



CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CHAPLAINS OF ONTARIO

FEBRUARY 2025 - ISSUE # 29

NEWSLETTER

MISSION:

CSCO exists to develop, support, and promote the profession of Catholic School Chaplaincy in Ontario.

VISION:

Working in unity with all partners in Catholic education in Ontario, witnessing to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

VALUES:

- Being Christ-centered in all our efforts, decisions and encounters
- Unity, joy and collegiality among our members
- On-going faith formation and professional development
- Advocacy for the vocation and profession of Catholic School Chaplaincy
- Collaboration with our partners in Catholic Education



From the Vice President

Hello dear friends and colleagues!

And just like that, we are halfway through the school year. I am aware that this edition is arriving a little later than usual. As you know, and as we mention all the time, our ministries are quite busy and we are always juggling many programs, clubs, events at any given time.

In order to honour the commitments to school life and the commitment to CSCO, the executive have suggested that there be only 3 issues of the CSCO newsletter in the academic year: one at the beginning, one half way (end of January/early February) and one at the end of the year.

Today (Feb. 6th) in the landscape of Halton, there is snow. Buses were cancelled today and so my day at the school is a lot quieter than normal. What better time to put myself in your company and focus on putting the newsletter together with various things that can “feed” you for your ministry.

There is so much happening around us and in the headlines that can trigger our anxiety for the future and for our mission as disciples. These days, I lean more and more heavily on the Magnificat. Mary was a humble, faithful Jewish woman who had no idea exactly how her Son’s life would unfold. She trusted the promise, the divine encounter she had with the angel, and she clung to that promise with every challenge she and Joseph faced in Jesus’ early years. The Magnificat offers us the opportunity to be with Mary as we give each other comfort in uncertain times.

I also lean on the wisdom of St. Ignatius and Ignatian spirituality. The emphasis on consolations and desolations resonates with me deeply. When I first heard about St. Ignatius’ reactions to reading a popular book from his time and reading a book about the saints, it struck a chord. When I focus on scrolling or getting caught up in world events, it leaves me very troubled and anxious. When I focus instead on reading about spirituality, or things of faith, or enter prayer, I am left feeling calm. I think these things are helpful for us to be aware of as we guide our communities to be faithful followers in these unsettling times. We have to honour where we are at and also “read the room” with our communities and be in tune with where they are at. It’s a delicate balance.



IN THIS ISSUE

May our connection with each other and the faith that brings us together give us hope, fuel our faith and encourage love so that in this Jubilee year we can walk together as pilgrims changing the narrative and the lived experience of the many who are feeling lost, desperate, disenfranchised and hopeless. If you yourself are feeling unsettled, please, reach out to anyone on the CSCO executive or with other CSCO members.

"We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load."

(The Servant Song, written by Richard Gillard, 1977.)

In the following pages, you will find:

- A reflection by Eric Clayton. *Eric Clayton is the deputy director of communications at the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. In his role, he manages the award-winning weekly column "Now Discern This," a series on Ignatian spirituality and everyday living, as well produces video, audio and other digital content to share the riches of Ignatian spirituality with a general audience. Eric is also the author of two books on Ignatian spirituality: "My Life with the Jedi: The Spirituality of Star Wars" and "Cannonball Moments: Telling Your Story, Deepening Your Faith", both from Loyola Press. A third book on Ignatian spirituality and peace is forthcoming from Brazos Press in 2025. Learn more: ericclaytonwrites.com.*
- some important bulletin items on our "bulletin board" (page 4)
- contributions from 3 of our CSCO Executive members: Dean, Kathleen and Leah (thank you!)
- various resources for ministry and for your faith development (some excellent resources from Development and Peace in time for Lent!)
- the issue closes with a prayer that you can also use in your ministry with staff.

Keep up the good work that you are doing. You are where God has called you to be..."God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called!" Let this carry you when you have moments of doubt. Until next time...faith, hope and love be yours in abundance.

In faith, Adriana Rerecich



Here will be inspiration from a CSCO member or from a spiritual writer who offers insights from the spiritual journeys in which we all participate.

Now Discern This: Beyond Usual Paths (Eric Clayton)

I led a retreat on praying with pop culture this past weekend. One of the participants, during the prayers of the faithful at Mass on Saturday, prayed that we might all "find God in new things."

