



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 President

Welcome back to your ministries and the school year for 2023/24! I am very happy to send you all a note of support and information regarding what is planned for CSCO for the coming school year. This will include some reminders, some opportunities for your involvement and prayers for the continuing growth of your ministry and yourselves. The theme this year for Catholic Education Week is “Called to Love” and so I begin by offering prayers for you and those you work with and minister to, that all may experience the love of God and one another in special ways.

The Executive has been planning for several things, including the opportunity for all members to contribute to the CSCO by participating in surveys to help our future work. The links for these surveys are here: [CSCO Strategic Plan Survey](#) [CSCO Ethical Guidelines Survey](#) [CSCO Performance Appraisal Survey](#). **These are due on NOVEMBER 30 and will be followed by the cyber meetings to finalize the documents which will be presented to the membership to at our 2024 AGM in April.**

There will be a Zoom PD opportunity on November 22, 2023 at 1:00pm with Anne Jamieson to learn more about the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and the importance of them to our schools. The date and information will be going out to you all soon. We are hosting another PD opportunity on January 25, 2024 at 1:00 PM with Dr. Cathy Clifford on the Synod and the synodal process in preparation for our Conference on April 16-18 at Mount Carmel in Niagara Falls. Again, more information on both events will follow. A reminder to renew your membership to CSCO as soon as possible. This allows us to continue planning and growing. As always, we welcome your participation and questions as they help us do the best we can for one another. Finally, I would like to thank you for all you do in your schools and for CSCO. May God bless all with the knowledge of being beloved and precious.

In Peace, Dean Woodbeck



IN THIS ISSUE

Hello and Happy New Year!

I know it sounds odd wishing you a happy new year after a month and a half behind us of this “new year.” I had hoped to have this newsletter to you sooner. Life in the school seems to get busier each year: we are pushed to do more with less. We are also victims of our own success: when our colleagues see that we are capable and competent, more tends to be placed in our care. I’m not complaining: it is a joy to serve and be taken more seriously as a partner in the mission of our school. It simply reminds me of that passage shared in Matthew and Luke of the harvest being plenty but the labourers are few. In that end, there was and continues to be a Mass said for CSCO each month and we trust in our God to hear our prayers.

There is a hunger in our staff and students for hope, for belonging and for purpose, and this is only exacerbated by recent global events. We are ever aware of how fragile peace is and the temptation to assert power and privilege through violence. The recent events in Israel and the ensuing war in Gaza and surrounding area is yet another example of our shared human vulnerability. The work to bring peace starts with justice and this is no small feat.

In this issue, you will find Dean’s welcome words which were sent in a letter in September. Dr. Murray Watson, faith animator for the Simcoe Muskoka board, offers us a perspective on the new year. Much of his life has been spent in Interfaith dialogue, teaching and spending time in Jerusalem with an intimate understanding of the dynamic between Muslims, Jews and Christians. I thank Murray not only for his reflection but for the many links he shared with me in our shared concern and hope for peace and justice. I share these with you that they may also be a comfort and a light in these dark times. Marie O’Connell shares 5 songs on her playlist and these songs got my toe tapping.

Like many of you, I am greatly affected by global events. I take to heart Jesus’ words in the gospel of John: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (John 14.27) May we be instruments of peace for our staff, students, neighbours, and loved ones, for peace truly begins with each of us, in our thoughts, attitudes and actions.

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.

Most years, the start of the school year here in Ontario aligns fairly closely with the Jewish New Year, marked by the feast of Rosh Hashanah (“The Head of the Year”). This year, Rosh Hashanah began at sundown on the evening of Friday, September 15, and ended at sundown of Sunday, September 17, inaugurating the year 5784 according to the traditional Hebrew calendar.

Rosh Hashanah marks the start of the “Ten Days of Awe”—the period leading up to Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), the most solemn, reflective day on the Jewish calendar. According to traditional Jewish belief, God judges the world on Yom Kippur, and decides the fate of each person for the coming year. During those 10 in-between days, many religious Jews engage in profound self-examination, looking at the ways they have sinned or hurt others, and reaching out to ask forgiveness for any ways they have caused harm. Part of the liturgy of Yom Kippur is an alphabetical “examination of conscience,” in which people confess their sins, individual and collective, according to the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This poetic litany is often called “Ashamnu,” and the English translation below come from the Aish site for Jewish learning (<https://aish.com/a-relatable-translation-of-the-viduy-confession/>), offering a modern rendering of this prayer-text:

Ashamnu (We have become guilty, we have destroyed our sense of spirituality)
Bagadnu (We have betrayed, we have been disloyal)
Gazalnu (We have robbed)
... and so on.

As Catholics, we know the tradition of “examinations of conscience” very, very well; they are the traditional way that we prepare for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But we also know that, for many of us, the repeated (and sometimes excessive) emphasis on our sinfulness, weakness and flaws can lead to low self-esteem, and a sense of being unlovable by God.

