



Accepting nominations for  
the 2023 Catholic  
Student Award  
[Criteria & Nomination form](#)



## Message from President Mary- Eileen Donovan

Welcome to our CEFO newsletter.  
We appreciate your support and your interest.

Our Mission is to promote and celebrate Catholic Education and we are always looking for opportunities to applaud the many contributions of our exceptional Catholic students, leaders and schools. This past year, we were so delighted to be able to have some of our events in person again.

We sponsored the Daily TV Mass on October 15, 2022. Bishop Kasun spoke to the gift of Catholic Education and the 2022 award winners were scrolled at the end of Mass for all the viewers world-wide.

The annual Father Patrick Fogarty Awards Dinner was held in October 2022. For over 35 years, this annual dinner has been a corner stone of acknowledging the outstanding Catholic student from each Ontario Catholic Secondary School, the Catholic leaders who have made profound contributions on a Provincial level as well as the Catholic schools who have submitted projects which demonstrate how they have transformed faith into action.

The focus of our Catholic Church world-wide this year is on Synodality. The chance to listen to each other and learn from each other. To support and encourage this discussion in your schools and communities, we are delighted to host Dr. Jill Gowdie as our guest speaker for our virtual lecture this year. We hope that you will all be able to join us to hear her insights.

Let always remember and be grateful the treasure we have in Catholic Education and the profound difference it makes not only in the lives of our students but also in making the world a better place. Our newsletter is being distributed as we celebrate Catholic Education Week in Ontario, April 30- May 5<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to access the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association ([www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)) for more information and resources about Catholic Education Week.

As an organization, we will continue to find new ways to acknowledge how our students, teachers and leaders are making a difference in our communities thru their acts of charity and justice.

I am so grateful for the continued commitment and dedication of our Board of Directors and our Catholic Partners.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, may God bless you with the special gifts of the Easter season – hope, joy, renewal and love.



# CEFO NEWS



## Message from Executive Director Ab Falconi

The Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) has been supporting and celebrating Catholic Education for more than 40 years. I am truly appreciative of the dedication of our Board of Directors and our Catholic partner organizations as we celebrate our students, staff and promote significant projects in Catholic school boards across the province.

The Father Fogarty Awards Dinner this past October was a resounding success with over 300 attendees including 80 Catholic Student Award winners. Hearing words of wisdom from award winners such as Medal of Honour winner, Honourable Peter D. Lauwers inspired our Catholic Student Award winners, their families and Educators in attendance. It was truly a celebration of Catholic Education!

We are eagerly planning towards our next Fr. Fogarty Awards for October 28, 2023. More details on the dinner and ticket purchases will follow.

We have been working through a multi-year strategic planning process to seek new ways to celebrate Catholic schools, student and staff. We have set strategic goals within four areas of focus:

1. Celebration/History of Catholic Education;
2. Advocacy for Catholic Education;
3. Communications; and
4. Sustainability of CEFO.

These goals will define our collective work in the coming years.

We are very excited to host our Virtual Lecture once again this year. It is with pleasure that we will present Dr. Jill Gowdie to discuss a condensed version of her address to the Institute for Catholic Education's (ICE) Provincial Symposium – Adult Faith Formation in Catholic Education. Her address will be moderated by Dr. Anne Jamieson, Executive Director of ICE. To register please visit our website at <https://cefontario.ca/>.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to each of you who have chosen to serve Catholic education. It takes each of us to continue to build together towards the end of a strong, sustainable and cherished Catholic education system where every student, staff and parent is treated with the dignity and respect our Lord and Saviour afforded everyone that he encountered.

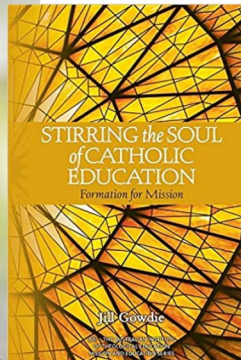


## CEFO Lecture Series presents: Dr. Jill Gowdie

Assistant Director Catholic Education South Australia

**Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm (EST)**

LIVE stream



Dr. Jill Gowdie will present a condensed version of her presentation at the ICE Symposium. We are hopeful that this will serve to further her messages surrounding Catholic Education.

