benedict XVI and once with Pope Francis.**

*What was your favourite trip/vacation?*

**All of my trips with my family and my St. Theresa family!**

*What is the most important thing for you on your goal/bucket list?*

**Spending time with my family.**

*Have you ever met a celebrity?*

**Yes - I worked in a hotel and was blessed to meet several people, but I think Johnny Cash was the most memorable because he was so kind and polite.**

*What is a unique thing about you that you would love other people to know?*

**I have a favourite thinking 'spot' in the rapids (when there isn't a drought!) near my house - it is a large flat rock and I could spend all day there!**

*What would you like to tell others about your family?*

**I have been blessed - my brothers and I are close, even though we live hundreds of km from one another and have all our adult lives - my dad is amazing at 91 and my husband, children (including my daughter-in-law and son-in-law!) and grandchildren make my life a life of joy!**

*What is your background?*

**I have a background in accounting and municipal government, and a passion for chaplaincy! God guided me when I searched for a different path, but accounting does follow me wherever I go!**

**Anyone who knows Dean, Jolene, Fr. John, Nick, Joe, Joanne, Jeff, Stephanie, Krista and Anita, has witnessed their love and commitment for school chaplaincy and CSCO. It is truly palpable! Thank you for all of your hard work and sacrifice for school chaplaincy and CSCO for a grand total of 136 years. You are all so amazing!**

## END OF SCHOOL YEAR PRAYER

Hamilton Diocesan Chaplains' Association  
(HDCA)

Opening Prayer – Chaplaincy Virtual Retreat

Dear God,  
So far this month in our schools we've celebrated Pride month, Indigenous history month, Filipino heritage month, the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and graduations.

We've raised flags for the first time, and lowered them to half-mast in mourning. We've ridden the emotional rollercoaster as schools that were "reopening imminently" ultimately remained online until September.

We've organized virtual liturgies, virtual outreach, and virtual graduation events. We've long since grown tired of virtual meetings and virtual hugs, all-the-while still craving the momentary connection they provide.

It's been a good year, but a hard year, Lord. There have been valleys, but plenty of growth and learning too. When I look, as Ignatian Spirituality is teaching me, there are in fact many consolations amidst the desolations of this pandemic-tainted year. We thank you for the many graces you provide each day.

This afternoon is one of those, Lord. Thank you for the opportunity to gather as chaplains, to laugh, to play, to be community for each other. Whether we come to this meeting in a frenzy, caught up in the whirlwind that June can be, or whether we arrive wearily, barely hanging on as the year grinds to a halt-ing end ... help us to leave this gathering with a renewed sense of your blessing upon us and on these final days. Sustain us as we attend to the duties of June moments and then fill us with your rest and deep peace as we enter into summer.

We know that when we gather in your name, such as we do this afternoon, that you are with us. Through our gathering today, and the time spent together, fill us once again with your love, that we may persevere as we run the race, at least until the end of June! Amen.

*Krista Nolan  
Chaplain of Our Lady of Lourdes CSS in  
Guelph*

## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY PRAYER

As we look forward to National Indigenous Peoples' Day on June 21, you may find this prayer worthy of contemplation:

Creator God, I come to you with a humble heart,  
So grateful for Your creation, this place I am in.  
The land is full of Your glory this solstice day.  
Sunlight sparkles on fresh green leaves. Bees buzz as trees burst into bloom. Even as dew collects on dandelion leaves, Or raindrops gather in boiling thunderclouds, A morning sip of lifegiving water deepens my gratitude for the life that teams across Turtle Island.

O Creator, perfect Host, Your care and compassion were, and are, echoed in the generous hospitality of the original peoples - Indigenous peoples. But the reciprocal relationships of host and guest have been shattered. And the pain continues. For the death and destruction, I pour out my sorrow in lamentations. It is for the sins of my own heart that I seek forgiveness.

Cleanse me of the thoughts and emotions that keep those relationships from healing - wash away the toxic entitlement, prejudiced assumptions, defensive disinterest. O Creator, faithful Guide, Show me the path towards right relations, Shape not only my words and deeds, but even more, my reactions and thoughts.

Open my heart to the wonder, the beauty, the gifts of the person next to me, the protestor on the news, the culture so different from my own.

Expose my racism, Root out my deep-seated fear of change, That I may be healed within, even as I try to be part of the healing of Your world. Amen.

