



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 Vice President:

Hello everyone.

I hope this finds you as well as can be in your respective schools and ministries throughout our beautiful province. I have been meaning to get this newsletter out to you MUCH sooner than now. I apologize. I know how important it is that we be connected in our ministries through things like this newsletter. I won't go into the busy-ness of things, because I know you can all relate. This year just seems...*different*. **We** are different.

So much has happened in the past two and half years, and more has happened during and since and perhaps some of us are feeling overwhelmed. What I am sensing is that we have picked up where we left off in early March 2020 in a rush to get back to "normal" forgetting that we now have "battle scars" and "war wounds" from how the pandemic affected us personally and how we rose to the many challenges we faced professionally. I know this is the last thing we want to hear: we have had enough of the "p-word".



From the Vice President, cont'd.

It's no secret though—it's going to take some years to recover, and we aren't really out of it yet! In addition to recovering and moving forward, things are still happening to challenge our sensibilities: the war in Ukraine, extreme climate events, mass shootings and political turmoil of all kinds continue to tax our hope. While Advent is around the corner, I can easily resonate with the deep longing and desperation for hope the Israelites must have had. *God, where are you in this mess? Where is Your Christ to make real the words of Mary's Magnificat?*

When I think about all of us in Chaplaincy in this time in history, I can't help but think of Henri Nouwen's ***The Wounded Healer***. We are called to care and lead, while at the same time tending to our own wounds. We have overcome so much and we shall continue to overcome the tomorrows that are waiting for us, come what may. Our God is a "God-with-us", a God who knows what life is like on this side of heaven.

Christ gives us the assurance that we are not lost, least, or last. This same God promises to be with us and that we do not do this work alone. I know I sometimes forget that: I can get caught up thinking that it's up to me to do everything at the school, come up with the perfect prayers and programs, be the excellent facilitator, be everything to all people. That might have been St. Paul's gift, it's not mine. I can rise to the challenges, yet, if I do, and do it somewhat well, it's not on my own merit. It's the Spirit of God who fills in the gaps of the few skills I have. I do not do this alone.

As we close this liturgical year, and begin a new one, let us echo Mary's Magnificat, despite and in spite of the headlines. We cannot imagine what God will do, only that *God will do!*

Yours in Christ, Adriana Rerecich
CSCO VP & Chaplaincy Leader
@ Assumption CSS, Burlington



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 am very grateful to be able to start a school year with great optimism and enthusiasm for many activities that we have not been able to do in the last few years. With that being said, it has been a very busy start to the year organizing activities for many classes and groups. The positive side to getting things back to normal provides opportunities to try new things and that is what I have been working on for some of the retreats for our classes. Our grade 12 religion classes will be participating in a street mission. The students will be preparing and delivering packaged meals for 200 people as well as collecting and handing out blankets, sleeping bags, coats and a selection of clothing and hygiene items.

Our grade 10 religion classes have started their Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) projects. The students choose a social issue which they are passionate about and find a local charity they would like to make connections with. During the semester they organize an in-person interview and take a tour of the charity. For their final presentation they are responsible for a 10 minute presentation that shares information about what they learned and why the charity deserves to be given \$5000 which is

In Memoriam



**Rev. James Terrance
Mulligan CSC
1942 - 2022**



Rev. James Terrance Mulligan, CSC, 80, died at Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital, St. Catharines, ON, October 5, 2022, after a lengthy illness. Fr. James was a pillar in Catholic Education. He published a number of works on issues such as the theology of the Separate School Trustee, on Evangelization and the Catholic High School, and other works on the future and enduring future of Catholic Education. For his work in Catholic Education, he received many awards over the years including Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award, Honourary Fellow at St. Mary's University College, Calgary. Locally he was recognized as a Distinguished Educator, Niagara Catholic District School Board and Distinguished Alumni Award, NCDSB. He was especially proud of beginning his work with the annual Pilgrimage which he looked forward to each October. He saw this as a way of helping students engage in social justice issues in a concrete manner. Many Chaplains from the past and currently remember him, remember his warmth, and have been inspired by his friendship, his pastoral care and his example.

His funeral was held on Wed. Oct. 12, 2022. For his obituary, [click here](#).

In November,

we remember...



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon
them. May their souls, and the souls of
all the Faithful departed, rest in peace.*



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donated through the YPI organization. The group that won last year was moved by their ability to give back to their community because of the work they did for their project and they encouraged this year's cohort to choose a charity that they are passionate about because it becomes important to them to do something for their charity and that it is not just another project.

On September 30 our school honoured the Truth and Reconciliation Day with a school Mass in the morning followed by a smudging ceremony hosted by one of our students on our soccer field in the afternoon.

Deb Legace

School Chaplain, Sacred Heart High School



*A little bit of this,
a little bit of that...*

Reach Out

(Anti-Bullying Week 2022) -
anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk



Nov. 21-25: Bullying Awareness Week

**Stay tuned: PD for CSCO members on
Escape Rooms, presented by Nick Ali,
Chaplaincy Leader in Ottawa.**

**Dec. 9th @ 10 am: Advent Retreat for
CSCO members! Zoom link will be sent
out.**

**Dec. 12th: 1 - 3 p.m. @ Cathedral
Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton
Special Presentation by The
Honourable Graydon Nicholas.**

Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday

April 9: Easter Sunday!

