



London 2008

Sowing the Seeds of Faith

2008 CPCO Conference

By **Michael Murray** and **Sharon Wright-Evans**, Conference Co-chairs

It is with great excitement that the principals and vice-principals of London, Oxford, Middlesex and Elgin CPCO invite you to return to London and join in the 2008 conference, *Sowing the Seeds of Faith*. As the leaders of Catholic education in our province, it is essential that we have the opportunity to come together, to reflect on and to celebrate our faith and our vocation in Catholic education.

The London District Catholic School Board has 50 elementary and eight secondary schools with 23,000 students in the counties of Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin, including the cities of London, St. Thomas and Woodstock, the heart of southwestern Ontario. Our Catholic Education Centre is located in London, the Forest City. It is from the Forest City that we take the symbolism of first being rooted, of our growth and the sowing of seeds for the next harvest.

In order to ensure a successful harvest, much work needs to take place, as it is not sufficient to simply sow the seeds. We need to faithfully nurture the seeds and the soil upon which they land, ensuring the nutrients of parish, home, community and school are not only present, but are working together. As in the *Parable of the Sower*, "other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty" (Matthew 13:8).

Challenges to Catholic education are ever present. Our conference provides the opportunity to continue the dialogue and to articulate for the public and for ourselves why Catholic education is an integral part of the Ontario landscape and the importance of our educational system in the shaping of the citizens of tomorrow. This conference will also mark the tenth anniversary

of CPCO. It will be an opportunity for us to reflect on the past, to celebrate our successes as a leading educational organization for our province and to eagerly anticipate the future.

You may recall that London previously hosted the 2003 conference, *Rooted in Faith*. We are anxious to become reacquainted with old colleagues and to make new friends from across the province. Our local CPCO members are very involved in planning for the conference. Members of the liturgical, program and hospitality committees have met many times in the last school year and are well underway to ensuring that your experience at *Sowing the Seeds of Faith* will be an event to remember. We can confirm that the Most Rev. Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto will concelebrate our Mass with the Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, Bishop of London. Archbishop Collins will also be our keynote speaker on Friday, April 18.

For two days the London Convention Centre and the Hilton Hotel will be your home away from home. The hotel is conveniently connected to the Convention Centre by a covered walkway allowing you to traverse a busy street in comfort and safety. All conference activities and workshops will be located in the Convention Centre.

We hope to see you in London on April 17 - 18, 2008. We will pray together as a faith community, we will enter into dialogue designed to enhance our vocation as stewards of Catholic education and we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario.

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*The seed is the word of God. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit and patient endurance.*

Luke 8:11-15