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/prayer-of-a-white-settler-on-national-indigenous-day-2020>

*Gillian Federico  
System Chaplain and Faith Formation Lead  
Halton Catholic Education Centre, Burlington*



## Mary's Pics

I took this photo a few weeks ago when the peonies were spectacular. I think it looks like a painting.



I am blessed and continue to find solace at my home in the country. The hum of the honey bees and constant bird song soothe my soul. I recognize the immense privilege I have in being able to disconnect from the world. I humbly share another photo...this of one of our honey bees. It is laden with pollen gathered from the dandelions that pepper our property in the springtime.







# RETIREMENT LITURGY

**Opening Prayer:** God who blesses the many seasons of our lives, as we ponder the blessings and challenges of this past year, we give you thanks for the blessing of \_\_\_\_\_, for all of their faithful service to our community. Grant us all the serenity of your Spirit and openness of heart to the wonders you have worked in us and through us, and will continue in faithfulness to us, your children. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

A Reading from Paul's second letter to Timothy (4:5-8)

You must perform your whole duty as a servant of God. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give me on that day – and not only me, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear.

*The Word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.  
My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy to the living God

*Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

They who dwell in your house are happy,  
Forever singing your praise.  
They are happy whose strength is in you,  
In whose hearts are the roads to Zion.

*Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

God of hosts, hear my prayer,  
Give year, O God of Jacob.  
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,  
Look on the face of your anointed.

*Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (6:30-34)

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Petitions

Our Father

**Blessing for Retiree(s)**

May God bless the path you take.

May God bless your future labours with success.

May your newly found freedom bring you great pleasure and deep satisfaction.

May God bless your body with health and your soul with joy.  
May your work here continue to flourish in your absence.  
May God watch over you and shield you from harm.  
May you continue to spread kindness and wisdom for many years to come.

*Amen.*

And may God bless all of us and protect us, and make his face shine upon us in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

*Amen.*

*Andrea Taylor is the chaplain of Assumption CSS in Burlington*

## HDCA RETREAT TOAST

HDCA TOAST TO 2020-2021 ~ B. Dunn & S. O'Keefe June 11th 2021

*-sung to the tune of Stan Rogers's 'Barrett's Privateers'*

Oh the year is 2020  
How it started off so normally...  
Kids on the bus - playing sport in the gym  
Who could have known what was in store for them  
God bless them all  
They were told to grab their book and clear the halls  
Say no goodbyes and go on-line  
They're a resilient bunch who got no grad  
Hindsight 2020 was really bad.  
Oh the year was 2021  
How I wish I was in a school right now  
Well another message came from Doug Ford  
Lord only knows we're not on board  
God Bless them all  
We were told, we'd scour the halls for teenage souls  
We'd open our arms and dry their tears  
Now I'm a synchronous Chaplain  
On a virtual screen  
The best of Crosby's Pastoral team  
Oh the year is 2022  
How I knew that we would make it through  
From online masses and liturgies  
Computer screens and zoom me-eet-ings  
God Bless us all  
We did our best,  
To spread Your Word from East to West  
Now raise your glass and all say cheers  
We are a faithful bunch, oft never seen  
The best of Crosby's pastoral team!



### 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](mailto:cscovp@gmail.com).

*Lorenzo Campanelli  
Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary  
School (Halton CDSB), Milton*

Hello fellow CSCO members,

I hope you are well and taking good care of yourselves during this difficult time for ourselves and our communities.

The conference committee is excited to share our first promo video for next year's conference.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HqR1p5zeeY>

Stay safe! Peace,  
Leah

**Leah Daly**  
Chaplaincy Leader  
St. Mother Teresa High School  
Ottawa

# Retirement Tribute

*"For surely, I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future with hope."*

-Jeremiah 29:11-

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.

**Toni Bellefontaine** (Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington CDSB)

**Claire Marchand** (Algonquin and Lakeshore CDSB)

**Michael Way Skinner** (York CDSB)

**Scott Gasparini** (Dufferin Peel CDSB, Sudbury DCSB and Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB)



Please note: Retirees names were received as of notices before May 31, 2021. We will note any retirees after this date in the 2021-2021 Retiree's List.

*-photo credit: d.pereira-*

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

***Give thanks and praise to the Lord!***

### Next Issue: Thanksgiving Newsletter in October

Please consider submitting any news, prayers, poems, songs, art work, stories, reflections, or insights by October 1st.

Send it to Lorenzo at [cscovp@gmail.com](mailto:cscovp@gmail.com). Include a photo or image.