

CHAPLAINS' NEWSLETTER

December 2015

Introduction:

Welcome to the first edition of the WCDSB Chaplains' Newsletter! In addition to this autumn edition, we plan to put together and distribute a winter, spring and summer edition. This year, we will work together to better understand the wonderful gift of Mercy- God's love turned toward us sinners. We hope you find these newsletters helpful as you continue to accept the gifts of God's Grace and Love and do your best to give Glory to God, each and every day of the year. God bless!

Derek Haime, Superintendent of Learning

Celebrations from Monsignor Doyle

Our Advent liturgy was last Friday. Many different groups and people help with readings and singing. This clip is the Dance Crew that put the "Annunciation" into dance as part of the Advent liturgy. This was presented four times on Friday- once for each of the grade levels. Staff, students, and guests were so moved by this presentation.

We just want to celebrate this with everyone in our system and community. Please click the link below or copy and paste to watch.

[Msgr. Doyle Dance Crew "Annunciation"](#)

Janet Goncz, Chaplain Msgr. Doyle

"Lord Jesus, may I never fail to recognize your loving kindness and mercy. Fill my heart with compassion and thanksgiving, and free me from ingratitude and discontentment. Help me to count my blessings with a grateful heart and to give thanks in all circumstances."

Daily prayer is courtesy of Don Schwager (c) 2015. Dan's website is located at www.dailyscripture.net

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Annabel MacDonald, Chaplain

Catholic Disneyland

If someone said to you they went to Catholic Disneyland, how would you react? After spending a week in Philadelphia this past September, I felt I was in Catholic Disneyland! Travelling with 160 people from the Diocese of Hamilton on a bus to attend the World Meeting of Families Conference was an incredible experience. 5000 people from around the world – all vibrant Catholics – came together to hear incredible speakers talking about the family. I quickly learned that our faith looks at all families and welcomes us all. So whether you were a family with six children, a single person taking care of their parent with Alzheimer's, a contemplative nun (I have never imagined so many amazing habits in one place) or a young student, Pope Francis encourages us to Love each other. It is our mission.

Pope Francis also encouraged us to spend time together with our family and special people in our lives...spend "real" time together. He was quoted: "we need to *waste time with our families*". He's right; people attending this conference were anxious to get home to their own families and "waste time".

After an intensely busy week of workshops, speakers, major commuting and prayerful time we were rewarded with the ultimate Disneyland gift – an audience and Mass with Pope Francis! After 4.5 hours waiting line to pass through security, then enduring a crowd of 1.2 million people I experienced a grace filled moment; mass was incredibly quiet in the streets as we all waited to hear him speak and receive the Eucharist consecrated by our Holy Father.

Pope Francis has brought great joy to our Catholic Faith and I feel very blessed to be a part of this family. Please pray for Pope Francis as he continues to lead his flock by walking with us on our faith journey.

Annabel MacDonald, St. Mary's Chaplain

Prayer

Loving God,
We thank you for all
shepherds and leaders
of your Church
Bless Francis, our
Pope,
As he speaks your
Word to us,
As he shows us how to
care for others' needs,
And as he leads the
Catholic Church
throughout the world.
Help us support Pope
Francis by our Prayers
And by using our talents
To help build up your
Church on Earth .

Amen.

WCDSB Staff Members Named as Lay Apostles

We are very proud that on December 8, 2015, three WCDSB staff members were named as Lay Apostles of the Resurrection. Congratulations to Chaplain Dee Sproule, Principal Lois Peterson and Teacher Kevin Donelson. (<http://resurrectionists.ca/sites/default/files/apostles-handbook.pdf>)



Lay Apostles of the Resurrection Dee Sproule, Lois Peterson and Kevin Donelson pictured with WCDSB Superintendent Derek Haime

Lay Apostles of the Resurrection

What is a lay associate?

By definition a lay associate is “a baptized lay person, married or single, who makes an official commitment in a chosen Congregation in order to grow in faith, while participating in the spirituality and charism of the Congregation, without being bound by vows or obliged to leave a profession or trade” (Canadian Religious Conference).

Who may be an Apostle of the Resurrection?

Here are some criteria for acceptance as a Lay Associate with the Congregation of the Resurrection:
The candidate must be a baptized Catholic 18 years of age or older, and needs to show evidence of:

- a wholesome character with emotional, psychological and Spiritual stability;
- a desire to deepen his or her own spirituality by conforming his or her life to the Paschal Mystery of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection; a desire to live out the Resurrectionist Charism and Mission in his or her daily life: at home, at work and in ministry;
- a willingness and commitment to support the Resurrectionists in their ministry through prayer, and through personal initiatives;
- a spirit of cooperation with the Resurrectionists, and with fellow Apostles of the Resurrection, in order to promote the resurrection of society. Candidates are invited to participate in at least two formation sessions before his or her chosen “Commitment Ceremony” date. These ceremonies will take place on July 22 and December 8 of each year at Resurrection College in Waterloo, ON.

