

WE SAY
FAREWELL
TO OUR OUT-
GOING
THEME AND
WELCOME IN
THE NEW
ONE.

Focus on Faith Update

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

JUNE 2017

"Who do you say that I am?"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Outgoing Theological Theme	1
Walk With Jesus	2
Catholic Education	2
Grade 10 Reflections	3
Black History Month	3
Social Justice Award	3
March for Life	4
CSCO Conference	4
Valentine's Day	4
School Musical	5
Eco-Café	5
You are the Bread of Life	6
Glimpses	7
Presenting our new Theme	8
And let the people say Amen	8

Over the past four years, we have explored Jesus' question to the disciples: Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20).

We have learned to see him more clearly in those around us, to meet him in the practice of Christian Meditation, and to welcome him in the stranger. Board-wide and school-based events, Adult Faith Formation sessions, Theological Educational for Leadership have all incorporated the question as we tried to get to know Jesus better.

As we embrace our next Theological Theme, what we have learned gives us a foundation on which to build as we journey on with the Lord.



Lord, you are the Christ; the Messiah; the Son of God; Emmanuel—God with us; the Lamb of God; the Way, the Truth and the Life; the Word made flesh; the Alpha and the Omega; the Good Shepherd; the Son of Man; the Light of the World; the Bread of Life; Master; Teacher; Healer; our Brother; and, our Friend.

Walk with Jesus



This year during Catholic Education Week, the Halton Catholic District School Board once again put their faith into action by participating in the 8th Annual Walk With Jesus. Quite fittingly this year the Catholic Education Week theme was "Walking Forward Together". This year as we "walked forward together" we welcomed a new school and invited over 1100 staff,

students, and parents to celebrate our faith as a Catholic learning community. The Walk has always been a highlight of Catholic Education Week and is an outward sign of our faith in the Halton community. Even the weather couldn't get the spirit of the walk down! We started with a prayer and all 55 schools walked from Jean Vanier SS to the Mattamy National

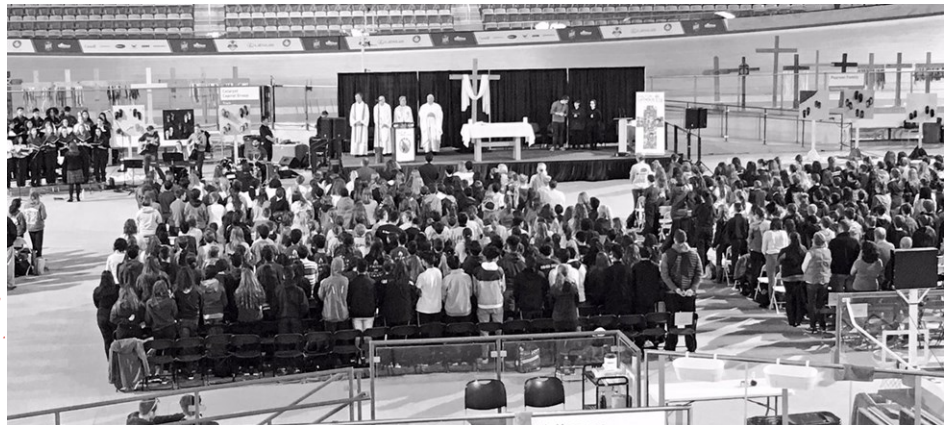
Cycling Centre. We ended our walk in prayer and spiritual song through the celebration of the Eucharist with Father Con. We continue to be grateful for the opportunity to "walk forward together" as a Catho-

Jodi O'Reilly
Special Education
Consultant

CATHOLIC EDUCATION: WALKING forward together

Catholic Education
Week 2017

- Walking Forward Together with God
- Walking Forward Together with Our Families
- Walking Forward Together with Others
- Walking Forward Together with Creation
- Walking Forward Together in Hope