Jill's work in Catholic education and leadership formation over 30 years, spans teaching and writing, leading and facilitating, research and system design. Jill has also taught at primary, secondary and university levels and in adult and school consultancy contexts. Across all these sectors, she has a reputation as a high quality and inspiring teacher, leader and presenter.

Jill has a profound love of teaching, and a deep respectfulness for the calling of the Catholic educator and leader. Catholic schools provide an education that is underpinned, overlaid and shot through with a view of the world and life that is predicated on a loving Creator who calls all creation to life giving communion. She believes that this is a world-view which has a dynamic contribution to make to the current global shifts in conversation across all educational, political and economic spheres, moving towards relationship and connectivity at a deep level. Igniting a sense of the 'missionary discipleship as the heart beat of all endeavours' is a very privileged space within which to work.

Moderated by  
Dr. Anne Jamieson,  
Institute for Catholic Education



Register  
using  
this  
link:





# CEFO NEWS

## CEFO CATHOLIC STUDENT AWARD 2023

Dear Principals,

The Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) acknowledge and appreciate the unwavering service that you, as educational leaders, are called on to provide daily your students, staff and families. We also feel that it is especially important to recognize our outstanding Catholic student leaders.

The Catholic Student Award is a unique opportunity for the Catholic education community to recognize and celebrate the contributions of our Catholic youth. It is also a tribute to the positive influence, inspiration and dedication of our Catholic teachers, chaplains, school administrators and the student's parents.

You are invited to submit the name of an outstanding student to be the recipient of this year's award for your school community. The guidelines and a nomination form are posted on our website. Please send the name of your student award recipient, a digital photo and the signed media release at your earliest convenience so that we can prepare the inscribed certificate in time for your presentation. These will be sent out as soon as possible.

Last year, we printed the names of the Catholic Student recipients, as well as the Carty and Monk award recipients, in the Catholic Register and scrolled them at the end of the CEFO sponsored Daily TV Mass broadcast. I am pleased to inform you that the Ontario Catholic Trustees Association has generously agreed to print a full-page ad in the 2023 Education Edition of the Catholic Register. **We request nominations prior to the end of June.**

We are excited to be able to host our Fr. Patrick Fogarty Awards Gala once again on October 28, 2023, at the Toronto Airport Marriott hotel. Our student winners will be celebrated on this wonderful evening.

For more details visit our website [www.cefontario.ca](http://www.cefontario.ca)

Yours in Catholic education,

Ab Falconi

Executive Director

## The Catholic Student Award

Each year the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario recognizes each Catholic Student Award Recipient from the over 160 Catholic high schools in the province of Ontario. These young people are celebrated for their commitment to their parishes, schools, and communities. We often hear from many of these young people who offer their appreciation for the honour given to them. Here are a few excerpts from their notes and cards:

I am sincerely grateful to have the opportunity of receiving the Catholic student award. Your generosity is appreciated as you give out of the goodness of your heart. As a Catholic student, who tries her best to live out God's word in day-to-day life, being recognized for a prestigious award as this is such an honour. God bless!

*Emily*

Thank You!  
It truly is an honour to have won this award. I have cherished the opportunity to get to go to a school that incorporated my faith into our every day experiences. The pin will forever stand as a reminder of that. Thank you Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario for granting me your award.

*Annabella*





## 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 College (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 2021; or beginning studies at the University of Waterloo and living in residence at St. Jerome's beginning in all 2021 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 College, at Western University	Mid-June to September	\$500.00	Brescia University College 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.



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# CEFO NEWS

## 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).

*"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 EDUCATION:  
**WE ARE  
MANY,  
WE ARE  
ONE**



## Catholic Education Week Resources

Each year around mid-February, OCSTA is pleased to release to Catholic School Boards, families and partners the annual Catholic

Education Week package of resources. Included in the package are curriculum materials (both elementary and secondary), liturgies, book lists, the annual poster and the Catholic Education Week song (a new one is written and performed each year).