What is involved in the formation process?

The Apostles will meet six times a year. Four of these meetings will be formation sessions, when we will meet for a common prayer service, seminar, and a social – each time at a different Resurrectionist parish in the Diocese of Hamilton. The other two meetings will be “Commitment Ceremonies”, when during Mass, new Apostles will be formally received and make their promises for a year, and the existing Apostles will renew their commitment for another year (if they wish to do so). What kind of commitment is one expected to make? Each year on July 22, the Memorial of St. Mary Magdalene, and on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, those who have been accepted and participated in at least two formation sessions, as well as those who after a year wish to renew their commitment, will be invited to make promises for a period of one calendar year (July 22 – July 21 of next year; December 8 – December 7 of next year). The promises are made publicly during Mass and received by a representative of the Resurrectionists. Each new Apostle receives a pin which he or she is encouraged to wear at all times as a witness to

Christ’s Resurrection and its power working in their life. The person does not make the commitment for life, but for one year at a time. If he or she wants to withdraw from the programme there will be no obligation or pressure to renew the promises.

What are the promises?

Here is the full act of commitment that an Apostle of the Resurrection is asked to make and live out for one year at a time.

Act of Commitment of an Apostle of the Resurrection:

In light of what I have learned about the Congregation of the Resurrection and its founder, Bogdan Janski, and after discerning the Lord’s call in my heart, I commit myself for one year to the Apostles of the Resurrection.

I promise to grow in holiness by living according to the spirit of Bogdan Janski and the Congregation of the Resurrection, that is:

- striving to be inwardly renewed, dying to self in order that Christ may live in me,
 - working for the resurrection of society by making of my life a visible sign of the transforming power of God’s love,
 - bringing the hope of Christ’s resurrection to all those who despair.
- To help me live out this commitment I promise also:
- to deepen my faith and knowledge of the Resurrectionist spirituality, Charism and Mission by attending the formation sessions throughout the year,
 - to support the ministries of the Congregation of the Resurrection in whatever ways I am able,
 - to pray daily for vocations to the Congregation and for my fellow Apostles.

When receiving the Apostles of the Resurrection Pin:

I promise to proudly wear this pin and to make Bogdan Janski and the Resurrectionists known. St. Mary Magdalene, patron saint of the Apostles, pray for us.

In what ways do Apostles participate in the life of the Resurrectionists? (“What will I be asked to do as an Apostle of the Resurrection?”)

The Apostles of the Resurrection share in the spirituality, Charism and Mission of the Congregation of the Resurrection by living them out wherever God has placed them in life – in families, among friends, at school, at work, or in their own parish. They do it primarily by bringing the power of Christ’s resurrection into these areas of their life by their words and actions. The Apostles are invited to participate in particular ministries led by the Resurrectionists, that is parishes, education and faith formation ministries, vocation ministry, and others. The Apostles also commit to pray daily for the Resurrectionists and their ministries, for vocations to the Congregation, and for fellow Apostles and their intentions.

What's Happening with Chaplaincy At Resurrection C.S.S.

Our year began with so much excitement and energy as we celebrated 25 years of Learning, Growing and Building Together, with a full school Mass. His excellency Bishop Crosby presided, along with nine Resurrectionist, Priests and 1 Monsignor, concelebrating together. What a powerful way to begin a weekend full of reunion activities and celebrations, with Alumni, Founders, Trustees, Senior Administrators, our new Director of Education, special guests and our entire community gathering together to celebrate 25 years of God working in Resurrection Catholic Secondary School! What a gift, what a blessing!



We have had the privilege to move through this first semester with food drives, and Remembrance Day services, and now it is Advent! In this season of joy and giving at Resurrection, we light the Advent Candles on the wreaths in every homeroom class, and the Student Link lead their class in daily Advent prayer. On December 3rd we took time to pray and prepare our hearts for the coming of Emmanuel with junior and senior Advent Prayer services. At these services, our community learned about the symbol and meaning of the Advent wreath and reflected upon the Gospel of Luke 1:26-38, where Mary said "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Her powerful "YES" changed the world and inspires us to say "yes" to opening our own hearts to her son Jesus, and to one another, and the needs of this world.

