



CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CHAPLAINS OF ONTARIO

NEWSLETTER

From the President



MISSION:

CSCCO 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



Dear CSCCO members,

Welcome to a new year of Chaplaincy ministry in our Catholic schools here in Ontario.

I am very pleased to send this letter on behalf of all Executive Members. I hope and pray that you had an opportunity to relax and rejuvenate in the company of friends and family during this time.

There are a few things that I would like to bring to your attention. As you probably already know, the theme for Catholic Education Week 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope" following from Pope Francis' choice of the same theme for the Jubilee Year in 2025.

We have several of our members involved in When Faith Meets Pedagogy this year with Genevieve Anderson giving a workshop on behalf of CSCCO and other members doing workshops on behalf of their school boards. We hope to see some of you at the conference.

We are planning a virtual PD opportunity in the form of a Zoom retreat during Advent with the theme of Pilgrimage, the date will be chosen and more information will come soon.

The membership form for your renewal is attached to this letter, please fill it out and get it in as soon as you can, remembering that if you send a cheque or your board does they need to be made out to Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario (not CSCCO) and all renewals need to have a form sent in to our membership coordinator, Joe Rogers.

We are also excited to remind you of the Conference that is being planned for next spring in Niagara Falls under the direction of the Niagara Catholic Board. The conference poster is in our newsletter.

We also are able to look forward to our continuing Newsletters which will send more information, inspiration and practical ideas. We would love to see your contributions in the newsletter so please consider contacting Adriana if interested.

If you have any questions or ideas please contact one of your Executive members. Wishing you the best and praying for your success and enjoyment this school year.

Peace, Dean Woodbeck

IN THIS ISSUE

Summer seems like a dream ago...As the excitement for a new school year fills our days and our imaginations, you will find various things in this issue to feed your spiritual mind and your professional reality. In this issue you will find:

- an article written by Eric Clayton, deputy director of Communications at the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. His articles speak to the ordinariness of life and how each moment can lead us deeper into the mystery of God and God's friendship;
- intentions for our prayers this new start;
- hors d'oeuvres for your ministry;
- information on the Villa St. Joseph in Cobourg, an ecology retreat option for your personal growth;
- **our Bulletin board which has several links: the membership form for this current year, a link to a form where you might want to provide your talents for upcoming workshops either at our conferences, for our own professional development and/or for When Faith Meets Pedagogy--we would like to generate a pool of talent for these opportunities (page 5); and a form link if you wish to receive a free book, a gift from your CSCO Executive (page 5);**
- a talk by Ann Garrido from the NCEA 2019 conference on grace in the 21st century (page 4);
- a talk by Dr. A. J. Levine, helping us understand the Jewishness of Jesus and how his listeners would have heard what he taught (page 4);
- 1 of the 4 talks Dr. Josie Lombardi gave through the CCCB on the prayer of the Our Father;
- some options for online faith formation by different academic institutions;
- and the newsletter ends with a prayer for your personal use or to use in your ministry as well as a mindful moment for those who suffer from "monkey brain";
- Finally, I'm in the process of getting masses said for us each month throughout the province.
- Correction: the article by Norm Roberts was not properly cited in our previous newsletter (Lent 2024: Issue #27). This is the correct citation: "The Gift of Chaplaincy" by Norm Roberts. **Fall 2021. Volume 25.Issue 1.**
Principal Connections publication entitled Serve.

Keep up the good work that you are doing. Be gentle with yourselves and try not to doubt the good that you are doing--it takes time to grow into greatness! And trust that God is walking with you and working behind the scenes though you may not always see it!

If you have ideas for topics or resources from which we could all benefit, please use the QR code on page 4 and I will be in touch with you regarding the details and logistics!

Cheers, Adriana Rerecich



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.

Now Discern This: When's the Wedding Going to Start? by Eric Clayton

We sat in white folding chairs, sun beating down on our necks, as we waited for the bride.

"When's the wedding going to start?" our youngest asked. She squirmed in her frilly rainbow dress. She couldn't decide if she wanted to stare out at the lake or keep her eyes trained on the door behind us — that was where the bride would appear.

"Soon," we said. We offered her a cup of water, checked in on our oldest. Both girls were anxious, excited. It was their first wedding. The groomsmen appeared. Then the grandparents and the parents and the bridesmaids and finally the bride. The girls were in awe.

"When's the wedding going to start?" our youngest asked, grinning as the bride passed.

