



Working Together for Catholic Education

Eleven Years of:

† Commitment † Contribution † Confier † Contribution
† Community Building † Communauté

As Catholic Educators, we have our mission. Education is a life-long experience leading us forth from where we are, to where God would have us be, in the example of Jesus. We ask God to help us to deepen our knowledge and understanding, our awareness and sensitivity, and our discipleship and our serving others in God's name.



A Message from Your Executive Director

One of our goals at the EOCCC is to: Respond to local and provincial initiatives and directions within the content of our mission in Catholic education. Our activities and responses and interactions with our partners need to be animated through the person of Jesus Christ.

“Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ (Mark 8:27)

Who do People Say that We Are?

I believe we are a community of people who come together with a common interest, vision or purpose. Our Christian community is where the Holy Spirit teaches us to grow in love for one another and to welcome persons who seek a living experience of Christ's love. This community has been a place where a common vision is celebrated and nurtured for the good of its members as well as provincially and nationally. In the words of the late Archbishop Oscar Romero: "A community is a group of men and women who [have] found the truth in Christ and in His gospel and...join together to follow it more strongly. In the group, each one finds that the brother or sister is a source of strength and that in moments of weakness they help one another, [so that] by loving one another and believing, they give light and example."

We are sustained daily in our vocations by these words “If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:1-4)

I have been blessed to have an opportunity to work within an organization of spiritual leaders that collectively and individually have been a positive influence on Catholic education as stated by Henri Nouwen in his daily reflection on ‘The Shepherd and the Sheep’. “Spiritual leadership is the leadership of the Good Shepherd. As Jesus says, good shepherds know their sheep, and their sheep know them (see John 10:14). There must be a true mutuality between shepherds and their sheep. Good leaders know their own, and their own know them. Between them is mutual trust, mutual openness, mutual care, and mutual love. To follow our leaders we cannot be afraid of them, and to lead our followers we need their encouragement and support.

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd to show the great intimacy that must exist between leaders and those entrusted to them. Without such intimacy, leadership easily becomes oppressive.”

I would like to say how honoured and touched I am to have had this opportunity to serve you. I would be remiss in not thanking those who were and are such a great part in making this possible. As a professional community, I would like to thank all who have supported and helped me over the years. I feel very Blessed to experience the kind of creative, faith filled energy that characterizes the EOCCC, CCC, and NOCCC.

Participants

Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

Ministry of Education

Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops

Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board

The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario

Executive Committee

Michele Arbour
Chairperson

Lucy Miller
Past Chairperson

Denise Andre
Finance Chairperson

Joanne Fisher
Curriculum Chairperson

Gerald Bibby
Executive Director

**Please visit
our
Website
at:**

www.eoccc.org

I particularly value the support and encouragement from our Catholic School Boards, the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE), Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA), and the Ontario Catholic Council of Bishops (OCCB). I extend a heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) and the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario (CPCO) for their support and participation in our many endeavors. Join with us as we pray for the continued success of the cooperatives.

The EOCCC is known for its commitment, contribution and community building in Catholic education for the past 12 years. This would have not have been possible during my tenure as Executive Director with out the support of our host board, Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, the staff at the Regional Office in Smiths Falls of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario - our home away from home, and the EOCCC Secretaries fondly known as 'Gerry's Girls' – Marlene Snell, Connie Lessard, Kerri Wilson, and Carol McCready.

To have a vision is a powerful incentive in making a difference in people's lives. However, without my family and friends, this vision would not be possible or meaningful. For many years they too have shared my experiences and have always supported my passion for this role.

Finally, I am grateful to have had this opportunity to be involved in Catholic education. I consider myself so blessed not only for the opportunity to help others, but to do so with prayer, grace and spirit.

We need you and your energy to help us realize our visions for the upcoming year. We ask for your prayers and support for the Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Cooperative to continue to evolve as a vibrant voice for Catholic education.

Gerry Bibby

We wish the new Executive Director and the new Secretary all the best as they now work with the dedicated Catholic educators of Eastern Ontario.



EOCCC Is Honoured by the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)

Gerry Bibby, Executive Director of the EOCCC will be accepting the 'Glory Nanne Award' on behalf of the work done by the EOCCC and his contributions to the Catholicity of our publicly funded Catholic Education System. The award will be given in Peterborough on Saturday June 2, 2007 at the OAPCE Conference.



Bronek Korczynski Wins The Prestigious "Archbishop Philip Pocock Award"

The award is given to an Ontario Catholic school religious educator who demonstrates excellence in care and commitment to engaging and supporting student learning, knowledge and demonstration of best practices, innovations in the practice of religious education, on-going contributions to the field of religious education, leadership in initiating the sustaining opportunities for the growth of religious education and continuous updating and improving of personal practice as a religious educator.

A Gift to Catholic Education

"People Coming Together As a Community to Share Their Resources and Creativity to Enable the Group to Achieve More Together than They Could Individually"

The EOCCC is proud of its web site. This site assists in the building of a shared vision in Catholic education with resources from the EOCCC and its partners in Catholic education.

The Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Cooperative is comprised of four school boards and is committed to the sharing of human and physical resources required for the delivery of curriculum review, development and implementation services and in-service education among the Catholic school boards of Eastern Ontario as well as provincially and nationally.

Educational resources are laid out in a user-friendly, database encompassing disciplines to include resources that support the delivery of Catholic Curriculum, Literacy and Numeracy, The Arts, Science and Technology, and

Classroom Management/Planning along with a variety of other teacher resources. Educators can visit the website and view actual classroom use of the resources, descriptions of resources and order resources online. The EOCCC has made available free downloads, including 'Curriculum Support for Catholic Schools: Enhancing the Religious Dimension of Catholic Education', 'Catholic Frameworks for Grades 1-8' and 'Trading Fairly in Our World: A Social Studies Unit for Grade 6' on the main page of our web site. A searchable database will be activated for August 15, 2007. All of our other resources listed in this database will be accessible through a password protected area for downloading.

EOCCC Member Boards will be able to receive EOCCC resources on-line at no cost. The CCC and the NOCCC will also be able to receive EOCCC resources on-line at no cost.

Catholic boards outside of the EOCCC member areas, Ontario Public boards, out of Province boards, and Faculties of Education can purchase a site license for access to all of the materials.

While all of the resources available for purchase have a Catholic faith based element, many can be adapted to the public education sector.

The EOCCC also offers training support for any of its resources. Catholic educators will assist your personnel in understanding and incorporating the resources into a variety of instructional settings.

Prayer of Accomplishment



God, you give us our bodies and brains as gifts. Today we are grateful that all who are involved with the EOCCC have used these gifts to once again to come together for Catholic educators to support Catholic education. We are happy and we thank you that this dedicated group of individuals was able to accomplish this. We take delight in this accomplishment and we praise you for bringing this group together. Bless all who helped to support, organize and all who took part in the EOCCC over the past 7 years and continue to bless this group for the upcoming years. We pray + in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *Adapted from Let's Pray, Novalis 2007*