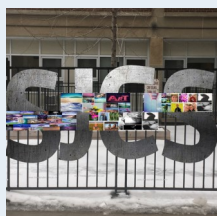


Top stories in this newsletter



Four Questions
for Sr. Helen



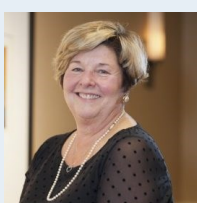
SJCS Arts Project



CPCO Student
Award



Brescia University
College announces
scholarship



Message from President Mary Eileen Donovan

“Be the voice of God in a very noisy world”

On a very snowy morning in late February, we had the incredible gift of a presentation from Sister Helen Prejean, a St. Joseph Sister from New Orleans.

This annual event is planned by the Catholic Education Foundation (CEFO), in partnership with the Toronto Catholic District School Board New Teacher Induction Program and the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO).

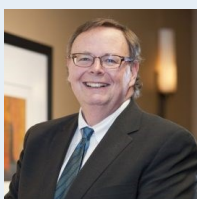
This year we were excited to welcome seven local Catholic Boards with some of their new teachers, as well as chaplains from across the province.

We, as CEFO Board members, believe it is critical to support and nurture our young teachers in their faith journeys and in their Catholic teaching vocations.

We would like to express our gratitude to our very generous host this year, the Aga Khan Museum. It was an outstanding setting in an institution that promotes interfaith dialogue, pluralism, inclusivity and peace.

Sister Helen was empowering, inviting, and humorous. She spoke passionately and eloquently about how we as teachers need to be advocates for justice, how we need to plant the seeds of justice in our students' hearts and indeed that justice is “just us” and only happens because of us. She spoke about how her spiritual practices of prayer and meditation are the corner stone for her justice work.

She inspired me, she reminded me, that we all need to be the voice of God in all that we say and do in this very noisy world.



Message from Executive Director Don Walker

As I write this, we are in the midst of Lent, that time of reflection and self-assessment. I remember at a Lenten service a few years ago someone sharing the following reflection. It reminded me of the important task of our work in Catholic education: to invite young people to a vision of life that has depth, that is more than about comfort and distraction. It's from the writer Rebecca Solnit:

"The four horsemen of my Apocalypse are called Efficiency, Convenience, Profitability and Security and in their names, crimes against poetry, pleasure, sociability, and the very largeness of the world are daily, hourly, constantly carried out. These marauding horsemen are deployed by technophiles, advertisers and other profiteers to assault the nameless pleasures and meaning that knit together our lives and expand our horizons."

In this Spring edition of the CEFO newsletter we have two important announcements: one from Brescia University College and the other from the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario. We also have two reports from two of the 2018-2019 Michael Carty award recipients, updating for us the progress of their projects.

We are also excited about the release of a new film by Kevin Moynihan, whose last film, *Upon Whose Shoulders We Stand* (2017) CEFO sponsored. We believe that Kevin's film, *They Came For the Children*, will have a significant role to play in educating young people about Residential Schools and the way forward through the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Please read on for more information.

CEFO NEWS

Sr. Helen Prejean meets with students from St. Joseph's College School, TCDSB



On February 27th, I along with 16 of my fellow classmates were honoured with the opportunity to represent St. Joseph's College School at the event hosting Sr. Helen Prejean. In our grade twelve Religion course we had encountered Sr. Helen's powerful story through the film, *Dead Man Walking* and through discussions we had explored racism and classism as it is connected to capital punishment. On this day at the Aga Khan museum, we had the privilege of listening to her speak about compassion, human dignity and the importance of respect for all life. Her comments on inclusivity and caring for the marginalized members of our society had a profound impact on how we view ourselves and others within our culture and society. Sister Helen's words were not only an inspiration, but also a call to action to serving the ideals of compassion and inclusivity.

As we sat in dialogue with Sr. Helen, her deep love and patience was evident as she intently listened to our questions and answered them with all the care and dedication that she would devote to anyone else. I believe this is what makes her outstanding; the ability to recognize and interact with the dignity of each person. Sitting with Sister Helen has left an everlasting imprint on my life.

