

Top stories in this newsletter



Mary Eileen Donovan
CEFO President



**King's Social Justice
and Peace Studies
student discusses
importance of awards**



**Warm welcome to
incoming Executive
Director, Ab Falconi**



**Honouring recipients
of the Catholic
Student Award for
2020**



Message from President Mary Eileen Donovan

As 2021 begins, CEFO will have a change of leadership as Don Walker, our present ED, is retiring. We are so grateful to Don for the last 6 years of his passion and commitment to CEFO, his incredible generosity with his time and talent, his vision initiating our lecture series, our newsletter and the tribute film to our Religious Communities as well as his leadership day in and day out of all CEFO activities. We are going to miss you, Don, and wish you every blessing in your retirement.

We are delighted to welcome Ab Falconi as our new Executive Director. Ab comes to us with a wealth of experience in Catholic Education specifically Simcoe Muskoka Catholic School Board and was then appointed the Director of Education of York Region Catholic School Board until he retired in June 2020. His passion for Catholic Education is so evident in everything he does. Ab, we are looking forward to working with you and so thankful for your leadership at this time.

Advent to me has always been a time of waiting for the light in the darkness, of hoping and of trying to slow down to reflect on the gifts and blessings of Christmas. It seems to me that in this unprecedented year of 2020, we have been in an Advent frame of mind for most of year. We have been waiting, hoping and slowing down through the challenges, losses and unexpected gifts during this COVID time.

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, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May God bless you, your families, your loved ones and your colleagues this Christmas with the gifts of hope, love, light, joy and good health.



CEFO NEWS



Message from Executive Director Don Walker

It has been my honour to serve as Executive Director of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario these almost six years. It has given me the opportunity to see the wonderful work done in our schools. I have come to appreciate the vitality and commitment of our educational partners: the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario, the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association of Ontario, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association, and the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education. They join with me in welcoming our new Executive Director, Ab Falconi, as he begins his work in supporting and celebrating Catholic public education in Ontario.

It has been a disappointment this year that because of the COVID pandemic we have had to cancel the Fr. Patrick Fogarty Dinner; it is at this event that we have the opportunity to witness the fruit of Catholic education in the student leaders who are celebrated and in the schools that we recognize for their commitment to community and Church. The experience of these past several months has been unlike we have ever experienced. It has left us cut off from friends and experiences once so familiar that now feel quite distant. I came upon the words of the Irish poet and theologian John O'Donohue who offers a blessing to exiles that I thought appropriate to what many of us have experienced:

Now is the time to hold faithful

To your dream, to understand

That this is the interim time

Full of awkward disconnection.

Slowly a new world will open for you.

The eyes of your heart, refined.

By this desert time, you will be free

To see and to celebrate the new life

For which you have sacrificed ...



CEFO NEWS



Message from incoming Executive Director Ab Falconi

The Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) has a forty-year history of celebrating Catholic Education and being an important partner within the Catholic Educational community. I am excited to join CEFO team to continue and advance this important work. At the outset of this transition, I wish to convey my appreciation to the Board of Directors, President Mary-Eileen Donovan and current Executive Director, Don Walker.

I believe the season of Advent provides each of us the opportunity to reflect, rejoice and rejuvenate. We are called to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. It is especially important that during this time of COVID-19 that each of us use this time to support our families, friends and community. Although this Christmas will be very different from those of the past, in supporting in different ways, I believe that we will be able to be closer together as we endeavour to keep our loved ones as safe as possible.

In the coming months, I look forward to reaching out to our partners, to our continued, collaboration and to celebrating the incredible successes that have been and continue to be achieved in Catholic Education.

Wishing you and your families the blessings of Christmas. God Bless.



Celebrating Excellence in Catholic Education

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA) joins with the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) in congratulating this year's Catholic Student Award recipients. These students are recognized for their service to school, church, and community.

