



CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
CHAPLAINS OF ONTARIO

# NEWSLETTER

## MISSION:

CSCO exists to develop, support, and promote the profession of Catholic School Chaplaincy in Ontario.

## VISION:

Working in unity with all partners in Catholic education in Ontario, witnessing to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## VALUES:

- Being Christ-centered in all our efforts, decisions and encounters
- Unity, joy and collegiality among our members
- On-going faith formation and professional development
- Advocacy for the vocation and profession of Catholic School Chaplaincy
- Collaboration with our partners in Catholic Education



## *From the Editor/Vice- President*

Hello friends,

Welcome to the Advent edition of the CSCO newsletter. I can only imagine how much has been on your plate so far this year and how much we share the longing for God's grace to sustain us in the many aspects of our lives. I don't know exactly what your days look like, however, I do know this: you are doing good work. Whether you are new or years into this ministry, you are where God has led you to be.

On top of all our respective busy-ness, the things that are happening in the world right now adds a certain weight. For me, the reality of life, its unpredictability, was made even more evident when on November 4th, one of our own, Dr. Dcn. Dominic Pullano, suddenly passed away. I knew Dominic: he was working in the Halton board when I was hired. He was also on the CSCO Executive for many years. He was a big part of the creation of our By-laws, our Constitution, our Code of Conduct. He was a colleague, a mentor and a friend. It didn't help that a few weeks later, it was the anniversary of my brother's death, which impacted me more this year because I had already been primed with grief over Dominic. Grief, my old friend, dropped by for a lengthy visit this year. And suddenly, here we are in Advent, with its themes of waiting, hopeful promise, assurance of peace, love and joy. Forgive me if I'm not leading the charge into Advent this year.

These themes of Advent come together in those beautiful words of Mary, after she sees her cousin, Elizabeth and she proclaims the *Magnificat*. I hang on to those words, and I cling to the faith of these two women to carry me through these current times. I lean into Mary's faith and her witness when my own faith is tenuous. I'm not sure how this will come to be, only that God comes through on God's promises. I know we will be astounded and amazed when it happens--much like the shepherds, the wise men, the disciples, the crowds and the many people whose lives were changed or healed because of Jesus. (cont'd on page 2)

Because of recent events, I have been doing a lot of reflecting on my own Chaplaincy, Chaplaincy in Ontario, CSCO and how far we have come as an organization, and the grace of having been raised in a system that hired lay Chaplains. Much of my life has been shaped by Chaplaincy, and it was a Chaplain who pointed me in the direction of studying theology which led me to being hired as a Chaplain. It's an incredible thread in my life when I think about it.

It does not cease to astound me that here we are, a good number of us who have readily chosen this vocation. We willingly become the "Church Ladies" (a little nod to that classic SNL skit) in our schools, but less dramatic and far more pastoral! We walk with students and staff in a myriad of situations, with pressures from all sides, while also tending to our loved ones and trying to make time for our own tired souls.

So, let's do better than our best to squeeze in some time for ourselves this Advent, to ponder as Mary did, the ways Christ is making himself known to us and within us... "Lean on him and discover a rest so deep, restorative and refreshing. A rest that helps us hope again." (Caroline Pignat, **Word Made Flesh: Daily Reflections for Advent 2023**. Novalis, 20.) I couldn't have said it any better!

Blessings to you all this Advent, and may it be a season of hope, peace, joy and love for us and for all whom we love.

## IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue you will find:

\*two reflections in "In the Vineyard" by Lorenzo Campanelli, Halton Chaplain; and Leanne Davis, Ottawa Chaplain and CSCO Member-at-large.

\*Songs for your Advent playlist--some of you may already know these songs, and what great songs they are!

\*prayers of petitions for the season of Advent

\*videos and resources for you and your ministry; two of which are an hour each: one by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, the other is a conversation between Fr. David Neuhaus SJ and Fr Russell Pollitt SJ on the Israel-Gaza war. If you do not have time yet to watch this conversation, there is a link to an article beside the link to the video.

\*this edition closes with an Advent prayer by Ted Loder taken from one of his books, **My Heart in My Mouth: Prayers for Our Lives**. Feel free to use this in your own prayer life or in your ministry.



*We are called to work in God's vineyard. (Matt. 20.1-16). We each have been doing this for various lengths of time. Each newsletter will feature one of our members sharing stories and perspective from their area of God's vineyard.*

### CSCO: Simply the Best!

CSCO has been like a family to me. I love all of you, like my brothers, like my sisters. The Conference, what can I say: this is the event of the year! It's the culmination of a year of hard work. Being and growing with my fellow pilgrims. We are companions on the journey. I began chaplaincy with the Halton CDSB 2nd semester of 2002, and I will end this leg of the race on January 31, after several fulfilling years at Loyola, Assumption, Bishop Reding and Holy Trinity CSS's.

