

Promoting our *Sacred Trust*

OUR MISSION

Building and sustaining the Catholic capacity of educators through the development and provision of high quality Catholic curriculum, resources, support and professional development



OUR VISION

Faith Through Learning: A Distinctive Catholic Curriculum



The Catholic Curriculum Corporation (CCC) is a consortium of 17 Catholic district school boards across central and western Ontario.

As an important partner in Catholic education, we recognize that Catholic education exists to provide a holistic formation of people as living witnesses of faith. We demonstrate our mission when we engage with, and support our member boards in sustained, substantive school improvement and student growth that is reflective of a Catholic professional learning community.

Publicly-funded Catholic education is a *sacred trust* that must be protected, preserved and promoted within and beyond the Catholic educational community. Helping us achieve this important goal are our CCC partners, namely, the Catholic

Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO), the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) and the Catholic Association of Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario (CARFLEO). CCC also partners with its sister organizations, the Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Cooperative (EOCCC) and the Northern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Cooperative (NOCCC).

It is within the traditional context of the Catholic faith community that member boards and partners came together to ensure that the distinctiveness of the publicly-funded K-12 Catholic education community is in fact *distinctively Catholic*. What better and substantive way to demonstrate the distinctiveness of Catholic education than through the development and delivery of uniquely Catholic curriculum resources in the 21st century.

HISTORY

In 1990 an informal survey of Catholic boards in the Greater Toronto Area revealed that most boards would welcome a collective solution to the task of constantly changing curriculum direction and funding in the K-12 publicly-funded environment. Since Catholic boards received the extension of funding to secondary schools in the 1980's, there was an increasing attentiveness to the need for teacher resources that responded to the unique needs of classroom practitioners, consultants, coordinators and administrators in Catholic district school boards.

As a result, a series of meetings was convened to explore a process and procedure for establishing a collaborative effort as well as commitment to the establishment of a consortium. Over time the effort attracted interest not only from Catholic boards but also from the Ministry of Education that provided seed money to explore the viability of such a consortium of Catholic boards. The Community of Catholic School Boards was formed and by 1996 grew to the point that a formal organizational structure was put in place including an executive director and ultimately a governance structure known as the Board of Representatives and Executive Council.



TODAY

Today the Community of Catholic School Boards is incorporated as the Catholic Curriculum Corporation having built on the strength of the organizational and governance structure of the original body. This model of governance remains in place today and includes a representative from each of the 17 member boards in Central and Western Ontario Region as well as partners from CPCO, OEFTA and CARFLEO. The work of the CCC is funded by contributions from member boards and partners who contribute funds as an investment to ensure the development of uniquely Catholic resources for Catholic educators.

In order to provide resources, CCC needs to live not only within Ministry of Education policy but equally listen to Catholic educators at all levels to ensure that *presumed needs*, in fact, fit *actual needs*. To achieve this, CCC established a framework of curriculum councils of which there are four: Faith in Education; Elementary; Secondary; and Information, Communications, Technology. Overseeing the work of the curriculum councils is a curriculum manager.

DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF RESOURCES

Curriculum councils are populated by representatives of member boards and partners who come together on a quarterly basis to share field-level intelligence in terms of resources needed, resources in place and resources that perhaps need to be updated. It is within this framework of collaboration and cooperation that councils are invited to submit writing proposals through the curriculum manager, Fran Craig, in order to be considered for funding by the board of representatives. At the same time, CCC liaises with the Institute for Catholic Education through the office of its executive director, Sr. Joan Cronin, to ensure that all parties are kept advised regarding current and future proposals

for the development of Catholic resources, as well as initiatives from the Ontario Assembly of Catholic Bishops.

Writing teams, once funding has been approved, typically work during the summer months under the leadership of a project leader. Once the work is in draft form, a team of reviewers, under the guidance of the curriculum manager, reviews the document(s) and proposes revisions as necessary. Often our sister cooperatives, NOCCC and EOCCC participate in these reviews since curricula is shared openly and freely between and among the community of Catholic cooperatives.

Once completed, resources are posted on the CCC website: <http://catholiccurriculumcorp.org>. Click on Resources located on the banner and you will find free, downloadable resources for elementary and secondary education. Examples include: *Integrating Mathematics and Information and Communication Technology, Grades K-8*; *Gifts of Love-A Collection of Prayer Services for teachers and administrators*; and *Rich Performance Tasks for Secondary Religion Courses* to name a few. Explore the site under Resources and you will find resources that will be helpful in the delivery of curriculum to your Catholic educational community.

WHEN FAITH MEETS PEDAGOGY CONFERENCE

A second area through which CCC provides resources to the Catholic educational community is the annual *When Faith Meets Pedagogy* (WFMP) conference, which is in its fourteenth year of operation. The conference is, to the best of our knowledge, the third largest gathering of Catholic educators in North America after the Los Angeles Religious Education Conference and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) in the United States. WFMP typically attracts 1200-1500 delegates, largely from Ontario, but has begun to attract interest from Catholic educators across Canada. Most recently, there has been an outreach to include parents through the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education and pastoral teams within dioceses to ensure that they are included as part of our community of Catholic educators.

Every second year, a Youth Forum runs on the first day of the conference and attracts up to 1500 secondary students. The forum provides Catholic students the opportunity to interact with peers from across the province, develop confidence in their capacity as Catholics to make a difference in the lives of others and demonstrate that Catholicism is as relevant today as it ever was. In recent years our young people have been inspired by keynote speakers such as Jean Vanier, and Marc and Craig Kielburger.

Each day of the conference begins with gathering for liturgy. Delegates attending WFMP are able to attend keynote presentations, feature speaker presentations as well as approximately 75 workshops. The three-day conference in late October begins on a Thursday evening and runs through Saturday at noon. The conference is an opportunity for Catholic educators



Jean Vanier,
Youth Forum
Speaker




WFMP
Workshop

to come together as a Catholic faith community to celebrate that *sacred trust*, publicly-funded Catholic education, which is ours to protect, preserve and promote in the 21st century. A highlight of the conference is the celebration of the Eucharist, the ultimate profession of our faith.

CCC continues to be a voice for a distinctively Catholic curriculum. Its work is enhanced by the continued commitment of its member boards and its partners. We are grateful to partners such as CPCO, who recognize the rich rewards of collaboration within the Catholic educational community. Our member boards and partners have made a significant contribution and commitment over the last two decades to ensure that CCC is a vital, viable force when it comes to providing uniquely Catholic

resources to our educators. CCC is grateful to its members and partners for the confidence they have displayed through the provision of funding and are equally committed to ensuring that there is a return on that investment; a return that is uniquely Catholic in its roots, its contents and its delivery.

Principals and vice-principals are key leaders within the Catholic educational community; leaders, whose voices and witness are relied upon. They consequently nurture the lives of teachers, student and parents. You are invited to visit the CCC website at <http://catholiccurriculumcorp.org> to explore and discover distinctive resources that are downloadable free. We welcome any enquiries that may allow us to provide the resources you require as Catholic educators and leaders.



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