Algonquin & Lakeshore CDSB

Holy Cross C.S.S. - Ashley Mignault
Nicholson Catholic College - Felipe Martinez
Regiopolis-Notre Dame C.S.S. - Amy Mombourquette
St. Paul C.S.S. - Kurtis John Dale
St. Theresa C.S.S. - Carley Vinkle

Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB

Assumption College School - Melina Pappert
Holy Trinity C.H.S. - Michael Dawson

Bruce Grey CDSB

Sacred Heart High School - Maya Hunter
St. Mary's High School - Brianna Kosikar

Dufferin Peel CDSB

Ascension of Our Lord C.S.S. - Yulieth Argueta Byndloss
Cardinal Ambrozic C.S.S. - Joseph Pate
Cardinal Leger C.S.S. - Keana Cavero
Father M. Goetz C.S.S. - Katelyn D'Silva
Holy Name of Mary C.S.S. - Piriyanthica Perazhakan
Iona C.S.S. - Jacob Russo
John Cabot C.S.S. - Ronnel Estrada
Loyola C.S.S. - Tina Colaco
Notre Dame C.S.S. - Aneal Mensah-Bonsu
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel C.S.S. - Anisha Latchman
Philip Pocock C.S.S. - Stefania Kucynski
Robert F. Hall C.S.S. - Antonietta Rugiano
St. Aloysius Gonzaga C.S.S. - Alexander Tjioesman
St. Augustine C.S.S. - Paul Tayag
St. Edmund Campion C.S.S. - Vanessa Mae Go
St. Francis Xavier S.S. - Rhea D'Mello
St. Joseph Secondary School - Sathviga Selvakumar
St. Marcellinus C.S.S. - Sophia Scamurra
St. Marguerite d'Youville C.S.S. - Jessica Wilk
St. Michael C.S.S. - Nathan Cozzi
St. Paul C.S.S. - Ayden Santiago
St. Oscar Romero C.S.S. - Patria Ally Platon-Tica
St. Roch C.S.S. - Belen Fazio Gonnet
St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.S. - Selena Boventura

CDSB of Eastern ON

Holy Trinity C.H.S. - Jessica Vo
Notre Dame C.H.S. - Benjamin Pruner
St. Francis Xavier C.H.S. - Kayla Nault
St. John C.H.S. - Seamus Patrick Kelly
St. Joseph's C.H.S. - Brenna Cameron
St. Mary C.H.S. - Josephine Purcell
St. Matthew C.H.S. - Hailey Seyeau
St. Michael C.H.S. - Mairi Hallman
St. Thomas Aquinas C.H.S. - Rachel Wood

Durham CDSB

All Saints C.S.S. - Arianna Waytowich
Archbishop Denis O'Connor C.S.S. - Julienne Pedraja
Father Leo Austin C.S.S. - Gabriella Velante
Monsignor Paul Dwyer C.S.S. - Jasmin Dindial
Monsignor John Pereyra C.S.S. - Anthony Rozdeba
Notre Dame C.S.S. - Chase Cardoza
St. Mary C.S.S. - Joshua Jacob Punnarana

Halton CDSB

Assumption C.S.S. - Sean Omoseni
Bishop P.F. Reding C.S.S. - Sarah Delanty
Christ the King C.S.S. - Emma Gormley
Corpus Christi C.S.S. - Julia Cipriano
Holy Trinity C.S.S. - Jaymeson Vasilakos McRae
Notre Dame C.S.S. - Mutsa Maposa
St. Francis Xavier C.S.S. - Alisa Robinson
St. Ignatius of Loyola C.S.S. - Rylan Donohoe

Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB

Bishop Ryan C.S.S. - Victoria Dolegowski
Bishop Tonnos C.S.S. - Matthew Wong
Cathedral C.S.S. - Frances Banguis
St. Jean de Brébeuf C.S.S. - Abigail Laufman
St. Mary C.S.S. - Augustus Murphy
St. Thomas More C.S.S. - Sydney Forrester