Back to the Conference, it has been an absolute pleasure praying with you, connecting and catching up, listening and learning, eating and drinking, partying, and celebrating the Eucharist. Can't wait to get back to Mount Carmel next April! This annual event recharges me, so I'm ready for another exciting year of high school chaplaincy.

Looking back, five years as CSCO VP, was the highlight. With President Jolene at the helm, the Executive Team worked tirelessly for you. It was challenging, for sure, but I just remember having so much fun with the Team members. Being a part of the Executive, it gave me a whole new perspective of CSCO. I got to know a lot of different chaplains from all over the province. We're all so different but we're an amazing group of people.

God bless you all!

*Lorenzo Campanelli  
Chaplaincy Leader with  
Halton Catholic District  
School Board  
retiring January 31, 2024*



# MILESTONES

For our members who are:

- \*celebrating work anniversaries...
- \*getting married and/or starting new families...
- \*new to Chaplaincy and CSCO...
- \*are empty-nesters and re-creating themselves and their homes...
- \*reaching birthday milestones...
- \*about to retire...

**Lord, hear our prayers...**

Now is the hour to wake from sleep. Let us prepare the way of the Lord and wait with watchful patience. Emmanuel, God with us, come into our lives.

Light of the World, we enter this season of Advent with hearts full of longing for your coming. We know your presence among us, and yet we pray: **Come and do not delay!**

In the darkness of our world, give us humility to acknowledge what keeps us from you: **Come and do not delay!**

In the darkness of our world, give us insight to recognize the needs of our neighbours: **Come and do not delay!**

In the darkness of our world, give us passion to create a more just society: **Come and do not delay!**

In the darkness of our world, help us bring hope to those who despair: **Come and do not delay!**

*Prince of Peace, is the hour for us to wake from the sleep of doubt and fear. Help us greet this holy season with eager longing for your message and confident hope of your future coming. Amen!*

\*Intercessions of Mercy: Prayers by Members of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Compiled, edited and expanded by Joy Clough, RSM. 2009. 16.



## For all the faithful departed:

For Dr. Dcn. Dominic Pullano, retired Chaplain, Adult Faith Formation Director, former CSCO President, and friend, mentor and colleague, who passed away suddenly on Nov. 4, 2023.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.*



We are called to work in God's vineyard. (Matt. 20.1-16). We each have been doing this for various lengths of time. Each newsletter will feature one of our members sharing stories and perspective from their area of God's vineyard.

### I'm in need of a holy thief this Advent season!

Really cool faith resource platforms offer subscriptions (\$\$\$) and are especially enticing in our chaplaincy ministry when we are looking for the perfect prayer or activity to share with our schools. One platform I choose to invest in is The Work of the People: a spiritually visual library that provides a creative space to inquiry about God and being human. As I approach Advent, I am feeling every bit of my human body and its limitations, and find myself perusing the video archive looking for a place to land.

I am 14 months into an unresolved meniscus tear in my right knee. I am literally and spiritually limping into Advent with a cane that has become an unwelcome part of my identity. Spiritually and emotionally, I am preparing for a "different" journey through the Advent season, I can feel it in my bones – well, maybe just my knee.

Nadia Bolz-Weber's reflection on the Holy Thief has pierced through my cynicism and offered me a flicker of hope as I ready myself to lead a school faith community into Advent. Her reflection on the package of readings that mark our Advent journey draws attention to the fact that the readings are not always cozy, hope-filled messages about cute baby Jesus in the manger. She invites us to welcome Jesus as a "holy thief" (1 Thess 5.2) and I am so ready for a holy thief this year.

I am ready to let Jesus break into my life and take stuff that is no longer serving me. I would love for him to steal my pain, my lack of joy and my cynicism about my condition – just take it Jesus, I'll leave it right next to the unlocked door for easy access. These things are cluttering my normal light heartedness & positive spirit and Nadia has encouraged me to consider letting them go (actually letting them be taken – see that shift in power?) to make more space to receive God's love and God's light.

I'll be fluffing up my Advent wreaths this week, but I'm getting a few garbage bags ready, too. I'm ready to declutter and make some space for God to do the rest. I will pray that you can make space to receive God's love and light this Advent season.

Many blessings on your journey,  
Leanne Davis, Ottawa Catholic



# Bulletin Board

Monthly Mass will be celebrated/has been celebrated for CSCO members:

**Friday, January 20, 2023 @ 1 p.m. -**  
Holy Redeemer Parish, Sudbury.

**Thursday, February 16, 2023 @ 12 Noon -**  
Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King,  
Hamilton.

**Saturday, March 11, 2023 @ 5 p.m. -**  
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception  
Cathedral, Kingston.

**Wednesday, April 12, 2023 @ 9:30 a.m. -**  
Notre Dame L'Assomption Cathedral,  
Hearst.

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023 @ 12 Noon -**  
St. Peter's Cathedral, London.