HCDSB Walks With Jesus



As our school board has been reflecting on the theological theme for the past four years, our school Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary, has also been reflecting on the same theme to develop a sense of identity and mission as the newest high school in the HCDSB. This year will mark the first graduating class of Jean Vanier that has been here since grade nine. When they arrived on day one, I challenged them to look at the theological question from a different lens and asked them ‘who do we say that we are?’ We e-mailed the school’s namesake, Jean Vanier for some guidance. His response was to send a video for the opening of our school to say ‘together we can make the world a better place if we work together to defend the weak and vulnerable in our schools and learn from them to make this world a beautiful place.’ From these words, our student government formed created a new vision of leadership, as the Students of Service’ or S.O.S. was born. Students then decided to coin the phrase ‘The Vanier Way’ and wanted to go to visit the original L’Arche community in Trosly - Breuil, France to learn the true Vanier Way from the man himself and live in community with the core leaders and members of L’Arche. Upon return, the students and staff came back with a clearer vision of what it means to lead by example and to live the ‘Vanier Way’, as Jean Vanier told us himself: ‘in order to lead, we must first know how to serve.’ I am happy to say that after four years we can now clearly respond to the question of ‘who do we say we are?’ as we remind students every day after our announcements, ‘and don’t forget to live the Vanier Way’ to accept, include and serve with love. The Vanier Way becomes our answer to Jesus’ question, ‘who do you say that I am’. Brian Dunn, Chaplain

St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School

The Grade 10 Loyola students reflected on the theological theme and the school mission statement on retreat and then summarized their thoughts for the yearbook:

“In recognizing who Jesus is – “You are the Christ” – must have consequences to who we are and how we live and how we view the rest of the world. With that recognition, everything in our lives flows from that moment, from that answer and what it means to recognize and follow Jesus. It calls us to spread our faith; to live a life of love and joy and compassion and caring – to a degree that the world has never seen before; to do not just “enough” but to do the extraordinary – in Christ! We learn that the answer to that simple question. “Who do you say that I am?” makes all the difference in how we live and how we respond to those in who are suffering.” (*Reflective thoughts by the Grade10 Loyola students.*) Kandy Harkin, Chaplain

Black History Month at Ctk: Out of Many, One People

Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?” It echoes another question, “Who is my neighbour?” Through the indwelling Spirit, Christ is within each one of us. We may look and sound different, have varied foods and traditions, but together we are one. We are all neighbours.



During Black History Month we celebrated our rich variety and our fundamental unity as a people of God. Students enjoyed various activities such as “Where in the World”. They put dots on a large world map, indicating where in the world their families originated. It was a surprise to see just how diverse we are. One deep observation was, “Diversity is not always visible”. We pulled the



month’s celebration together with an assembly. Our guest, Chris Beth Cowie, spoke eloquently on her dreams, her experiences of racism, and her faith in Christ that carries her through life. Mary Lozowsky, Chaplain

Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School

Every month, teachers nominate students from their classes or clubs or teams who have demonstrated one of the focus on faith social justice themes. A male and female student from each grade is randomly selected to be the award recipient. The eight themes alternate each month: four one month and the other four, the next. The themes are specific to each grade level. For example, in May, the theme for gr. 10 students was Option for the Poor and Vulnerable and in June, it was Stewardship of Creation. Students receive a certificate signed by the Principal. Lorenzo Campanelli, Chaplain





The 20th Annual National March for Life took place in our nation's capital on May 11th and 12th. 65 students and 11 teachers and chaplaincy leaders represented our Board. Transportation was

handled by a northern bus (Milton and Georgetown) and a southern bus (Oakville and Burlington). The theme of the March was 'Life, We Stand on Guard for Thee'. The highlights of the event were the March (through the streets of downtown Ottawa), the Youth Banquet, Friday morning Mass and the Youth Conference. The keynote speakers, the workshops, the musical entertainment, the food and the accommodations were all first rate. Our students represented our Board magnanimously and returned to their school communities inspired to act upon the social justice themes of Human Dignity, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable and Community and the Common Good.

Lorenzo Campanelli, Chaplain

Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario Conference 2017: The Tallest of Trees

In April the HDCSB Chaplains hosted the annual conference of Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario. School Chaplains from across the province gathered among the trees at Bayview Wildwood Resort. In this natural setting we felt closer to God, the source and creator of all that is.

This was a conference with a difference. We deliberately built space into our schedule – space within the sessions for discussion; space between the sessions to allow personal reflection and integration; space to explore the grounds and nourish our spirits.

Our speaker, Anne Garrido, nourished our minds, sharing her wisdom and experience. She invited us into an exploration of the space where theology and ministry embrace professionalism and conflict management. We experienced a conflict resolution exercise that created a paradigm shift and has significant implications for reconciliation in professional and personal life.