Huron Superior CDSB

St. Mary's College - Tianna Legacy

Kenora CDSB

St. Thomas Aquinas High School - Clareynze Ceria

London DCSB

Holy Cross C.S.S. - Adrian Roelands
St. Joseph's Catholic High School - Aidan Joers

Niagara CDSB

Blessed Trinity C.S.S. - Jennifer Scott
Denis Morris C.S.S. - Ava Naphin
Lakeshore C.S.S. - Alejandra Cordova Amaya
Saint Francis C.S.S. - Richard Godoy Jr.
Saint Paul Catholic High School - Grant Booth

Nipissing Parry Sound CDSB

St. Joseph-Scollard Hall - Jake Boutillier

Northeastern CDSB

O'Gorman C.S.S. - Tiana Andrews

Ottawa CSB

All Saints High School - Kathryn Jajo-Yacoub
Immaculata High School - Mary Jane Mendez
Notre Dame High School - Sosna Debela
St. Patrick's High School - Thaina Pierre-Louis
St. Mother Teresa High School - Alexia Blick
St. Peter High School - Emily Smith
St. Pius X Catholic High School - Viktor Wozniak

PVNC CDSB

Holy Cross C.S.S. - Lily Briand
Holy Trinity C.S.S. - Kathleen Goodfellow
St. Mary's C.S.S. - Ava Ugolini
St. Peter C.S.S. - Delaney Doughty
St. Stephen's C.S.S. - Skye Clarkson
St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.S. - Kaitlyn D'Sa

Renfrew CDSB

Bishop Smith Catholic High School - Gabrielle Vandergragt
St. Joseph's Catholic High School - Hanna Aileen Curry

Simcoe Muskoka CDSB

Holy Trinity C.S.S. - Michael Dawson
Patrick Fogarty C.S.S. - Elaine Treash
Our Lady of the Bay C.S.S. - Nicholas Franco
St. Dominic C.S.S. - Natalia Madeline Ricci
St. Joan of Arc High School - Madison Campbell
St. Joseph's C.S.S. - Marco Bosco
St. Peter's C.S.S. - Emma Khan
St. Theresa's High School - Katelyn Adams

St. Clair CDSB

St. Patrick's Catholic High School - Kyra Mevis
Ursuline College Chatham - Victoria Frias

Sudbury CDSB

Marymount Academy - Brooke Palladino
St. Benedict C.S.S. - Charlotte Baggio
St. Charles College - Ryan Scarpelini
St. Charles College - Violet Landrie

Thunder Bay CDSB

St. Ignatius High School - Isabella Bosch
St. Patrick High School - Carmen Wessel

Toronto CDSB

Bishop Allen Academy - Jake Pereira
Bishop Marrocco/T. Merton C.S.S. - Leana Costa
Fr. Henry Carr C.S.S. Samantha - Maranath Hormiz
Loretto Abbey - Alondra Pepe
Loretto College C.S.S. - Amoreena Taglioni
Madonna C.S.S. - Grace Oha
Marshall McLuhan C.S.S. - Fabiana Cariati
Msgr. Percy Johnson C.S.S. - Isabella Di Felice
St. Basil-the-Great College School - Jean-Paul D'Andrea
St. John Henry Newman C.H.S. - Chloe Panganiban
St. Joseph's Morrow Park C.S.S. - Chelsey Mae Urica
St. Mary Catholic Academy - Rose Ann Bautista
St. Michael's Choir School - Shayne Kallukalam Joseph
St. Mother Teresa Catholic Academy - Ivan Calara
St. Patrick C.S.S. - Nathaniel Mimay

Waterloo CDSB

Msgr. Doyle C.S.S. - Kevin Sebastian
Resurrection C.S.S. - Rachel Huhse
St. Benedict - Victoria Joseph
St. David - Isabella Maher
St. Mary's - Keziah Babu Mukatel

