



By **Nelly Kelders**
Member Services Director

The *Father John Redmond Award*

The *Father John Redmond Award* was instituted by the former Ontario Catholic Secondary School Principals' Association (OCSSPA). It was presented to an individual who made

an outstanding contribution to Catholic education in Ontario. Father John Redmond was a Basilian priest and the former principal at Michael Power/St. Joseph High School in Toronto. Fr. John Redmond served as a teacher and athletic director for 13 years and principal for six years. He believed in a holistic approach to education and felt strongly about the role of academics, athletics and the arts in the development of the total person.

He was a man of prayer and an inspirational leader who embodied the highest traditions of a Catholic educator. He called others to pursue excellence, to exercise judgment wisely and to be people of prayer who are kind, respectful and sensitive to others, especially the oppressed.

Fr. Redmond lived a life that is best expressed in the motto of the high school that is now named after him:

*Cursum Consumavi Fidem Servavi –
I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.*

The Father John Redmond award was continued with the merger of OCSSPA and CPCO. The award is made annually to an individual whose contribution to Catholic education has had a significant provincial impact.

CPCO is pleased to present the 2009 *Father John Redmond Award* to His Excellency, the Most Rev. Paul-André Durocher, Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall. Bishop Durocher exemplifies many of the qualities attributed to Fr. Redmond. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Theology from St. Paul University in Ottawa in 1981 and simultaneously completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Ottawa.

Bishop Durocher's many accomplishments include:

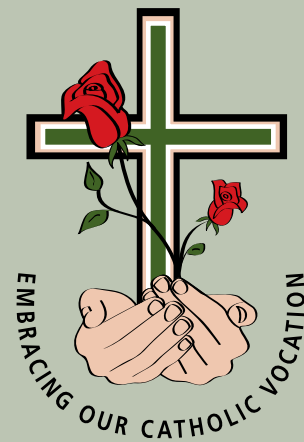
- coordinated various projects in faith education, liturgical formation and youth ministry;
- worked for the Ontario Bishops' office of French-language faith education, helping develop programs for religious education in grades 7 and 8;
- led professional development days for teachers in the Catholic school system across the province, both French and English;
- taught a number of courses in religious studies and theology for St. Paul University of Ottawa and Laurentian University of Sudbury;

- presently sits on the executive committee of the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) as co-treasurer and on the Commission for Liturgy and Sacraments (French sector); and
- chairs the Education Commission of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO).

Bishop Durocher is also a gifted musician. He is a member of the committee which produced the Canadian edition of a French-language hymnal for the CCCB, *D'une même voix*. His *Missa Lumen Christi* was chosen as the setting for the closing Mass with Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002. He has been commissioned to write a special hymn for French Canada to celebrate Advent in 2009.

Bishop Durocher's passion for Catholic education was most evident in his address to Catholic school trustees, parents, students and educators at the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' conference in Ottawa in September 2008. Like Father Redmond, he inspired us to be equipped to uphold the importance of having a publicly-funded Catholic education system in Ontario.

CPCO 2010 CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



April 22 - 24
Caesars Windsor Hotel

Hosted by the Windsor-Essex Catholic Principals and Vice-principals

