

# Celebrating the Human Face of God

By **Silvana Gos** and **Sarah Russell**, Conference Co-chairs

The conference agenda is set and the speakers are in place. Everyone is looking forward to a wonderful time as the Dufferin-Peel Catholic principals and vice-principals prepare to welcome their colleagues from across Ontario to Toronto for the 2009 conference and AGM. The DoubleTree Toronto Airport Hotel is situated minutes from Pearson International Airport. This hotel is an outstanding convention facility that offers exceptional recreation, fine dining options and a beautiful ambiance. It is the perfect place to make this year's conference a great success.

A group of dedicated principals and vice-principals from both the secondary and elementary panels has been working diligently and enthusiastically for over a year to prepare for this great event, *Celebrating the Human Face of God*. We are looking forward to hosting an outstanding array of speakers, presenters, vendors and two fun-filled evenings of hospitality with our colleagues.

We will be welcoming our provincial members to the DoubleTree Hotel on Thursday, April 30th beginning at 4 p.m. with the conference registration. The opening liturgy at 5:30 p.m. will set the tone for the conference by embracing our theme, *Celebrating the Human Face of God*. It will help us to reflect on our human uniqueness and diversity through the spiritual reflection of our present reality and prepare us for future challenges. The evening's highlight will be keynote speaker Stephen Lewis, one of the world's most influential speakers on human rights, social justice and international development. He will set the stage for our conference and help us to embrace our vocation and enhance a campaign for social justice, equality and human dignity for all.

On Friday morning the conference opens with our second keynote speaker, the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, minister of education. She will be speaking to us about the vision of leadership within our Catholic schools. Her address will be followed by a number of exciting and informative workshop sessions.

The program committee has put together a wide variety of learning opportunities for the breakout sessions with a diverse group of presenters. Michael Reist will present *Boys and Girls Learn Differently*. Bryon Brisard will discuss Aboriginal education and introduce the Aboriginal toolkit. Dana Sheahan and JoAnne Shea will speak on the topic, *Safe, Compassionate and Healthy Schools*. Elizabeth Coelho will discuss what administrators need to know about English Language Learners. Gary Connolly and a group of teachers from Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School in Dufferin-Peel will make a presentation on the *North South Awareness Project* to Nicaragua. Toinette Parisio will address inclusion through international communities such as L'Arche. Carol Ann Bacci will highlight conflict partnering in *A New Approach to Conflict Mediation for Catholic School Leaders*.

Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m., we will welcome everyone to gather for an embracing Eucharistic celebration. Bishop Peter Hundt and Father Jim Roth, chaplain of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic

District School Board will concelebrate the afternoon Mass. The reception and gala dinner will be an opportunity for us to continue our networking and to break bread together. We will recognize and celebrate with this year's recipients of the Principal of the Year, the Distinguished Service and the Father John Redmond awards.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge our colleagues who spearheaded the hospitality events. These principals and vice-principals in both the elementary and the secondary panels of Dufferin-Peel have spent countless hours, organizing and coordinating this event, we call the *hospitality suite*. This is where we go to meet new colleagues and renew old acquaintances. It is where we take time to share our stories, to laugh and to enjoy the company. This is where memories are made and where friendships flourish.

We look forward to welcoming you to Toronto and we know that this conference, *Celebrating the Human Face of God* will provide you with the opportunity to connect with colleagues and develop new friendships. It will re-energize you spiritually, as well as enhance and develop new and innovative ways of sharing the challenges of Catholic education in Ontario.



## Celebrating the Human Face of God

### 2009 Conference & Annual General Meeting

April 30-May 2, 2009

DoubleTree Hotel, Toronto, ON

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#### Keynote Speakers

Stephen Lewis

Hon. Kathleen Wynne

#### Seven Informative Workshops

Aboriginal Education | Safe Schools | Social Justice  
Learning Styles | and more...

#### Full conference package includes:

Keynotes | Breakout Sessions | Five Meals  
Two Hospitality Events



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