Wellington CDSB

Bishop Macdonell C.S.S. - Jordan Occhiuto
Our Lady of Lourdes C.S.S. - Paul Entice

Windsor-Essex CDS

Assumption College School - Michael Slusarczyk
Catholic Central H.S. - Stevan Hanna
St. Thomas of Villanova H.S. - Matthew Ducharme

York CDSB

Cardinal Carter C.S.S. - Matthew Palandra
Fr. Bressani C.S.S. - Alyssa Pain
St. Michael McGivney CA - Mathushan Sugirthanraj
Our Lady of the lake C.S.S. - Nicholas Drenikow
St. Augustine C.S.S. - Zinnia Chung
St. Brother André C.H.S. - Angel Abraham
St. Jean de Brebeuf C.S.S. - Tristan Young
St. Robert C.S.S. - Jeongmin (Dorothy) Hong
St. Theresa of Lisieux C.S.S. - Rubey Wong
St. Theresa of Lisieux C.S.S. - Julia Bullard

Independent

St. Michael's College - Carlos Sebastian Vinasco-Lasso

CDSC Franco Nord

É.s.c. Élisabeth-Bruyère - Alexander Gingras

CDSC Nouvel ON

É.s.c. Champlain - Miranda Pichette
É.s.c. Franco Ouest - Christen Ramsay
É.s.c. l'Horizon - Caleb Langlois
É.s.c. Saint-Joseph - Nicolas Lafrenière
École secondaire Notre-Dame-du-Sault - Cassandra Breckenridge
École secondaire du Sacré-Cœur - Angelina Jacques
Collège Notre-Dame - Karine Boucher

CDSC Centre Est

É.s.c. Garneau - Isabelle Larocque
C.S.C. Jeanne-Lajoie - Jacob Larivière
É.s.c. Pierre-Savard - Isabel Fitzpatrick

CDSCCS

É.s.c. Franco-Cité - Sara Mailloux

Catholic Student Award recipients who have applied to and have been accepted by the following post-secondary Catholic institutions have been awarded scholarships of \$500: Brescia University College (University of Western Ontario), King's University College (University of Western Ontario), Loretto Residence (at the University of Toronto), St. Jerome's University (Waterloo University), University of St. Michael's College (University of Toronto). We gratefully acknowledge their partnership and generosity.

For over 40 years the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario has promoted Catholic education in Ontario through its recognition program of student achievement, research in Catholic education, and support of Catholic education leadership.

CEFO is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act (#118840917RR0001) and issues tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more.

Please consider helping CEFO in its support of Catholic education by remembering it in your will.

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Catholic
Education
Foundation
of Ontario



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

Congratulations to the scholarship recipients of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario Student Award Partnerships



King's University College, Western University Canada

Jackson Gilson (high school: Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School, London DCSB)

St. Michael's College, University of Toronto

Carlos Sebastian Vinasco-Lasso (high school: St. Michael's College, Toronto)

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 writing to thank you for the Catholic Student Award. I could not have been more thrilled when I learned that I had contributed enough to merit the commendation of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario....Whether it be in my parish or as a volunteer at a local food bank, I will do what I can for others." Paul

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being the recipient of Catholic Student award. It is a great honour. I am proud to be Catholic and enjoy being involved in all the activities and events that promote my faith and values." Matthew



Jack Gilson, recipient of the King's Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario Entrance Award, says receiving the award will allow him to focus on his studies.

Jack Gilson, a first-year Social Justice and Peace Studies student, is a recipient of the King's Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario Entrance Award.

Gilson says he is honoured that his high school, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, recognized him for this award. "What makes it extra meaningful is that it isn't an award based solely on academic merit, but my personal qualities and actions they feel made me a good candidate," he says.

The recipient of three entrance scholarships and awards at King's, Gilson says receiving the awards allows him to focus on his classes instead of needing to get a job. "As a first-year student, my academics are my priority," he says.