Lord, hear our prayers...

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, harmony;

Where there is error, truth;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, Grant that I may no so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born into eternal life.

- St. Francis of Assisi

For all the faithful departed:

For the lives lost in all those areas experiencing war, extreme weather, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes...

For those in our own communities:

for colleagues, students, friends, loved ones...

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

MILESTONES



Luca is doing incredibly well. He's now 5 months old and a solid 9lbs. In September we were lucky to have Bishop Bergie come and baptize him prior to his surgery for a temporary tracheostomy and g-tube. His little lungs just weren't growing as fast as the rest of his body, but the good news is, with the help of the tracheostomy, they will. We've already seen amazing growth since his surgery and can't wait to get our little man home in the new year.

Thank you all so much for all the prayers along this journey and be assured of our prayers for all of you throughout this school year.

Love, Krista & Eric



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)

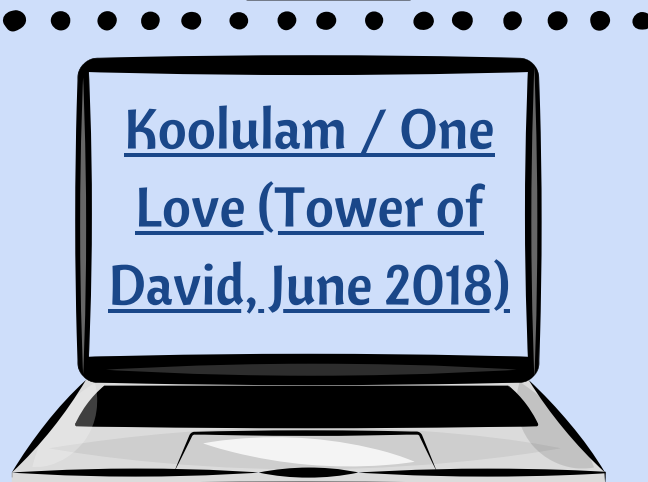
It can actually alienate us from the Holy One, instead of drawing us closer. We can come to feel unworthy and fundamentally broken ... and that is not what authentic religion (or Yom Kippur) is supposed to be about. Some people absorb those messages in ways that result in what some psychologists call "religious trauma". Several years ago, an American Orthodox Rabbi named Avi Weiss composed a new, modern version of this prayer—focussing instead on examining the good and praiseworthy things we have done, that we bring before God. It is dramatically different, and it allows us to emphasize the ways in which God has acted in and through us ... the ways we have lived our faith authentically and well. He called it Ahavnu ("We have loved") (see page 7).

As we begin this new school year, we know that there are plenty of critics around us, who will emphasize the negative. But, as people of faith, perhaps the Ahavnu litany can help us to model a healthy way to name all of the goodness that we do (and try to do) in our respective ministries. May it remind us of how much God loves us, and how God seeks to work through us, in our words and actions, each and every day. Wishing you a blessed school year ahead, and with gratitude for your ministries!



Murray Watson
Adult Faith
Formation Animator
SMCDSB

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



Dates for 2023-2024:

- Sept. 30: Orange Shirt Day / Truth and Reconciliation Day
- Oct. 22-28: Pastoral Care Week / Spiritual Care Week
- Oct. 26-28: WFMP
- Oct. 26: WFMP Youth Forum
- Nov. 22: Virtual PD with Anne Jamieson
- Jan. 25: Virtual PD with Dr. Cathy Clifford
- Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 31: Easter Sunday
- April 16-18: CSCO Conference
- May 5-10: Catholic Education Week



Are you bursting with excitement to share your news? Please scan the QR code or click over it, let us know who you are and go straight to #8!



Scan the QR code if you would like to offer prayer intentions, milestone news, or to contribute to the CSCO Newsletter!

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

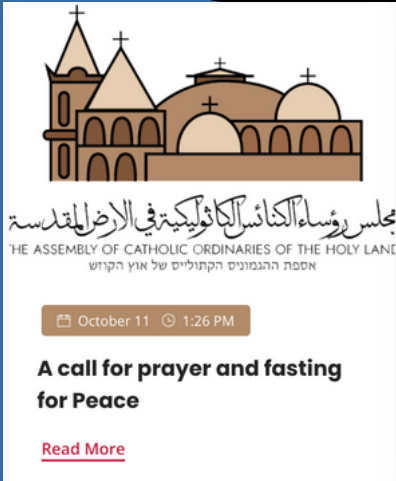


CLICK THE PHOTO FOR THE LINK.

Statement by the Most Rev. William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary and CCCB President, to the Catholic Faithful in Canada on the Recent Escalation of Conflict in the Holy Land

AS WAR BEGINS AGAIN IN HOLY LAND, JESUIT DAVID NEUHAUS HOPES CHRISTIANS CAN BE INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE

Bulletin Board



“We ask that on Tuesday, October 17, everyone hold a day of fasting, abstinence, and prayer. Let us organize prayer times with Eucharistic adoration and with the recitation of the Rosary to Our Blessed Virgin Mary. Although most probably in many parts of our dioceses circumstances will not permit large gatherings, it is possible to organize simple and sober common moments of prayer in parishes, religious communities, and families.”