It was a privilege to have Sister Helen Prejean travel in from sunny New Orleans and brave the Ontario weather to speak with us. Her cheerful and humorous personality was in stark contrast to the dreadful weather outside and this contrast taught us how we are to face obstacles when we venture on our vocation. The students and staff of St. Joseph's College School want to thank Sister Helen for this once in a lifetime experience that will stay with us forever.

Leonor Rodrigues, Grade 12 student at St. Joseph's College School, TCDSB

Interview with Sr. Helen Prejean

Sr. Helen Prejean, author of the book *Dead Man Walking* and subject of the subsequent film of the same name, spoke to new teachers and chaplains from seven Catholic school boards at the Aga Khan Museum on February 27, 2019. We posed four questions to Sr. Helen:



1. *What advice would you give to new Catholic educators?*

Cultivate a spirit of openness. Take the time to get to know young people; let them know they count. Relationship is everything. Don't pretend you have all the answers. Don't pretend to be the expert. We're always learning together.

2. *How has your early work as a teacher influenced your current ministry?*

The classroom was a place to cultivate compassion. It was a place where we would learn but also value fun, lightness, and humour.

3. *How do we educate young people to value compassion before so many other things?*

It is through exposure to others, hearing their stories, that we cultivate compassion. A real leader isn't the definitive expert; she is perhaps two rungs ahead in terms of experience. Get students out of the classroom. Let them encounter other people and hear their stories.

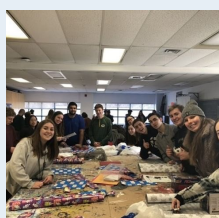
Encourage young people to journal, to trace their own "soul journey"—to pay attention to and to encourage what's happening inside of them. I don't mean, "I went to a movie with Betty" or "It's raining today." But what are my hopes, and fears and dreams.

4. *What are you currently reading?*

The biography of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

CEFO NEWS

Michael Monk Award—Update from Bishop Allen Academy, TCDSB



S.L.A.M.



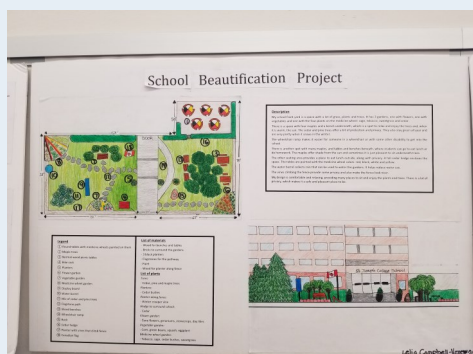
Thank you again, CEFO, for your generous scholarship supporting SLAM, Servant Leaders and Mentors. While the scholarship will be used to fund events throughout the whole year, we wanted to give an update on one of the projects we just completed.

On December 7th, each of our 60 senior leaders received a "letter to Santa" from a Junior Kindergarten class in an under resourced neighbourhood in Toronto. Each of our leaders responded to the letter (as Santa) and then went out to purchase one of the gifts the student had asked for. On December 14th, we had Santa deliver the gifts to these young students. It was a wonderful experience for everyone, both those giving and receiving the gifts. We're looking forward to the remainder of the year where our leaders can continue to serve those in need.

Adrian Del Monte, Bishop Allen Academy, TCDSB



Michael Carty Award—Update from St. Joseph's College School, TCDSB



The building that houses the current "St. Joseph's College school" has done so since 1961. Yet many who walk or drive by the Wellesley and Bay school may not even know it's a secondary school, yet alone an all-girls school with a rich long academic tradition that began in 1854 by the Sisters of St. Joseph. However, St. Joseph's College community under the direction of the art teacher, Paul Sabyan is aiming to change that.

Last year we were grateful to receive the grant from the Catholic Education Federation of Ontario to help pay for the project of a permanent iron art piece that would tell the story of the history of the school. Then this past fall, at a parent council meeting, parents spoke of their wishes to upgrade some of the front yard space of the school and came with many suggestions. Grade nine art students added to the visioning as they came up with a variety of blueprints for our front yard space. Together we are moving forward to communicate to the public the Catholic tradition of excellence in education of girls as guided by the vision and commitment of the Sisters of St Joseph at St. Joseph College School since 1854.