A very appropriate intention for this particular gathering challenged to encounter the Spirit at work in, arguably, an unusual place, no?

But that's not why her words stuck with me. Perhaps it was the cadence; I couldn't not hear another, rather Ignatian phrase: "find God in all things."

As a result, I held those two complementary invitations in my mind:

Find God in *all* things.

Find God in *new* things.

I wonder if we become numb to this overwhelming truth that God is in all things. I believe it to be true. But sometimes, for me, I become complacent. Maybe more often than sometimes.

"Oh yes, God is over there, but God is here, too, and so I'm fine to sit in my status quo. God is here, there and everywhere and so I'll just go about my business and adhere to regularly scheduled programming because God is already here along my chosen trajectory."

All good. All true. And yet...

God in new things. I hear those words and I feel the call of adventure. I hear the Spirit whispering to me from the wild, uncharted edges of my life's well-worn map.

Lord, hear our prayers...

Let us live as your chosen ones, O God, holy and beloved.
May we be clothed in thankfulness and the mantle
of your tender compassion.

May the Spirit of Jesus, who walked among us, continue to
permeate our world. In this hope, we pray.

We pray for the leaders of our church throughout the world:
Send them your wisdom and judgment, O God.

We pray for rulers of states and nations around the globe:
Send them compassion for their people, O God.

We pray for all who have lost loved one:
Send them comfort in their grief, O God.



We pray for the sick and dying:
Send them healing and peace, O God.

We pray for those who feel alone and rejected:
Send them companionship and friendship, O God.

We pray the depressed and the addicted:
Send them courage and hope, O God.

May your manifold Spirit be with us, O God, lighting the way
before us. Inspire in us creative and daring ways to meet the
needs of your people, and bring ever nearer the realization of
your reign. Continue to work your converting love in us; form
and re-form us for the purpose you desire. We ask this, united
with others in your service. Amen.

*Intercessions of Mercy: Prayers by Members of the Sisters of Mercy
of the Americas. Compiled, edited and expanded by Joy Clough, RSM.
2009. 157.



For all the faithful departed:
-for Giuseppe Minardi, brother of Angelo Minardi;
-for Richard O'Mara, father of Kathleen Thompson;
-for Anne Martin, Mother-in-Law of Adriana Rencich.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
rest in peace.

MILESTONES

Have a milestone to share with us? Allow us to
honour you and recognize this milestone with you!

Email csco.vp@gmail.com with your news!



(Cont'd from page 2)

Here will be inspiration from a
CSCO member or from a spiritual
writer who offers insights from the
spiritual journeys in which we all
participate.

The fog at the periphery of my mind's eye — God
is there waiting. Beckoning. Delighting.

This is what I propose: We know God is in all
things. And we know, too, those people and
places that so readily reveal God to us. Let us
then not be afraid to depart for new lands, holy
ground of an uncharted sort, and discover what
God might hope to reveal to us in people, places,
experiences and ways of being that we may have
previously overlooked. Places that are
uncomfortable, unusual.

God in new things — it's a directional phrase, a
trajectory upon which we might set our lives.
"How does this type of bird reveal God? Or that
neighbor I've only spoken with once? What about
that movie I've put off watching or that book I
left at the bottom of the shelf?" Activities,
cuisines, conversations and new forms of prayer
— from what new "thing" is God calling you?

I wonder, too, if this trajectory-setting phrase
might also provide us with a helpful spiritual
disposition. As our days are battered with new
information and new choices and new stories,
instead of turning off and tuning out, might we
instead lean into the "new" with a desperate
determination to encounter God, even in the most
harrowing of moments?

God in all things. God in new things. God in each
of us, doing something new. God in each of us,
desiring our collaboration.

Will we seek out that new thing God desires for
us?



JESUITS



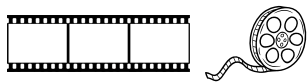
“A Complete Unknown” Movie Review by Dean Woodbeck

This film really had me thinking about some important things. I was struck by how the film highlights the community feel and reality of the folk music scene in Greenwich Village in the 60's. I was struck by how relatable this could be to our vocations as Chaplaincy Leaders.