Upon visiting King's while in Grade 9, Gilson says he knew it would be an environment where he would be able to succeed and was very excited to learn about the Social Justice and Peace Studies program. As someone who is looking for a career in education, Gilson says Social Justice and Peace Studies is "perfect because it has a great pathway for entering into teachers college after my undergrad. I love the flexibility the program offers, so if my goals were ever to change I could easily my studies in Social Justice and Peace Studies for jobs in law or politics, which are two other fields I'm interested in," he explains.

Although this isn't the first year he envisioned, Gilson says he is thoroughly enjoying his studies. "All of my professors have been very accommodating and have worked hard to make sure this is a successful year for everyone," he says.

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 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.

To learn more about entrance scholarships, please visit
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/future-students/finances/funding/entrance-scholarships/>

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

CEFO joins with CPCO in congratulating two worthy recipients of the CPCO scholarship of \$1000.

Sophia Fielding, Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB

Sophia attended Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School, and is currently a first year student at McMaster University studying social sciences.

Victoria Frias, St. Clair CDSB

Victoria is a grade 12 student at Ursuline College, Chatham, and she hopes to attend Guelph University to study political science.

CEFO NEWS



Reflecting on Chaplaincy during a Pandemic

Danielle Savo
Chaplain

**Our Lady Queen of the World Academy
York Catholic District School Board**

Chaplaincy is a unique gift of the Catholic Education System. Chaplains offer staff and students opportunities for spiritual nourishment and provide a safe space for those who seek support from a compassionate adult. This certainly has not changed. The pandemic has, however, challenged chaplains to find creative ways to connect with students and staff who are not always physically present. Statistics suggest that incident reporting is down, which begs the question, how many are suffering in isolation? Recognizing this, chaplains are now utilizing the social media platforms our students are familiar with in order to offer opportunities for communal prayer, social engagement, new evangelization, and positive messaging rooted in Gospel values.

The retreat program has also been a long-standing practice in Catholic schools. As such, it has remained a priority for chaplains to continue to offer opportunities for detachment and spiritual grounding, ensuring students are armed with positive coping mechanisms and spiritual outlets. Sacramental participation has also shifted to smaller, socially distant gatherings or virtual masses, calling for the close collaboration of local parishes and school chaplains.

Now, more than ever, the role of Chaplains is vital for the holistic development of our children as they navigate these uncharted waters and experience the physiological and emotional challenges that accompany adolescence.

CEFO NEWS

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops—Journey through Advent



To follow the series:

<https://www.cccb.ca/liturgy-sacraments/resources-in-english/liturgical-calendar/video-reflections/>

On Monday, November 23 2020 the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) announced a new online weekly video series created to help Canadian Catholic faithful to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Entitled *Journey through Advent*, the series is a joint project involving the CCCB's *Office nationale de liturgie*, the National Liturgy Office, and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis. The initiative was developed as a way, through the modern method of video messaging, to offer a resource that enriches faith formation during a time of joyful anticipation for the coming of the Lord and Saviour into the world.

The videos serve as an introduction to the liturgical Season and present reflections on the Gospel readings for each Sunday in Advent. The Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton and the Most Reverend Pierre Goudreault, Bishop of Saint-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, provide spiritual and pastoral guidance on the readings that illustrate the true meaning of Christmas.

This video series is especially relevant given the COVID-19 pandemic that places limitations on in-person gatherings for faith communities. It is hoped that *Journey through Advent* will be a source of deep spiritual solace and insightful preparation for all. **In Catholic school settings, these videos may be a source of inspiration for trustees, supervisory officers, chaplaincy leaders, school principals, staff gatherings (Covid-19 style) and in senior religious education classes. Please feel free to share this information and add the links to your own websites.**

The videos will be available on the CCCB website each Monday in advance of the upcoming Sunday celebration (23 November, 30 November 7 December and 14 December).