"Right now," we said. "It's starting." The ceremony got underway, all smiles and tears and joy. Opening remarks, a few nervous giggles, the joining of hands.

"When's the wedding going to start?" My wife and I glanced at each other. She leaned in, offered some insight to our squirrely daughter. I decided to heft her up and into the air. "Can you see alright?" I asked. She nodded; I put her down. I straightened my blue tie. I said something about the forthcoming promises of eternal love. Rings were exchanged and vows were said and a kiss was shared and —

"When's the wedding going to start?"

It became clear in that moment that our youngest was not getting the whole wedding thing. The event was quite nearly over.

Lord, hear our prayers...

The God of life is in our midst, breathing energy and compassion into our hearts. We lift our voices in prayer and praise, as we say: Generous God, please fill our hearts.

We pray for the gift of gratitude, that we may be thankful for life and for its renewal each day:
Generous God, please fill our hearts.

We pray for the gift of hope, that we may be able to meet the challenges of each day with courage and conviction:
Generous God, please fill our hearts.

We pray for the gift of compassion, that we may reach out to all who are oppressed, those who struggle for dignity, respect and equality:
Generous God, please fill our hearts.

We pray for the gift of joy, that we may delight in the beauty of each person and in the mystery of your love:
Generous God, please fill our hearts.

We pray for the gift of peace, that we may live in harmony with one another:
Generous God, please fill our hearts.

We pray for the gift of attentiveness, that we may notice and rejoice in the beauties of the earth:
Generous God, please fill our hearts.

May God's blessing be upon us. Amen.
May divine light lead us in the way of righteousness. Amen.
May our lives be patterned on Christ Jesus. Amen.

[*Intercessions of Mercy: Prayers by Members of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.](#) Compiled, edited and expanded by Joy Clough, RSM. 2009. 192.



For all the faithful departed:

-for Helen Bodoway, Jo-Anne Stasiuk's mother

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.



MILESTONES

Have a milestone to share with us? Allow us to honour you and recognize this milestone with you!
Email cscovp@gmail.com with your news!



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.

(Cont'd from page 2)

And no matter how many times my wife or I leaned in and tried to explain that — believe it or not, your eyes are not deceiving you — the wedding has begun, that same question hung in the air.

When's the wedding going to start?
Our explanations — whispered, muttered, begrudging — hinged on our daughter understanding that there was a precise moment in the ceremony when love began, when something changed, when it all clicked.
And while, perhaps, that's true from a certain point of view, the more the question rattled about in my head, the more I wondered if that four-year-old in the rainbow frills wasn't onto something.

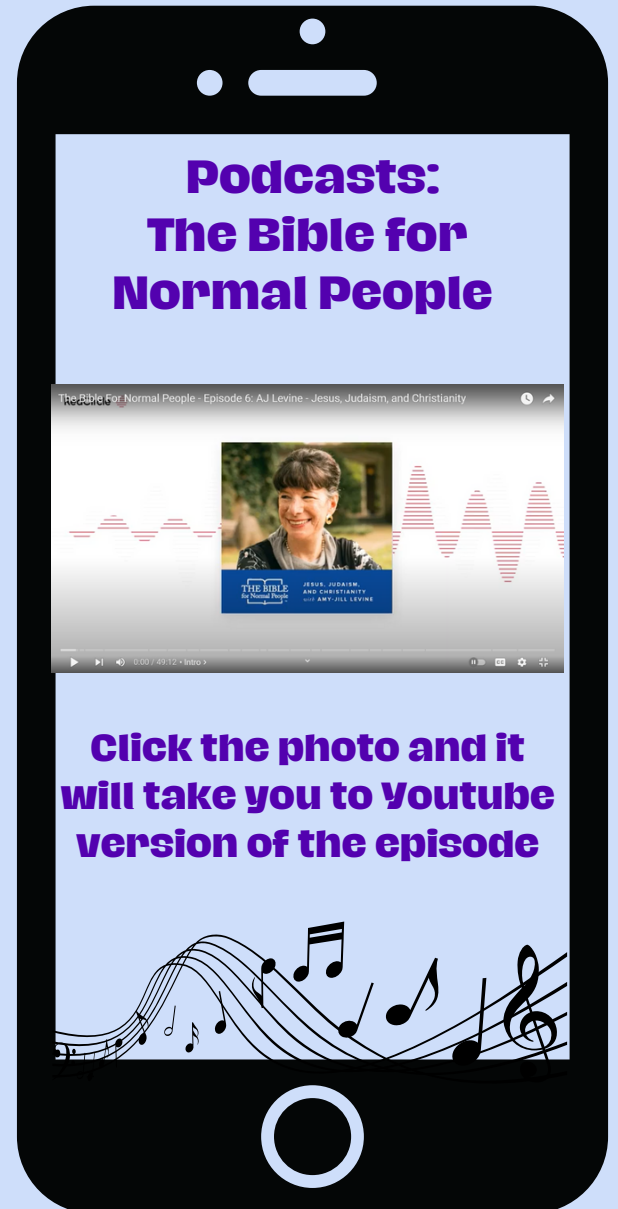
Ritual is important. But of course, our response to God's call in and through our unique vocation is constant, ongoing. In each moment, we begin again. We recommit ourselves — or we don't. We start anew, grounded in an ever-changing present, ever-evolving context.