In this third week of Advent, we do more than wait for our Saviour or prepare ourselves. We are being called to witness. We should not keep this Good News to ourselves, but rather share it with others. Our hearts overflow with all the ways that we have been able to do exactly that at Rez...to prepare, to witness and to share...

With the sacrament of reconciliation for all religion classes, and for our wider community as well, with our Daily Advent prayer in the classrooms, and finally with our Christmas Family Hamper collections for St. Mark's St. Vincent de Paul Society, our hearts are full and ready to prepare room for the coming of our Saviour!

May God bless you as you prepare, witness and share the blessings of this Season, and the great joy that has entered into this world!

Come, Emmanuel, Come, and Be Our Light!

Christmas blessings to you all from the Resurrection Catholic Secondary Community!

Marianna Worth, Chaplain at R.C.S.S.

Trending Now

Transition Mass

In fall we celebrated Mass with our Grade 9 students and their Link Leaders (senior students). Father Freitas presided. Grade 9 students were paired with Link Leaders to introduce the mass, read and pray. It's a wonderful way of reminding us all that the St. Benedict community values all people as equal contributors.

Christian Meditation

During the third week of August we introduced Christian meditation to our school community. After explaining the basics, we practiced meditation as an entire school. Christian meditation is opening ourselves to God as we calm our bodies and calm our minds. We now meditate as an entire school and many classes meditate at the beginning of each period.

Kindness Mass

On November 27th we celebrated what we call our "Be Kind" Mass with Father Freitas presiding. We mourn the acts of terrorism in our world that are meant to elicit fear. We also mourn the acts of racial and religious prejudice that elicit fear among our friends and neighbors. Fear leads to anger, which leads to hatred, which leads to violence and suffering. The Bible says in 1 John, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts our fear." As we are kind to others in our community we counter acts of terror by creating a climate of peace and love.

Bob Rempel, Chaplain St. Benedict

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Chaplain Chatter

Greetings Friends,

First Semester is moving at a fever pitch but we are now settled into our routine and things are running smoothly...more or less.

I want to bring you up to speed on some things that are shaping up quite nicely in the Chaplaincy Department of St. David CSS.

We are very blessed to have such a great group of Priests in our area that are always willing to come into the school and enrich our Celtic Faith Community.

Fr. Dave Lewis from St. Teresa Parish in Elmira comes to the Chapel on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and celebrates Holy Mass with one or two individual classes. These "teaching Masses" are a smaller more intimate gathering where students have a more "close up" experience of Liturgy. This is Fr. Dave's 4th year offering this Ministry to our students and staff.

Fr. Jim Valk from the Congregation of the Resurrection will once again join us in the Chapel on the 2nd Friday of the month to join us as we celebrate Holy Mass at 7:45am before our school day begins. This is a great opportunity for both students and staff to begin their day with Eucharist and offer prayers for their individual intentions.

Fr. Aleks Mazur from St. Agnes Parish will come to St. David on the 3rd Tuesday of the month to celebrate with a class in the Chapel. These Masses are not just for Religion classes but instead are open to any grade...any subject. This Mass takes place during Period 2 just prior to lunch.

Fr. Martin Mikulski from St. Clements Parish in St. Clements has agreed to try a new offering of Holy Mass here at St. David. On the 4th Thursday day of the month Fr. Martin will come to the Chapel and

we will celebrate Holy Mass with one or two classes.

Continuing a practice we started last year, we gather in the Chapel during the 2nd half of lunch on Wednesdays to pray the Holy Rosary. Over the past few weeks we are averaging between 8 – 10 people with a good mix of students and staff.

To commence the year of celebration to mark the 50th Anniversary of St. David Catholic Secondary School we were blessed to gather the Celtic Family on Friday, October 9, 2015 at 9:35am in our Gymnasium for Holy Mass. We welcomed Bishop Douglas Crosby as our Celebrant. Bishop Crosby was joined by Fr. Paul Hryncyszyn, Pastor of St. Michael's Parish, Waterloo and by Fr. Toby Collins, Vocations Director for the Congregation of the Resurrection. We were also pleased to welcome several student & staff alumni. A highlight of the celebration was the presentation of a Papal Blessing from Pope Francis to mark the Anniversary of St. David.

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations, in May as a part of Catholic Education Week we will welcome Fr. Frank Freitas, Celtic Grad to celebrate Holy Mass with us and then in June we will be blessed to have David Reitzel, who will have been Ordained to the Priesthood a few weeks prior, celebrate our Closing Mass with us.

We are looking forward to a blessed year and to celebrating our Anniversary.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the St. David Chaplaincy Department.

Blessings,

"Mr. Ed" MacIntosh