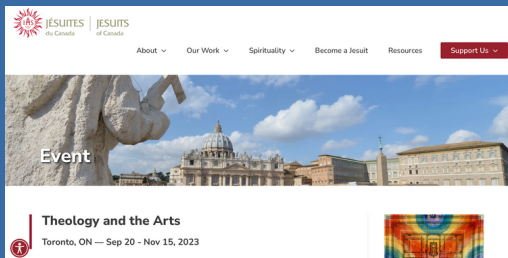
Click the photo for the full letter.



Stay tuned for registration information! A link is coming soon to an inbox near you!



Click the photo for the statement by the Christian-Jewish Dialogue Toronto



Colleagues from across the University of Toronto and beyond reflect on the relationships among art, justice, theology, and the sacred. This course will be delivered in a hybrid format (in-person at Regis College and online via Zoom). Online participants will receive a Zoom conferencing link before the course begins. (Click the image for the link and more information.)

Deadline is
now
NOV. 30,
2023

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Strategic
Plan
survey

<http://bit.ly/CSCOstrategicPlan>

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CHAPLAINS OF ONTARIO

Performance
Appraisal
survey

<https://bit.ly/CSCOperformance>

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CHAPLAINS OF ONTARIO

Ethical
Guidelines
survey

<https://bit.ly/CSCOethical>



FAITH FORMATION



Click the image to go the Synod website.

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus (Here we are, Holy Spirit)

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the
wrong path nor partiality influence our
actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to
eternal life and not stray from the way of
truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the
Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Ahavnu

This confessional prayer (viduy) was composed by Rabbi Avi Weiss, and is intended to complement the viduy of the Yom Kippur machzor. This life-affirming viduy reminds us not only to confess our wrongdoings, but also to remember what we did right.

We have loved, אָהַבְנוּ,
We have blessed, בְּרַכְנוּ,
We have grown, גָּדְלְנוּ,
We have spoken positively. דִּבְרַנוּ יְפִי

We have raised up, הֶעֱלִינוּ,
We have shown compassion, וְחַסְנוּ,
We have acted enthusiastically, זָרְזְנוּ,
We have been empathetic, הִמְלֵנוּ,
We have cultivated truth. טַפַּחְנוּ אֱמֶת

We have given good advice, יַעֲצָנוּ טוֹב,
We have respected, כִּבְדְנוּ,
We have learned, לִמְדְנוּ,
We have forgiven, מְחַלְנוּ,
We have comforted, נַחֲמְנוּ,
We have been creative, סָלַלְנוּ,
We have stirred, עוֹרְרְנוּ,
We have been spiritual activists, פְּעַלְנוּ,
We have been just, צְדָקְנוּ,
We have longed for Israel. קוִיְנוּ לְאֶרֶץ

We have been merciful, רַחֲמְנוּ,
We have given full effort, שִׁקְדְנוּ,
We have supported, תַּמְכְנוּ,
We have contributed, תָּרַמְנוּ,
We have repaired. תִּקְנְנוּ

Home > Ignatian Prayer > The Daily Examen

The Daily Examen



The Daily Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us. The Examen is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God's hand at work in our whole experience.

CLICK THE IMAGE FOR THE EXAMEN.

HERE'S TO THE BRIDGE-BUILDERS (L.R. KNOST)

Here's to the bridge-builders,
the hand-holders, the light-bringers,
those extraordinary souls wrapped in ordinary lives
who quietly weave threads of humanity into an inhumane world.
They are the unsung heroes in a world at war with itself.
They are the whisperers of hope that peace is possible.
Look for them in this present darkness.
Light your candle with their flame.
And then go.
Build bridges.
Hold hands.
Bring light to a dark and desperate world.
Be the hero you've been looking for.

We cannot pray to You, O God,
to banish war,
for You have filled the world
with paths to peace,
if only we would take them.

We cannot pray to You
to end starvation,
for there is food enough for all,
if only we would share it.

We cannot merely pray
for prejudice to cease,
for we might see the good in all
that lies before our eyes,
if only we would use them.

We cannot merely pray
"Root out despair,"
for the spark of hope
already waits within the human heart,
for us to fan it into flame.

We must not ask of You, O God,
to take the task that You
have given us.

We cannot shirk,
we cannot flee away,
Avoiding obligation for ever.

Therefore we pray, O God,
for wisdom and will,
for courage to do and to become,
not only to look on with helpless yearning
as though we had no strength.
For Your sake and ours
speedily and soon, let it be:
that our land may be safe,
that our lives may be blessed.

(By Rabbi Jack Riemer, from reformjudaism.org)

www.cscoc.ca