Lyrics and music sheets are provided to boards so that local performances of the song can be rehearsed and incorporated into planned activities for local audiences and events, including those planned for Catholic Education Week in May.

View and Listen to the 2023 [Catholic Education Week Song](#)

Download the newly released [Catholic Education Week Poster](#)

View other CEW Materials as they are published in the [CEW resource centre](#)

# CEFO NEWS

## **“Discovery and Experimentation in the Natural World”: St. James School**

### **2021 Recipients of the Michael Carty Award**

The community of St. James School in Lively, Ontario is extremely grateful to have received the opportunity to enhance our outdoor and experiential learning initiatives through the lens of Catholic Education as a recipient of the Michael Carty Award in 2021. Our project objectives were to highlight the importance of caring for God's creation, a major tenet of Catholic Social Teachings, while fostering active environmental stewardship and deepening our appreciation for the beauty of our natural surroundings that have been entrusted to us to care for.

We started off the project by creating “Discovery Kits” that could be used to spark a variety of different inquiries aimed at strengthening our connections with nature, while promoting collaboration, critical-thinking, respect and sustainability practices. Once these bins were inventoried and itemized, we immediately saw a need for a common space to store these materials, as to ensure that they could be readily accessible and organized for as many classes as possible.

Although we considered having a pergola added to our outdoor classroom, we ultimately decided to use the award funds to build a storage shed to house the “Discovery Kits”, along with our snowshoes and winter accessories. We felt that it would allow educators to access the resources with independence and greater ease.

Some of the activities that the students have engaged in throughout this endeavour include: water sampling and conservation lessons (tied into the Church teachings of “Water as Sacred and Essential to Life”), exploring animal adaptations for winter through the creation of habitat dioramas (with a faith connection to the story of creation and the Family Life strand of “Living in Solidarity”). Other collaborative projects involved planting sunflowers for Catholic Education Week (“Rebuild, Restore, Renew”) and using butterfly hatching kits to draw parallels to the story of Jesus and his rebirth.

Our students and educators have really enjoyed these new opportunities to “take the learning outside”. It is important to us as a school community that we provide our students with a sound understanding of learning in nature and learning with nature as they become Christians who care for and respect our environment. The next phase of this project will be started this spring, as we hope to add community gardens to our school yard to help restore native plant habitats in the school yard and preserve local biodiversity.

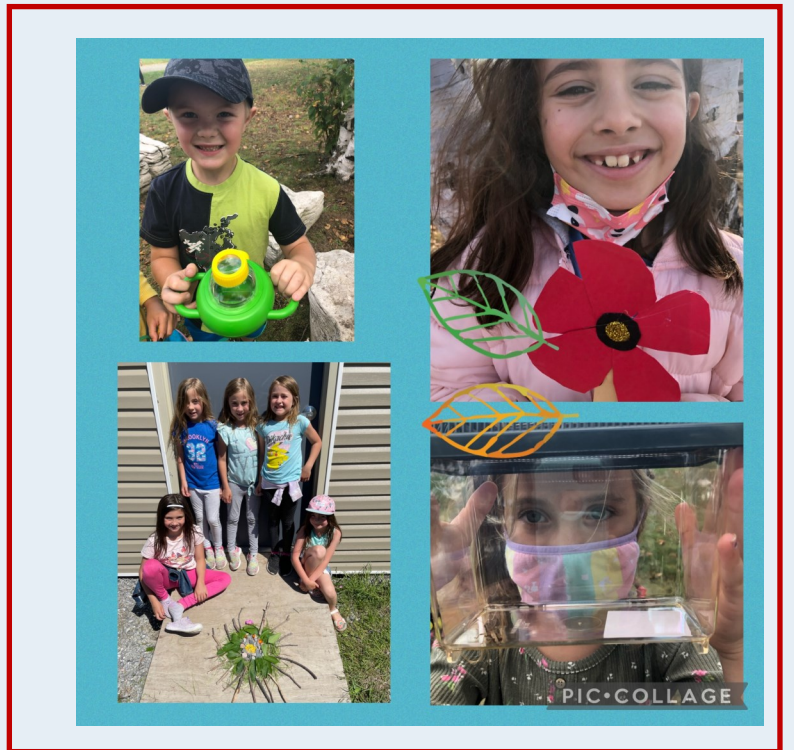
Merci, Thank you and Chi Miigwech to the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario for your support with this initiative!