The psalmist says, "Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper." (Ps 1.1-3) We delighted in sinking our roots deep into scripture, nature and shared experiences. We left Bayview Wildwood refreshed in mind, body and spirit, ready to go forth in our ministry to bear much fruit.

Every Valentine's Day Notre Dame grade 12's have gone to Tansley Woods Retirement home for a Valentine's Day Dance with the seniors. From the making of homemade corsages and extensively decorating their main hall, the teenagers work hard for a two hour window of connection and friendship. The teenagers sit and talk and dance with the elderly people. You can see some students feeding and wiping the mouths of some of the residents. There is laughter and storytelling. Songs from the 1930's and 1940's bellow through the room. Even though some have no memories or voices, you can see their feet tap and their hands clap. Somewhere deep down, they are still young, dancing in their Sunday best with a young man or young lady they fancied. When the day is done and the young people, still in their suits and formal dresses, sit around sharing their experiences, it is amazing to hear how our board's theme rang true. **Who Do You Say I Am?** I am the little, frail lady whose hands are shut tight with arthritis, but they still want to be held. I am the loud 90 year old man in the corner with stories of the war and time spent in the factory. I am the man who stares out the window and says nothing. I am the woman, who out lived her four children and husband, but still finds a way to smile.

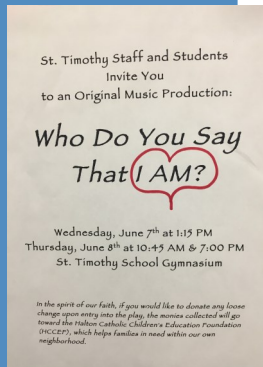


Who Do You Say I Am?

I say they are WORTHY. I say they are LOVED. I say these people are to be

TREASURED. I say these people are JESUS CHRIST. And when we reach out to them and give them a ton of attention and spoil them for a couple of hours, we see the Christ that says what you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do to me. On this Hallmark day of LOVE, there is a moment in time at the Tansley Woods Retirement home, that if you look close enough, you can see a room filled with 17 and 18 year old young men and women...and I am not only describing the grade 12's from Notre Dame, I am also describing every single resident of the home...for a moment...everyone is young again.

Wayne Lachapelle, Chaplain, Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School



We are extremely proud of our school community for all of their efforts in producing this year's musical, **"Who Do You Say that I am?"** This original production was written by our very own teacher, Ms Rabiej. It was an incredible celebration of both our Catholic faith and our school talent. We are so blessed to be surrounded by such talented students and staff dedicated to our Catholic School System.

Joe Jurus, Principal,
St Timothy School

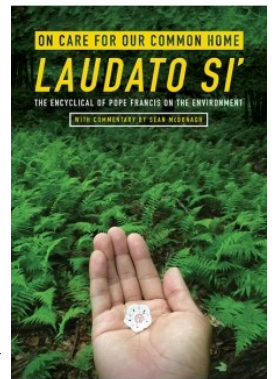


Eco-Café

The Eco-Café has given me the opportunity to delve deeper into my Faith by becoming more knowledgeable and allowing myself more time for reflection and fellowship with my colleagues. This year we read Pope Francis' book: *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*. In his book, Pope Francis addressed every person for an inclusive dialogue about the future of our planet. As a group, we shared and discussed our concerns and questions pertaining to our assigned readings and celebrated our Catholic Faith as a community.

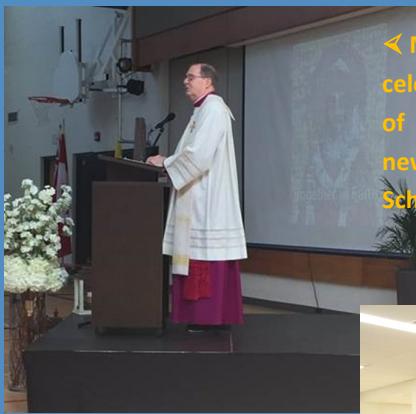
In reflecting upon our Board's theme: "Who Do You Say That I Am? (Mark 8:29), this question is key to everything in our Faith. Are we ready to say with Peter, "You are Christ, the chosen One, the Son of the Living God."? We are called to make Peter's answer our own answer joyfully professing that Jesus is the Son of God. As stewards of the earth, we are called to model Jesus and to care and respect what God created for us. The Indigenous people cared for the Creator's land by only taking what they needed. We should respect the planet as it is a gift from God.