**Friday, June 16, 2023 @ 12:10 p.m. -**  
St. Peter-in-Chains, Peterborough.



Monthly Mass will be celebrated/has been celebrated for CSCO members:

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023 @ 12:10 p.m.-**  
St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish,  
Timmins

**Thursday, August 17, 2023 @ 12:10 p.m. -**  
Cathedral of St. Columbkille, Pembroke.

**Sunday, September 10, 2023 @ 11 a.m. -**  
Holy Redeemer Parish, Sudbury.

**Saturday, October 14, 2023 @ 12:10 p.m. -**  
St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Toronto.

**Sunday, November 19, 2023 @ 11:30 a.m.-**  
Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria,  
St. Catharine's.

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023 @ 9 a.m. -**  
Precious Blood Cathedral, Sault Ste. Marie



## Conference News:

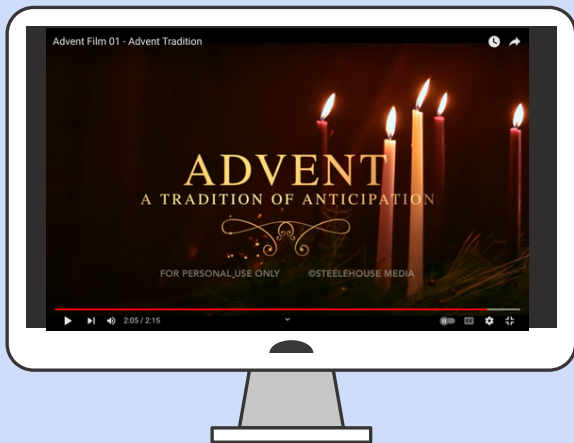
Click the logo for the link to register, if you haven't yet!  
There are still rooms available at Mt. Carmel!

# Together

We had a great PD experience with Dr. Anne Jamieson on Nov. 22nd! Join us Jan. 25th for another PD session with Dr. Cathy Clifford...link will be sent in the new year.



# SOMETHING FOR YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY...



## Save the Date

- Nov. 22: PD with Dr. Anne Jamieson
- Dec. 2/3: First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 25: Christmas
- Jan. 1: Feast of Mary, Mother of God
- Jan. 25: PD with Dr. Cathy Clifford
- Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day
- Mar. 24: Palm Sunday
- Mar. 28: Holy Thursday
- Mar. 29: Good Friday
- Mar. 30: Easter Vigil
- Mar. 31: Easter
- April 16-18: CSCO Conference
- May 5-10: Catholic Education Week

## SOME SONGS FOR YOUR ADVENT PLAYLIST

O Come  
-The Porter's Gate

Benedictus  
-The Porter's Gate

O Come, O Come  
Emmanuel  
-Sunday 7 p.m. Choir

Instrument of Peace  
-The Canadian Tenors

Advent Song for Kids  
-Alexandra Montano,  
performed by  
Lacy/CatholicCing



Scan the QR code  
if you would like to contribute to the CSCO  
Newsletter in any way!



# FAITH, CULTURE & CHAPLAINCY



**How to Truly Love Yourself**

Featuring  
**Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI**  
 President of the Oblate  
 School of Theology

03.16.17

0:11 / 57:59



## PRAY FOR PEACE

**What the hell is going on in Gaza?**

A dialogue between Fr David Neuhaus SJ and Fr Russell Pellitt SJ.

Thursday 7 December 2023

GAZA غزة

0:01 / 1:03:56

## We Watch and Wait for You

Hidden God,  
wherever you are  
in your own kind of space,  
we watch and wait for you  
to startle us to wakeful newness  
in this Advent season.

Come and thrust into us  
the spirit of daring and courage  
to make flesh on earth  
a bit of the kingdom of heaven.

Come to open the inns  
of our minds and hearts  
to the miracles of your compassion  
and purpose as Jesus demonstrated them.

Come and make  
your own transforming way  
in the desert of our confusion  
and wilderness of me and mine,  
so we may walk with Jesus the hard way  
of justice, mercy, and peace among the  
people of earth.

Come and lift up the valleys  
of our discouragement and doubt  
and denial,  
and make level the mountains  
of our greed and pride,  
so we may see your glory  
revealed once more  
in us and in all our brothers and sisters,  
from the shepherd least to the magi lofty.

Come and fulfill through us Mary's vision  
of mercy stretching to all generations,  
of the proud scattered,  
the powerful punctured,  
of the rich emptied and the poor filled,  
and our lives magnifying your grace.

Come lace our songs, our shopping,  
our celebrations  
with your mystery  
and strange magnificence,  
and let us sense it in the small,  
strange stirrings of the earth  
and of our hearts, now and always.  
Amen.

Ted Loder, *My Heart in My Mouth: Prayers for Our Lives*,  
104-5.