Monica Godin, St. Joseph's College School, TCDSB

**Applications for the 2019 Michael Carty Awards & Michael Monk Award
are due: Monday April 1, 2019**

Applications available at www.cefontario.ca

CEFO NEWS

CPCO—Catholic Principals' Council Ontario

Student Award



The Catholic Principals' Council Ontario is very pleased to be able to offer the CPCO Student Scholarship Award to a worthy recipient who has also been recognized by their Catholic secondary school as a *Catholic Student of the Year*. Recognizing the important relationships that exist amongst the many Catholic educational partners, CPCO through its Executive Council has decided to initiate this award this year in recognition of the role that Catholic Principals and Vice-Principals play in the faith formation of students in our secondary schools. By presenting this award at the annual Fr. Fogarty Dinner, we believe we have an opportunity to highlight the outstanding contributions that students make within their schools, their communities and within their parishes.

Joseph Geiser, Executive Director, CPCO

Catholic Principals' Council Ontario Student Award



Criteria

The Catholic Principals' Council Ontario Student Scholarship is presented to a graduating student who best exemplifies strength and passion in the areas of service, advocacy and leadership. This individual demonstrates engagement in the community and Church exemplifying integrity, selflessness, courage and determination. The recipient's generous and kind spirit has positively touched and supported their peers. This student has demonstrated Christ-like care for others through their positive actions, attitudes and commitment toward student staff and the school.

Selection Process

The Catholic Principals' Council Ontario Student Scholarship recipient will be selected from among those applicants who have been recognized by their Catholic Secondary School as the Catholic Student of The Year through the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO).

Timelines

The following timelines will be used -

- ◆ Each Catholic Secondary School identifies their CEFO Catholic Student of the Year recipient by June 1 each year.
- ◆ June 1 - Scholarship information / application forms to be disseminated directly to Principals / School Boards through CPCO.
- ◆ CEFO Catholic Student of the Year recipients apply directly to CPCO for the scholarship.
- ◆ Applications due to CPCO by Sept. 1, 2019
- ◆ Executive Council selection of the scholarship recipient to occur at the September Executive Council meeting.

Award Process

The recipient will be announced and presented at the annual at the CEFO Fr. Fogarty Dinner in the fall.

The Award

The scholarship shall consist of \$1000 along with a piece of art with the CPCO logo, the title of the award and the recipient's name etched on the base. From time-to-time the award may be changed as required.

Scholarship - \$1000 (if there are two very worthy candidates the Executive will consider awarding two scholarships of \$1000 each).

CEFO NEWS



CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO STUDENT AWARD PARTNERSHIPS

The Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) is pleased to enter into partnership with King's College (University of Western Ontario), St. Jerome's University (University of Waterloo), St. Michael's College (University of Toronto), Brescia University (Western University) and Loretto College Residence (University of Toronto) to recognize and to support those students who are the Catholic Student Award Recipients from their respective high schools. In June and in September of each year, CEFO will communicate with these institutions the list of the student award recipients.

INSTITUTION	DEADLINES	AMOUNT	CRITERIA
King's College, University of Western Ontario	Open	\$500.00	King's University College offers entrance awards of \$500 to be awarded to each recipient of The Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario Student Awards who applies to and registers at King's. The students who receive awards from the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario are recognized for their academic achievement as well as their significant contributions to their school, parish and community. In support of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario, King's wishes to recognize these exceptional students and encourage them to join King's for their university studies.
St. Jerome's University, University of Waterloo	Mid-June to September	\$500.00	All Catholic secondary schools in the province of Ontario are asked to select one outstanding student to be the recipient of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) Catholic Student Award. Any recipient of a CEFO Catholic Student Award who is beginning studies at St. Jerome's University in the Honours Arts program or Honours Arts and Business program in Fall 2019; or beginning studies at the University of Waterloo and living in residence at St. Jerome's beginning in all 2019 are eligible to receive this award.
St. Michael's College, University of Toronto	Mid-June to September	\$500.00	St. Michael's College offers entrance scholarships of \$500 to be awarded to each recipient of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario Student Awards who registers at St. Michael's College. St. Michael's College wishes to recognize these students for their academic achievement as well as their important contribution to their community, parish and school.
Loretto College Residence at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto	Mid-June to September	\$500.00	The Sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loretto) offer a bursary to those young women who apply to and are accepted to live at the Loretto College Residence. The Loretto Sisters want to recognize young women for their leadership and contribution to the betterment of their schools, community, and parish.
Brescia University, at Western University	Mid-June to September	\$500.00	Brescia University is pleased to offer a \$500 entrance award to recipients of the "Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario Student Award" who register for full-time studies at Brescia. Brescia is pleased to support the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario and acknowledge the outstanding contributions their student award winners make to our communities and classrooms.



IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



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Brescia University College announces scholarship for Catholic Student Award recipients



The Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) is pleased to announce a partnership with **Brescia University College** at the University of Western Ontario. Brescia University will offer a \$500 entrance award to recipients of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario Student Award who register for full-time studies at Brescia. Rhea Johnson, Associate Registrar, Recruitment and Admissions, states, "We are thrilled to offer these awards to your outstanding students."

Brescia is Canada's only women's university. It was founded in 1919 by the Ursuline Sisters, strong women of faith who are committed to social justice, community service, and the development of women.

Brescia joins King's College (Western), St. Jerome's College (University of Waterloo), St. Michael's College (University of Toronto) and the Loretto Residence at the University of Toronto in offering financial awards to Catholic Student Award Recipients.

CEFO NEWS

Secondary Chaplaincy at the Durham Catholic District School Board

At the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), all seven secondary schools have full-time, non-teaching chaplaincy leaders. Secondary chaplaincy is founded on relationships. Building trust with staff and students through active participation in the life of the school, chaplaincy leaders become confidantes for all who require a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on. Trained in pastoral counselling and active listening, both staff and students turn to their chaplaincy leaders in times of crisis. Chaplaincy leaders also play an integral role when a crisis effects the entire school community, such as a death of a student, and assists the community with the grieving and to healing process. Hospital visits and participation at funerals are also a regular feature of secondary school chaplaincy.

Chaplaincy leaders are also the liturgical and prayer leads within the school. By collaborating with local clergy, they organize various Eucharistic celebrations throughout the school year and offer the sacrament of reconciliation. They also prepare various prayer services for religion classes and special occasions. Chaplaincy leaders organize retreats for every student each year of high school.

A final core area of ministry for chaplaincy leaders concerns charitable initiatives or social justice issues. They organize food drives for those in need within their communities and fund-raisers for the poor in developing countries. They raise the awareness of their school communities from a Catholic perspective on such issues as famine, refugees, and the environment.

Dr. Deacon Dominic Pollano



They Came for the Children

The Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario is proud to announce the release of ***They Came for the Children***, a film that chronicles the experiences in Residential Schools and the subsequent recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The film has received the financial support of CEFO, as well as the Scarboro Missions, The Sisters of St. Joseph (Canada), The Sisters of Loretto, the Jesuits of Canada and The Sisters of Providence.

As the film's producer Kevin Moynihan explains, "Their enthusiastic support and a statement by one Congregational leader that they wanted the truth to be told about the Residential Schools, energized my work in the many weeks of research and scheduling of interviews. In the end, I produced five short films that can be used in a classroom or a church hall or even a retreat centre to help explain what happened at the 139 Residential Schools in Canada, the last of which closed in the 1990's."

Each documentary film ranges in length from 14-25 minutes and deals with important issues emerging from the final Truth and Reconciliation Report. The five films are:

1. **Introduction:** a look at the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement with former Grand Chief Phil Fontaine and the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
2. **Essential Concepts:** This film explores concepts such as Assimilation, Colonization, the Doctrine of Discovery, and the Royal Proclamation.
3. **The Residential Schools:** This film is an in-depth look at life in the schools through the voices of seven survivors.
4. **The Churches and the Apologies and Indigenous Spirituality:** This film examines the actual apologies and features a variety of Church leaders.
5. **The 94 Calls to Action and Signs of Hope:** The last film surveys the 94 Calls to Action in the Final Report and features some signs of hope that range from Orange Shirt Day and the Indigenization of curriculum in Ottawa Separate schools; Trent University's First Nations Peoples Learning House; a joint program in Indigenous and Canadian Law at University of Victoria and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This film features a short clip from Gord Downie's film, *The Secret Path*.

The films are available free of charge for use in classes and parishes at <http://www.kmproductions.ca/id.html>. There will also be a link to the films posted at www.cefontoario.ca