I, at least, have a constant balance I need to be aware of between the tradition and the creativity needed to continue the mission of bringing Good News of God's love to those I minister to and for. Bob Dylan tries to maintain this balance throughout the span of this movie. Edward Norton does a great job of being the voice of tradition as Pete Seeger along with others like Monica Barbaro as Joan Baez. Timothee Chalamet as Bob Dylan is amazing with the music but also with the struggle.

Having been a child of the 60's I remember a number of the moments portrayed but was struck by the way that all of the members of the cast played their roles in this struggle. Scott McNair as Woody Guthrie and Boyd Holbrook as Johnny Cash were great supporters of the young Dylan and Elle Fanning as Dylan's girlfriend Sylvie added to the portrayal. I really appreciated the way this movie did not shy away from the challenges but also did not provide definitive or easy answers for the struggle. Bob Dylan as a traditionalist on a journey to creativity was very entertaining and left me with hope and support for our continuing mission as Chaplaincy Leaders.

I hope you see this movie with an open mind and heart and love the quality of the music as much as I did when I saw it over Christmas.



From Kathleen Thompson, CSCO Communication Coordinator



Social Media is an important part of CSCO Communications. It gives us an opportunity to share ideas, celebrate joyous events and pray together during difficult times.

We know that Social Media keeps evolving, in many cases the opportunities to engage with the world around us are endless.

It is at this time, we are looking to develop a CSCO Social Media Policy.

Are you interested in helping to shape our CSCO Social Media Policy? We are looking for Chaplaincy Leaders that would be interested in meeting over zoom to pray, reflect and collaborate in the development of the CSCO Social Media policy. Please take some time and complete the MS Form. You can use the QR code or click the photo of the QR code and it will take you to the form.

Walking and Learning for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: Keep Educating Yourself (Leah Daly, Chaplaincy Leader with Ottawa)

A walk outside in nature was the way we chose to engage in reflection leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Holy Trinity High School is situated on unceded Algonquin territory in Kanata, Ontario. We have a community garden with raised beds in front and beside the school and mature trees along the back of our sports field. These natural spaces seemed perfect to our planning committee members for the challenging experience of reflecting on the lasting impact of residential Schools.

One of our Indigenous Education teachers, Mr. Szombathy, prepared powerful reflection stations for our grade 7 to 12 students. I and another Indigenous Education teacher prepared the stations along a route around the school property. We used trees for the stations which each featured an orange ribbon and an informative sign. As students walked along the route, they had the opportunity to learn about the impacts of Residential Schools and to reflect on the significance of the information. The quiet time, walking between stations allowed the stories to really sink in. They were also encouraged to think about what actions they can take to work towards better relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people on this land.

The experience of students was positive. "I think it's a really heavy topic to learn in school, but it's very necessary," says student Lara Monte.

We continue to be inspired by the courage and generosity of Phyllis Webstad, the founder of Orange Shirt Day, who shared her experience with the education system as a First Nations person. She speaks the hard truths and we will honour her and all victims and survivors by continue to learn the hard truths of the Residential School system and by taking on the work of ReconciliAction.

Bulletin Board



CSCO Conference!
May 13-15, 2025!
Registration information
has been sent to our
membership! Hurry and
secure your spot and join
us in May!

If you would like to submit
intentions or be part of any other
features in our newsletter, email:
cscovp@gmail.com

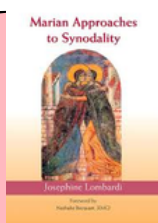


Lent Retreat for CSCO Members!
March 27 @ 9:30 - 11 a.m. (EST)
Facilitator: Dr. Murray Watson
Theme: Jewish Roots for Jubilee
Zoom link will be sent closer to the date!
Click the photo to register.

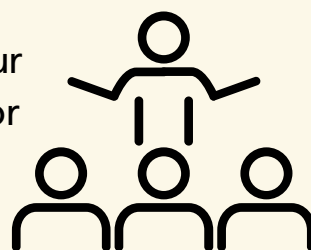


If you have a topic of interest that you would like to write about and share, please consider
submitting! Articles should be no more than 225 words. Scan the QR code for more information!

Those who have
completed the
form for a free
book--thank
you! Stay tuned!