April 12-14, 2023: CSCO Conference

On my playlist:

Amazing Grace
(Alex Boye w/ The
Five Strings)

Undivided (Tim
McGraw w/ Tyler
Hubbard)

Pumpin Blood
(NONONO)

Someone to You
(Banners)

Rather Be (Bandit,
feat. Jess Glynne)

**Scan the QR
code to
contribute
to the CSCO
Newsletter!**





Reimagining Ministry

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." – Matthew 18:20

CSCO Chaplain's Conference 2023 Update

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is looking forward to seeing everyone in person in the spring for our annual CSCO conference and AGM. **Set in the heart of the beautiful 1000 Islands in Gananoque please join us at the Glen House Resort from April 12-14th, 2023.** Our theme is this year is: Reimagining Ministry which is linked to the biblical text: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." – Matthew 18:20

This conference will include our annual AGM along with our keynote speaker Dr. Bernardine Ketelaars who is the Director of Lay and Pastoral Formation at St. Peter's Seminary in London and lecturer in mission and ministry, catechesis, and theological reflection.

Various workshops will be held including one for new Chaplains, time for reflection and the celebration of the Eucharistic to name a few.

Mark your calendars as registration will be opening soon!

Peace to all!

Gordie Van Putten, Chaplaincy Leader of St. Joseph's CSS in Cornwall, ON
and Planning Committee Chair.



For CSCO Members

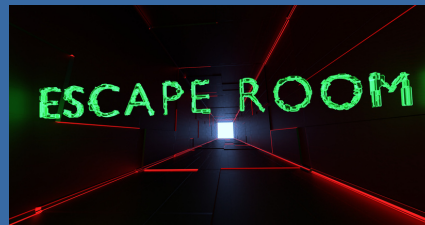
*Mass will be said for CSCO members
on the following dates:*



*Friday, January 20, 2023 @ 1 p.m. &
Sunday, September 10, 2023 @
11 a.m. Both at:*



Holy Redeemer Parish, Sudbury, Ontario.

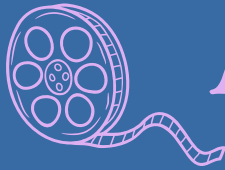


Do you want to learn how to engage staff and students in a creative way? Have you wanted to try and facilitate an escape room but didn't quite know how?

Nick Ali will show us the "ins" and "outs" of creating this experience for our communities.

This will take place over zoom on (date to be determined). Registration for this will take place closer to the event.

Stay tuned for more info!



Advent is coming...

John Pungente, SJ, & Monty Williams, SJ have put together another resource to help us make faith come alive, this time in Advent. **Advent Goes to the Movies: Finding God Through Film** (2021) is a great little resource that includes 3 adult movies for each week, and one for younger viewers. These are accompanied by reflections and questions to help us go deeper into the themes. This is easily adaptable to follow on your own, with family members, in a parish or school setting.



Another great Advent resource comes from the McGrath Institute for Church Life. They offer a **Digital Advent + Christmas Crèche Calendar**. Once you sign up, you will receive a daily email starting the first Sunday of Advent through January 9, 2023, with an image of a crèche from a different part of the world, accompanied by a reflective description written by faculty and staff members of the McGrath Institute for Church Life, as well as several members of the campus ministry staff of St. John's University in Queens, New York.

To find out more and to sign up:
<https://mcgrath.nd.edu/events/creche-exhibit/>

Advent Retreat for
CSCO Members:
Fri. Dec. 9, 2022
@ 1:00 p.m.
Over zoom
Link will be sent out
that week!



Worth the Read:
The difference between optimism and hope — and which one Christians should practice.
(From America Magazine)

Advent

Resources:

Loyola Press
IgnatianSpirituality.org
Catholic Central
Busted Halo's InstaAdvent Photo Challenge!

A prayer for the end of the Liturgical Year

Tender God, Breath of Life,
before we were born You imprinted Your Spirit on our souls,
and poured Your love into our hearts.
Through years of growing pains and losses,
triumphs and troubles,
You have sustained us with Your love.
Today we offer back to You the stories of our lives.

We offer You all the dreams we have dared to dream;
and our yearnings deep inside;
the tears that have gushed in our souls,
and filled our eyes to overflowing.
We offer You the compromises that have diminished us
and those that have made us strong.
Accept anew all our fears and doubts, our guilt and regrets.
Accept all the risks we have taken and those we were too afraid to take;
We give You all our losses and the empty places they have left inside us.

We offer You all those whose hearts are melded to ours:
those who have loved us and those whose words of affirmation
are imprinted on our hearts.
We offer You those who challenge us to risk and grow;
who recognize our gifts and enable us to use them,
urging us to be all that we can be.
We offer You those who try us with their words and deeds;
and those who have broken our hearts.

We put before You, loving God,
all that we are,
all that we have ever done;
and owned,
and loved.
Take our stories and make them holy,
imperfect offerings to You
in thanksgiving for the gift of life.
Amen.

(from [Together We Pray: Prayers and Services for Gatherings
and Groups](#) by Carmen L. Caltagirone. 2005. p. 101.)



www.cscoco.ca

