



CEFO NEWS



Spring 2026

VOL. 5 ISSUE 1

Top stories in this newsletter



Message from
Mary-Eileen Donovan
CEFO President



Message from
Executive Director,
Nick Milanetti



Virtual Lecture with
Rev. Dr. Jean Gové
April 9 at 6:30pmEST



Accepting
nominations for the
2026 Catholic
Student Award



Message from President Mary-Eileen Donovan

Welcome to this edition of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) newsletter. As we celebrate the Foundation's 50th Anniversary and reflect with gratitude on five decades of promoting and celebrating Catholic Education across the Province, we are also delighted to introduce our new Executive Director Nick Milanetti.

Nick comes to CEFO with a wealth of experience and expertise and we are very grateful that he has agreed to take on this vital role. We have already seen his leadership, his vision and his deep commitment to Catholic Education and we look forward to working together as we continue to support and celebrate Catholic Education in the Province.

This year marks a particularly meaningful milestone for Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. In 1976, the Foundation was founded to ensure equitable funding for Catholic Schools in Ontario. For the last 40 years we have refocused our mandate to promote and celebrate the gift of Catholic Education as a cornerstone of our communities.

Never has it been more important than now to have the vision and values of Jesus. In our broken world we need students, our future leaders and citizens, who are formed in the spirit of the Gospel, inspired by hope and willing and ready to undertake the challenges of the present time.

This mission continues because of the strong partnerships with our families, students, educators, clergy, trustees, education leaders and together we ensure that Catholic Education remains a vibrant presence in Ontario inspiring future generation.

A special thank you to our Board of Directors and all our Catholic Partners. We look forward to seeing you at our events and celebrations that are highlighted in this newsletter. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Easter filled with peace, hope and love.



CEFO NEWS



Message from Executive Director Nick Milanetti

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 26, 2025. Bishop Kasun spoke to the gift of Catholic Education and how fortunate we are to have public funded Catholic education. The 2025 award Catholic Student Award winners names were scrolled at the end of Mass for all the viewers world-wide.

The annual Father Patrick Fogarty Awards Dinner was held on October 25th at the Delta Hotels by Marriott and was a huge success. For over 40 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. It was truly a celebration of all that is good in our Catholic schools as demonstrated by these amazing winners.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario and we plan to celebrate it in style. All of the previous winners of the Catholic Student Award and all of the partners in Catholic education will be invited back to celebrate mass and a reception prior to this years Father Patrick Fogarty Awards Dinner that will be held on October 24th at the Delta Hotel by Marriott 655 Dixon Rd. Toronto. The dinner will also feature an alumni winner who will be the keynote speaker at the dinner.

The talk of Artificial Intelligence is everywhere these days and sometimes it is difficult to discern where does our faith enter in. How can we as discerning believers do and what are the ethical concerns we face as Catholics? To support and encourage this discussion in your schools, we are delighted to host Fr. Jean Gove from the Archdiocese of Malta guest speaker for our virtual lecture this year. Father Gove is a world renowned speaker who is the co-ordinator of the European AI Research Group for Digital and Culture at the Vatican's Dicastery for Culture in Education. We hope that you will all be able to join us to hear Fr. Jean's 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. Catholic Education Week in Ontario, May 3rd-May8th. I encourage you to access the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (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 Lecture Series presents: Rev. Dr. Jean Gové

Artificial Intelligence and our relationship with Technology
from a truly Catholic perspective!

Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm (EST)

Virtual Lecture



Visit our website
www.cefontario.ca
to register.
Tickets are free

Father Jean Gové is a priest from the Archdiocese of Malta. He is the Co-Ordinator of the European AI Research Group for Digital and Culture at the Vatican's Dicastery for Culture in Education.

Fr. Jean is a world-renowned speaker on applying the Magisterial teachings of the church on AI. The Archdiocese of Malta is the first diocese to have a position statement on AI.

Educators are being challenged with new and ever pressing questions regarding the ethical adoption of Ai.

Father Jean will emphasize the need for strong ethical standards and literacy efforts to safeguard society to ensure AI is a tool we can trust. The focus will be on how AI tools function and the inherent shortcomings of AI tools. Fr. Gové will also discuss how

AI can impact interpersonal interactions as well as our relationship with technology. He will also review the critical skills needed to determine when AI tools could hinder a particular situation.



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CEFO CATHOLIC STUDENT AWARD 2026

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 2026 Education Edition of the Catholic Register. **We request nominations prior to the end of June.**

We are excited to celebrate the Foundation's 50th Anniversary this year. Once again, we will host our Fr. Patrick Fogarty Awards Gala on October 24, 2026, at the Delta Hotels Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre. Our student winners will be celebrated on this wonderful evening.

For more details visit our website www.cefontario.ca

Yours in Catholic education,

Nick Milanetti

Executive Director

For more than 40 years, CEFO has been celebrating Catholic students, staff and leadership. CEFO continues to provide monetary awards to schools for projects that support the Catholic School Graduate Expectations and community support. Please assist us through purchasing **50/50 tickets** so that we can continue and extend these supports within Catholic Education.



Order tickets here: cefo.rafflenexus.com or use this QR code

50/50 tickets are:

5-Ticket Pack for \$10,
15-Ticket Pack for \$20,
100-Ticket Pack for \$50,
250-Ticket Pack for \$100

Order deadline: May 4th, 4pm

DRAW: May 5th. 12pm





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), 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 2026; or beginning studies at the University of Waterloo and living in residence at St. Jerome’s beginning in Fall 2026 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.



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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."

Tilia Cruz, Executive Director, CPCO

2026 Carty & Monk Awards

Michael Carty Award

Each year the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) may award grants to secondary or elementary schools up to a maximum of \$2,000.00 per school. The total value of all grants cannot exceed \$10,000.00 designated to support initiatives in the Catholic schools of Ontario.

Michael Monk Award

In recognition of Michael Monk's 40 years of service to Catholic education, locally, provincially, and internationally, this award honors a Catholic elementary or secondary school that has led the way by implementing exemplary innovative program(s) to improve the learning of their students. The award recipient must display a sustained commitment to existing student engagement through a new initiative designed to further engage its student community. This award is jointly funded and administered by the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association and the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario. For 2026, the award is set at \$4000.00.

Visit our website www.cefontario.ca for application details.

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Annual Father Fogarty Awards Dinner

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. Our annual gala, **Father Fogarty Awards Dinner** honours these fine students. We extend our gratitude to the String Quartet of Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts for their excellent musical performance, their conductor Daniela Gassi and to the music department of Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts, TCDSB.



October 25th 2025

Fr. Fogarty Awards Dinner

Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts,
TCDSB

String Quartet