Marisa Ciallella Pellegrini
Canadian Martyrs



You are the Bread of Life!

Father Andrij Figol, Chaplain at Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School, celebrates the Eucharist with high school students learning how to be lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. ➤



◀ Monsignor Murray Kroetsch celebrates the solemn blessing of St Gregory the Great, our newest Catholic Elementary School



▲ Father Peter Meyer with children celebrating their first reception of the Eucharist at Holy Rosary Parish, Milton

Fr John Van Hees, Dean of Halton, ➤ helps us celebrate the opening of the Welcome Centre



◀ Students Mikaela (Sacred Heart of Jesus) and Alexis (St Patrick) show off a bed mat woven from outer milk bags at Dr Simone's warehouse in Mississauga. They were supported by Bishop Reding's Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our Planet Earth). The mats were sent to Peru through Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children charitable organization.



▲ Students from St Anthony of Padua School share with those less fortunate

Glimpses



Artwork from HCDSB proudly displayed at the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Conference in Toronto



"Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.'" (Luke 9: 18-20)

In the passage above, we get a glimpse of a group of friends who know each other very well. They spend much time together travelling, eating, laughing and meeting people throughout the countryside. Jesus' influence is awe-inspiring and profound. He asks his friends who others say he is. They give him various responses. Then he turns the question to them: "Who do **you** say I am?" Jesus is not concerned with what other people think. He wants to know what his friends think of what he is doing and what he knows his mission to be. He wants to know what **you** believe. He is not only asking a group of friends from the past: Jesus is asking each one of us this same question. It is always easier to regurgitate other peoples' opinions and answers. It is a more difficult thing to assert our own opinions and beliefs, for fear of offending someone who may challenge us or disagree with us.

We are invited to answer Jesus' question. Jesus will not accept other peoples' answer for our own. In order to answer this for ourselves, we must accept the invitation of friendship that Jesus offers and experience for ourselves who he is. We can know Jesus through volunteering in service-based opportunities at food banks, visiting the sick in the hospital, visiting the elderly in palliative care centres, through organizations that help others. We can get to know Jesus in prayer: Christian meditation, attending church regularly, praying devotional prayers like the Rosary. Or we can get to know Jesus by talking to the spiritual mentors around us: asking questions that we never felt comfortable asking yet were always curious to ask; to begin looking at our lives through the lens of our faith.

When you look back on this year, may you see the hand of God guiding you, guiding us, and holding us all in the good times and the bad. Then you will be able to answer Jesus' question, in faith and in confidence.

Blessings to you on your journeys towards greater self-awareness and towards a stronger sense of community: we are in this together and we are all the better for it.

Adriana Rerecich, Chaplain, St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School



Students from Our Lady of Victory School at the Special Olympics

Students from Assumption Catholic Secondary School with awards for Bullying Prevention Initiatives ➤



Our New Theological Theme...

And let all the people say Amen! Ps 106:48

Did you ever stop to think about the meaning of this four letter word? It is used in Jewish, Christian and Muslim worship and in many languages, perhaps because it contains in one word in its original Hebrew many ideas which require several other words in other languages.

Essentially, it is a term of affirmation which can be translated, "so be it" or "truly, it is so". It may be used to signify, "yes, I believe", or "yes, I strongly agree".

It is used at the end of prayers in the Abrahamic faiths and signifies the conclusion of the prayer.

In Jewish law one must always respond Amen when hearing a blessing, as well as at the end of prayers, a practice dating back to the 4th C BCE.

Christians may also say or shout "Amen" as a sign of strong agreement, often to points in a sermon.

In Islam, it signifies the end of one's prayer or assent to the prayers of others.

- * Was presented to the Board and accepted on June 6
- * Is to be rolled out to all staff on our Board Faith Day in October
- * Has been presented to Principals and Vice-principals
- * Will be installed in schools following Faith Day
- * Has been endorsed by the chaplains
- * Will be developed over the next four years
- * Will be introduced to Pastoral Animators at a workshop in September



Artist Doreen Zheng from St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School with her artwork which was chosen as the motif for our new Theological Theme. She is posing with Paula Dawson, Director of Education, and Board Chair, Diane Rabenda at the Board Meeting on 6 June 2017.