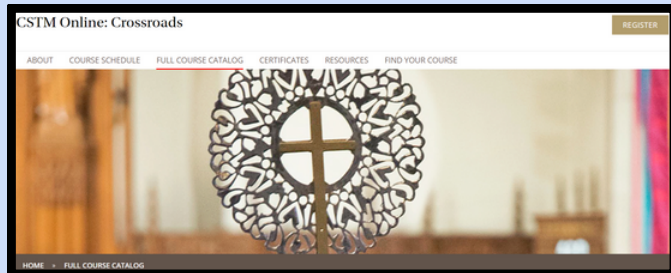


Do you have workshop
ideas for WFMP? or for our
annual conferences? or for
PD for our members?
Click the photo
and let us know!

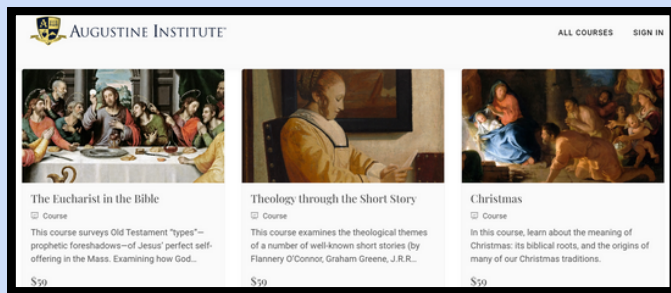


HORS D'OEUVRES FOR MINISTRY

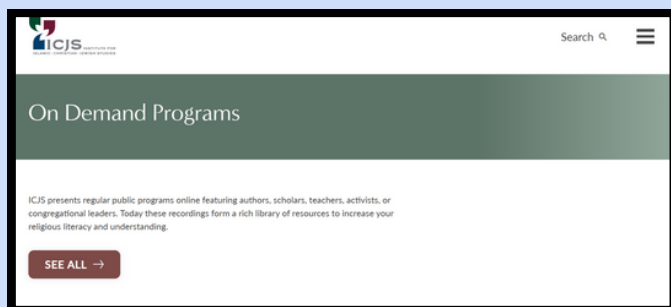
**Some courses for spiritual, professional
and personal growth...**



The Clough School of Theology and Ministry @ Boston College offers different courses available online and starting soon. Click the photo for the link to their page!

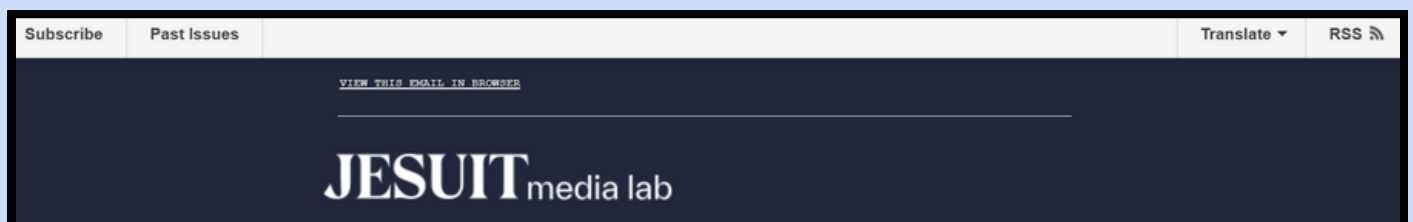


The Augustine Institute offers online courses free of charge! Many great topics are covered, 3 of which are included in the photo. Click the photo to go to their course catalogue!

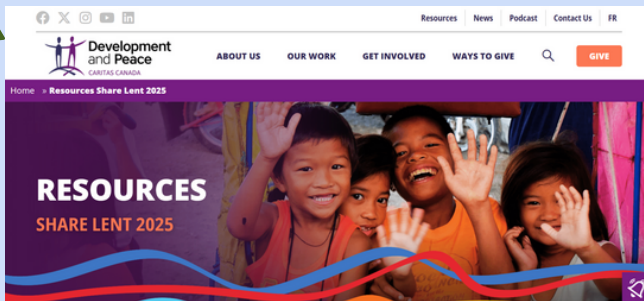
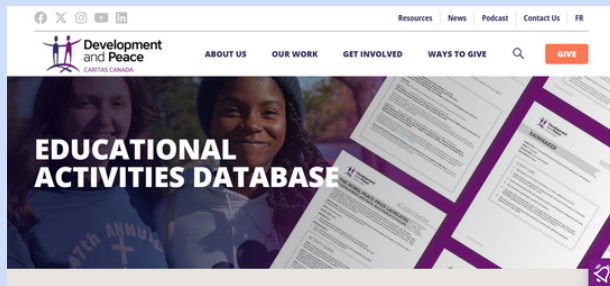


To dismantle religious bias and bigotry, ICJS builds learning communities where religious difference becomes a powerful force for good. ICJS presents regular public programs online featuring authors, scholars, teachers, activists, or congregational leaders. Today these recordings form a rich library of resources to increase your religious literacy and understanding.