# CEFO NEWS



St. James School project photos





# CEFO NEWS

## Michael Carty St Sebastian Award

**We Believe Kindergarten Project  
Michael Carty Award 2021  
Date: September 2021-2022  
St Sebastian Catholic Elementary School**  
Project was written by: Claudia Fajardo, RECE and Eusebia (Zebby) Martins-Parreira

We Believe Kindergarten Project Michael Carty Award 2021 Date: September 2021-2022 St Sebastian Catholic Elementary School Project was written by: Claudia Fajardo, RECE and Eusebia (Zebby) Martins-Parreira Province wide award to St. Sebastian Catholic Elementary School Kindergarten project with t...

[Click here](#)

Based on our learning experience we both put together two books to share ideas with educators to teach religion in a play based environment using loose parts, recycled materials, taking the teachings of Laudato Si to care for earth our common home.

Please find some of our learning experiences and projects during this journey in the link to the slide deck we are sharing with you.

Kind regards,

Zebby Martins-Parreira, RECE

Claudia Fajardo, RECE

## Pope Francis Appoints Bishop Francis Leo as Archbishop of Toronto Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal named 13th Archbishop of Toronto, resignation of Cardinal Thomas Collins accepted by Holy Father



### Archbishop Leo's Message for Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week 2023 takes place from April 30 – May 5. The theme for this year is: **We are many, we are one.**

Please see below a letter issued by Archbishop Francis Leo:

[Click here](#)

# CEFO NEWS

News from OCSOA



## ***OCSOA Award Winners and Annual Conference 2023***

The Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association is proud to recognize the outstanding contributions made by our active and retired members as well as individuals who have contributed to the development, advancement and enhancement of Catholic Education in Ontario. Join the OCSOA in congratulating and recognizing these leaders in Catholic education.

### ***Thomas John Fauteux***

#### **B.E. Nelligan Award**

The B.E. Nelligan Award of Merit recognizes "A person who has made an outstanding and tangible contribution to Catholic Education in Ontario". Instituted in 1985, this prestigious award "honors the person who, as the first Director of Education for the Metropolitan Separate School Board, exemplified the noblest qualities of leadership in Catholic Education".

### ***Siobhan Wright, Superintendent of Education, York CDSB***

#### **OCSOA - CASSA/EXL Award**

The EXL Award was instituted in 2002 to Recognize Excellence among Members of the Superintendency. The award is sponsored by XEROX CANADA LTD. and the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA). As a CASSA affiliate, OCSOA can annually select an EXL nominee whose work is appreciated locally and provincially as well as being influential nationally.

### ***Thomas D'Amico, Director of Education, Ottawa CSB***

#### **Distinguished Leadership Award**

The Distinguished Leadership Award is presented to an active member of OCSOA who has demonstrated outstanding ability and leadership in Catholic education at both the provincial and local school system levels.

### ***Bishop Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton***

#### **Honorary Membership Award**

The award is presented to an individual who has contributed to the development, advancement and enhancement of Catholic Education in Ontario.

All four awards recognize distinctive aspects of leadership in Catholic education and will be presented at our annual conference banquet on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at the Blue Mountain Resorts.

This year's theme, "*Stronger. Better. Together.*", promises to engage the participants in a renewed sense of mission in their continued efforts to lead and shape the future of Catholic Education in Ontario.

*John Kostoff*

*Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association*