When's it going to start? Right now — your next vocational decision is at hand. How will you sink into this moment? Because while the decisions you've made leading up to this instant are foundational to who you are, you need to decide again to be the person God dreams you will be. Because our God is constant and intimate and present. In each moment, God decides to delight in us, a swift wind that blows anew, bringing a new floral scent with each passing breeze. We are made in the image and likeness of this same God, and thus we must respond in this same constant, intimate, present way. When's it going to start? It already has — and the part you have yet to play is ongoing and essential and now.

HORS D'OEUVRES FOR MINISTRY



Villa St. Joseph Ecology and Spirituality Centre
(click photo for the link!)



**Podcasts:
The Bible for
Normal People**



**Click the photo and it
will take you to Youtube
version of the episode**



SAVE THE DATE

2024-2025:

- Sept. 3: First day of School
- Oct. 20-26: Spiritual/Pastoral Care Week
- Oct. 24-26, 2024: WFMP 2024
- Dec. 23-Jan.3: Christmas Break
- Mar. 5: Ash Wednesday
- Apr. 20: Easter Sunday
- May 13-15: CSCO CONFERENCE 2025

If you have a topic of interest that you would like to write about and share, please consider submitting! Articles should be 225 words. Scan the QR code for more information!



If you would like to submit intentions or be part of any other features in our newsletter, email: cscovp@gmail.com Or SCAN the QR code.

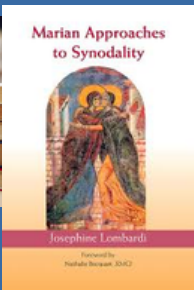
Bulletin Board

**Members
Only**

Click the "Members Only" graphic to access the membership form!
Become a CSCO member! (DOWNLOAD THE FORM AND SAVE IT
ON YOUR OWN DRIVE BEFORE COMPLETING IT!!!)



Do you have workshop ideas for WFMP? or for our annual conferences? Click the photo and let us know!



As a gift from your CSCO Executive, we would like to buy you a book!
If you would like to receive a copy of this book, please click the photo
and complete the form!



At this year's WFMP,
representing CSCO
with a workshop is
Genevieve Anderson!
If going, please
consider registering
for her workshop!

CSCO
Conference!
May 13-15,
2025!



Mass will be celebrated for us:

September 3 2024: Cathedral Basilica of
Christ the King, Hamilton @ 8 a.m.

October 2024:

November 2024:

December 2, 2024: St. Michael's Cathedral
Basilica, Toronto @ 12 Noon

January 2025:

February 2025:

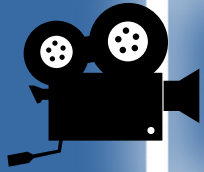
March 2025:

April 2025:

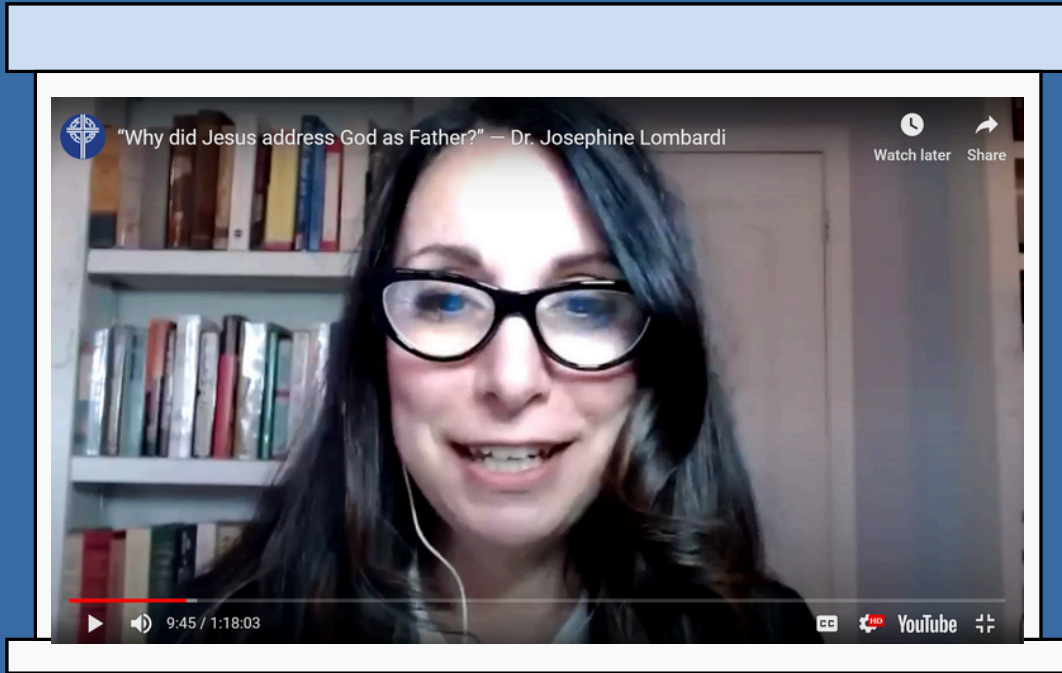
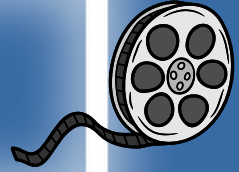
May 2025:

June 2025:

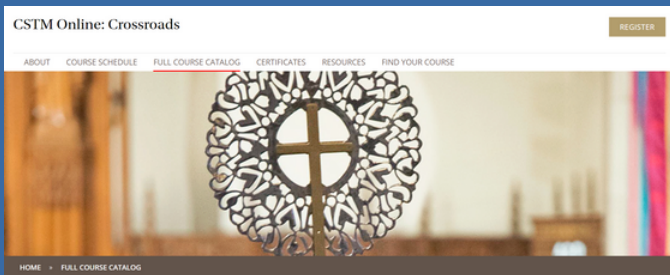




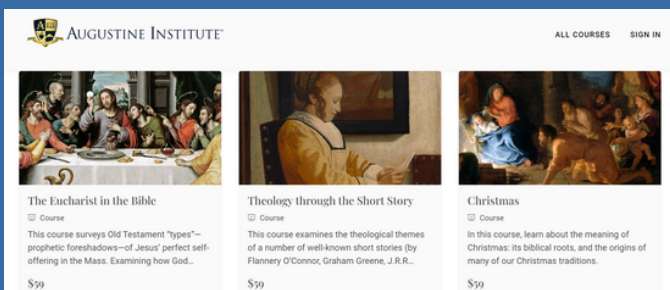
Now playing...



Some courses for spiritual, professional and personal growth...



The Clough School of Theology and Ministry @ Boston College offers different courses available online and starting soon. Some titles: "Faithful Unity and Polarization", "Liturgy Essentials" and more. Click the photo for the link to their page!



The Augustine Institute offers online courses free of charge! Many great topics are covered, 3 of which are included in the photo. Click the photo to go to their course catalogue!

Hello everyone! I'm Alana, new Member at Large. I was asked to share a bit about me, so, in an effort to keep this as short as I am capable of, here goes:



- What began as a career as an English teacher became a journey into theology as my first LTO was a Grade 9 Religion class. Fourteen years in the classroom and an MRE later, I began my first placement as Chaplain.
- Developing student leadership through service and social justice are my passion.
- I am a very strong unionist and enjoy working alongside equity-seeking and/or advocacy groups to promote dignity and the common good.
- My work with OECTA has spanned writing and instructing AQ courses, faith development among teachers, advocating for members rights through committee work and rallies, and working in solidarity with other labour groups.
- The students I work with will tell you about my eternal love for Bon Jovi and that dogs make all things in life better!
- I love music. Any music. In fact, my favourite destination is Music City, Nashville Tennessee. I will sing and dance shamelessly..
- In my "spare" time you can find me surrounded by my little family in rural Erin; this includes my husband, Scott, stepson Matthew, and doggos, Whisky and Charlie.
- Fun fact: My dear friend Andrew will tell you that my impression of my dogs and my students is eerily similar; not sure why but somehow their voices ring the same in my mind!
- I love being outdoors; Creation has always been my place of serenity – a fire, a lake, on a mountain, anywhere (no spiders please!).
- We love to travel around Canada and the United States in our RV which required me to obtain my DZ license.
- My two nieces are my absolute joy; Jenna just completed her first year in Sports Management at Brock and Taylor is entering into Grade 11 with aspirations of a lacrosse scholarship in the US.
- According to my colleagues, I give "great hugs"; am a "warm but tough cookie who knows [my] rights"; is the "hostess with the mostest"; and is forever blue (Go Leafs Go!).

Ok, so this was longer than I planned, but 'how do you solve a problem like' Alana? When you figure it out, please let me know; I've been trying for 48 years! Be Blessed.

Hello, my name is Leah and I'm one of the new members at large on this year's CSCO executive. I've been a Chaplain in the Ottawa Catholic School board since 2002 and I've ministered in 4 different high schools.



Some of my most life-giving experiences in high school chaplaincy have been connected to social justice and equity work. I got involved with Development and Peace as a youth and have loved engaging with students around faith-inspired justice education and action. I've hosted many Thinkfast events, Fall and Lenten campaigns, and Youth Ministry events around social justice learning experiences. I've been involved in numerous experiential learning trips to the Dominican Republic as well as a teacher exchanged between Ottawa and Consuelo. I've had the honour of working with and learning from Indigenous students when they gave me the opportunity to support their initiatives and I've been able to accompany 2SLGBTQ+ students in their efforts to create and advocate for safer spaces and cultures within their Catholic schools.

I am honoured to have this opportunity to serve on the CSCO executive this year.



Hello everyone,

My name is Trevor Klein, and I'm a proud father of four and a permanent deacon for the Catholic Church. For the past 21 years, I've dedicated my career to teaching, striving to inspire and educate my students. Just like all of you, life is very busy and find comfort in my faith. I am blessed to start each day in the beautiful Loretto chapel at Bishop Mac HS. My commitment to my family, faith, and community is at the heart of everything I do, and I'm excited to connect with all of you in our shared mission.

A Prayer for a New School Year

God of our past, our present and our future,
God of our dreams, our designs and our decisions,

Be love in us as we journey
through this new school year.

Be our inner vision,
that we may see life through your eyes,

Be our inner hearing,
that we may listen well for your call,

Be our inner judgment,
so we may discern clearly that which gives life,
Promotes growth, and nurtures love.

As we move into this school year,
fill us with hope and abiding trust
that you dwell in us,

So that, in both joy and sorrow,
we radiate hope.

Amen.

(from: <https://rscj.org/spirituality/prayers-for-the-new-school-year>)

Mindful Moment - Monkey Mind:

While you are awake, you are thinking constantly. Your mind may jump from one thought to another, like a monkey leaping from branch to branch. This meditation helps you to be more mindful of what you are thinking, and helps when you are chronically distracted, feeling scattered in your thinking or having difficulty concentrating.

Take a few deep breaths to signal to yourself that you are going to focus on this meditation. Immediately begin to watch your thoughts. Notice how quickly and seamlessly your mind jumps from one idea, impression and thought to another.

Think back to a few minutes ago and try to remember what you were thinking. Trace how you got to what you are thinking now.

Look at a watch or a clock for 60 seconds. Make hash marks with a pencil every time your thoughts change during the minute.

Bring this new awareness into your daily life. Try to be more mindful of what you are thinking, rather than getting lost in thought.

Taken from: *Minute Meditations: quick practices for 5, 10, or 20 minutes.* Madonna Gauding. 2021. 34-5.

We honour the lands on which we live, work and learn.
We honour the many First Nations, Indigenous, Metis and Inuit
that have been stewards of this land and continue to shape it,
influence it's eco-systems, sustain its diversity
and teach us to do the same.

Throughout our days, let us remember where we are, how we got
here, and the people who came before us and continue to lead
and guide us on how to work towards reconciliation
and to work together caring for this land.



Stay connected with us!



www.cSCO.ca