



CPCO Conference 2008

By **Nelly Kelders**, Member Services Director

The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario celebrated its 10th annual conference in London, Ontario on April 17 and 18, 2008. The London District Catholic Principals and Vice-principals' Association hosted the *Sowing the Seeds of Faith* conference at the London Convention Centre and Hilton London Hotel. Co-chairs Michael Murray and Sharon Wright Evans worked diligently with their team to create a conference that inspired participants to reflect upon their practice, to replenish the spirit, to make new acquaintances and to renew old friendships.

Faith is the beginning of all journeys. It is by faith that the seed is planted. It is by faith that the foundation is dug. It is by faith that each book is penned and each song is written. Only with faith can we see that which is not, but can be. The eye of faith is greater than the natural eye, for the natural eye sees only a portion of truth. The eye of faith sees without bounds or limits.

Opening Liturgy Prayer

Thus began the conference. Students from Angela David-Lapp's Grade 10 drama class at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School in London re-enacted the story, *The Spyglass* by Richard Paul Evans. In this portrayal we were again reminded that "faith is the beginning of all journeys." Max Valiquette in his keynote address, following dinner, focused on how adults can connect with young people in today's society. His insightful presentation challenged Catholic educators to really see the young people in their charge.

On Friday morning more than 300 delegates joined in the celebration of the Eucharist. Toronto Archbishop Thomas Collins was the celebrant of the mass. He was assisted by Father Jim Mockler, chaplain of the London District Catholic School Board. The music ministry for the mass was provided by a talented group of Catholic school administrators from the host board as well as members of the CPCO executive council. Archbishop Collins was also the morning keynote speaker. He reflected on the theme of the conference, *Sowing the Seeds of Faith* and called on the delegates to value the gift of Catholic education.

Following lunch delegates had an opportunity to take part in one of five workshops on topics dealing with such issues as safe schools, promoting our Catholic schools, the environment, inclusive education and Julian of Norwich: 'Soul-friend for our time.'

The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario wishes to thank this year's conference committee for their dedication and tireless work to make *Sowing the Seeds of Faith* a successful experience for all those who participated.

Co-chairs

Michael Murray, Principal
St. Bernadette Catholic School, London
Sharon Wright Evans, Principal
St. Michael Catholic School, London

Liturgy Committee

Judith Colwell (Co-chair), Principal
Monsignor Morrison Catholic School, St. Thomas
Laurie Intven (Co-chair), Principal
Assumption Catholic School, Aylmer
Greg DeSouza, Principal
St. Theresa Catholic School, London
Rosy Pellarin, Principal
St. Robert Catholic School, London
Kelly Holbrough, Vice-principal
St. Francis Catholic School, London
Judy Coulter, Principal
Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, London
Annette Marentette, Principal
St. Jude Catholic School, London
Maria Giampa, Principal
St. Patrick Catholic School, Lucan
Dawn Greco, Vice-principal
Sir Arthur Carty Catholic School, London

Program Committee

Kathleen Fraumeni (Co-chair), Principal
St. Mary Choir School, London
John Mombourquette (Co-chair), Principal
Learning Services, LDCSB
Dan Howard, Principal
Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, Strathroy
Diana Van Bommel, Vice-principal
John Paul II Catholic Secondary School, London
Ed DeDecker, Principal
John Paul II Catholic Secondary School, London

Sean Conway former minister of education in the Liberal government of David Peterson closed the day's learning with a discussion on Catholic education. Delegates had an opportunity to ask questions and to dialogue with him on the future of Catholic education.

Friday night more than 450 delegates and guests gathered for the 2008 Gala Dinner to celebrate CPCO's 10-year history with a slideshow looking back at past milestones and events. Several awards, including Principal of the Year awards, the Fr. John Redmond award, the Distinguished Service award, the Past-president's award and the Award of Excellence were presented to an accomplished group of recipients.

Joanne Hogan-Bakai, Principal
St. Charles Catholic School, Glencoe
Stephan Pelland, Principal
Holy Family French Immersion Catholic School, Woodstock

Hospitality Committee

Kevin Kusch (Co-chair), Principal
Notre Dame Catholic School, London
Grant McMurray (Co-chair), Principal
St. Pius X Catholic School, London
Laurel Looby, Principal
St. Mark Catholic School, London
Fred Fowlie, Principal
St. Joseph's Catholic School, Tillsonburg
Rob Scholtes, Principal
St. Raphael's Catholic School, St. Thomas
Barb Nathoo, Principal
St. Sebastian Catholic School, London
Ed DeDecker, Principal
John Paul II Catholic Secondary School, London
Ted Gorski, Principal
Regina Mundi Catholic College, London
Catherine Richard, Principal
St. Anthony French Immersion Catholic School, London
Suzanne Terpstra, Principal
St. Rita's Catholic School, Woodstock
Mark Santandrea, Principal
St. Francis Catholic School, London
Barb Broome, Principal
St. Anne Catholic School, London
Andre Lisowyk, Principal
Sacred Heart Catholic School, Parkhill
Linda Latella, Principal
Holy Cross Catholic School, London
Joanne Carabott-Lee, Principal
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School, Strathroy
Jeff Gillies, Principal
Jean Vanier Catholic School, London
Stephan Pelland, Principal
Holy Family French Immersion Catholic School, Woodstock