The Jesuit Media Lab is a platform for the more creative types who want to explore ways to transfer our faith-filled passion into writing plays, books, stories, song-writing, podcasts, book clubs, etc. You can subscribe for their emails and invitations to various events and offerings. Click the photo below and you will be transported to creative possibilities!



HORS D'OEUVRES FOR MINISTRY (CONT'D)



2024-2025:

Dec. 24: Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope begins

January 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

February = Black History Month

Feb. 11: World Day of the Sick

Feb. 17: Family Day Holiday

Mar. 5: Ash Wednesday

Mar. 8: International Women's Day

Mar. 9: Daylight Savings Time

Mar. 10-14: March Break

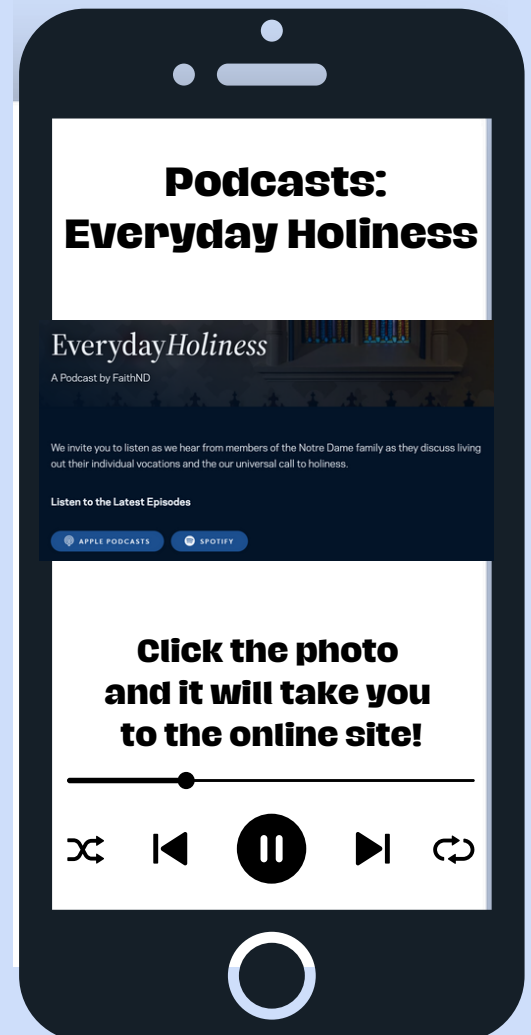
Mar. 27: CSCO Online Lent Retreat

Apr. 13: Palm Sunday-Holy Week begins

Apr. 20: Easter Sunday

May 13-15: CSCO CONFERENCE 2025

*Mark
your
Calendar*



A Prayer In the Middle of the Day

Lord, I need a moment,
I need a time out
to remember
your presence deep within me,
within the good earth,
within my very desire to take a moment.
Help me to be still,
to settle again into the now,
the only place I will ever find you.
Help me to keep the business of the day
in some kind of perspective;
to remember that, whatever happens,
this too will pass.

Help me with the anxieties
that are always there, like a headache --
the loved ones I worry about,
the work pressures that sometimes
overwhelm me,
the colleagues I don't get along with.
Help me to be loving and thoughtful,
to listen when I need to,
to be present to those in front of me,
to be brave when I need to be brave
and to sense your presence in all my
encounters.

(from *At Your Side: Prayers for a Messy, Delightful, Complicated, Outrageous Everyday Life*. Raymond Friel and David Wells. 2020)



*We honour the lands
on which we live, work, learn and re-create.
We honour the many First Nations, Indigenous, Metis
and Inuit that have been stewards of this land
and continue to shape it, influence it's eco-systems,
sustain its diversity and teach us to do the same.
Throughout our days, let us remember where we are,
how we got here, and the people who came before us.
Let us work together towards reconciliation,
caring for this land and for all the animals and
people who call this place home.*

Stay connected with us!

