



CARFLEO⁺

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF RELIGIOUS & FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS OF ONTARIO

2026 Spring Newsletter



⁺Magnifica Humanitas

Each generation inherits the task of shaping its own era, of guiding history to become a place where the dignity of every person is safeguarded, justice is promoted and fraternity is made possible.

Pope Leo XIV



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pope Leo's First Encyclical...1
- Message from the Chair...2
- Important Dates...2
- Reflection from Bishop Lobsinger...3
- Catholic Education Week...4-5
- About CARFLEO...6

POPE LEO'S MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

In his first social encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, released May 25, 2026, Pope Leo XIV describes the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) as a transformative moment for humanity, calling it a moral crossroad comparable to the social upheavals of previous eras. He insists that technological development must remain "at the service of human dignity, solidarity and the common good".

The document warns against forms of technological thinking that reduce human persons to measurable outputs or data. Instead, Pope Leo emphasizes the irreducible dignity of every person and the need to protect conscience, relationships, and moral responsibility. For educators, this becomes a call to ensure that schools form not only technical competence but wisdom and discernment, fostering critical thinking about technology among students.

A central theme is the call for AI to be oriented toward human flourishing, freed from logics that concentrate power or undermine what it means to be human. Pope Leo advocates for robust regulation of AI to safeguard humanity. In educational settings, this means helping students remain deeply human and ensuring that technological progress serves people rather than replacing or diminishing what is uniquely human—enhancing life without allowing technology to dominate it.

"Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together." Leo XIV, Magnifica Humanitas, No. 1.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>

Message from the Chair of CARFLEO, Mike Gundert

As we approach the end of this school year, it's a great time to reflect on all that we've accomplished while looking ahead with hope in anticipation of the new year. CARFLEO has had an excellent year. We reflect with gratitude the opportunities in which we were able to interact with the membership: At When Faith Meets Pedagogy, at the Advent retreat, and at the annual CARFLEO Conference & Retreat. We look forward to these opportunities to meet with you and will soon begin planning next year's events!

Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in the 2026 CARFLEO Conference & Retreat in March: We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe. Over 70 educators and parish partners gathered to learn about and discuss the theme of liturgy. It was also an excellent opportunity to network with many who work in Religious & Family Life Education across the province, as well as with some members of the Ontario Liturgical Conference. We also recognized the Archbishop Pocock, Fr. Angus MacDougall, and the Seeds of Hope award recipients, who were recognized in the previous edition of the newsletter. Congratulations to all! I invite you to "save the dates" for 2026: March 30-31, and 2027: March 29-30.

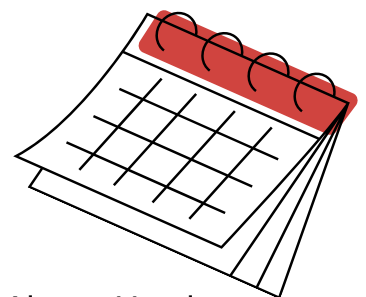
CARFLEO is exploring the possibility of hosting an annual retreat for central Religious & Family Life Education teams across the province. This retreat would be an opportunity for Coordinators, Consultants, Faith Animators, and Board Chaplains or Chaplaincy Leaders to be ministered to and to network with one another. If you are a member of a central religious education team, I invite you to complete the following survey to help inform our planning for this event:

<https://forms.office.com/r/SY91VuefHC>.

As we conclude this school year, I wish you a restful and a blessed summer on behalf of the CARFLEO executive. May the Lord continue to guide you and bless you in the good work that you do in support of Catholic education, I look forward to seeing you again next year!

Mike Gundert - Chair

Important Dates



- WHEN FAITH MEETS PEDAGOGY 2026, Delta Marriott Toronto Airport Hotel
Being the Beatitudes - Forming Hearts, Shaping Minds, Inspiring Faith
 - WFMP Conference - Oct. 23-24

A Time for Reflection

Most Rev. W. L. Lobsinger

My Dear Members of CARFLEO,

I am sure all of you are aware of the Church's Liturgical Year – Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time once again. Often our school liturgies and events are scheduled to match with this cycle of the Church's Year.

The Church also has a Sanctoral Cycle which is marked by Solemnities, Feasts, Memorials and Optional Memorials. It is here that we celebrate Saint's Days and days in honour of our Blessed Mother, and events in the life of Jesus. Each year we celebrate the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4th and the Feast of St. Matthew on September 21st. This cycle of Saints Days is unique to each country. For example, St. Brother Andre Bessette is celebrated in Canada, but not throughout the rest of the world.

Another layer to this cycle of celebrations we can call the Devotional Cycle. Here we set aside certain months to help us celebrate aspects of our Faith. The most common of this cycle are May and October being set aside to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, and June for the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To this we can add March for St. Joseph and July for the Precious Blood of Jesus. We are almost finished May, and I am sure that many of you had a liturgy of some sort in honour of the Mother of God. Maybe a May Crowning, or Mass in honour of our Lady or you gathered with others to pray the Rosary.

June is coming fast upon us. The Sacred Heart reminds us of God's immense love for His people. His heart pounds for us so profoundly that His physical body cannot contain His heart. His heart is crowned with a fire that burns for us and it is surrounded by a crown of thorns, so that, at every beat, His heart is pierced once again for love of you and me. What can we do this June to help our students know how much God loves them? I know that ICE provides a Novena to the Sacred Heart each year. I encourage you to make use of this.

We all need to be reminded of and renewed in the love of Jesus for us His people. June's dedication to the Sacred Heart provides us with a golden opportunity to do this.

May our Blessed Lady continue to keep you safe under her maternal mantle and may the Sacred Heart of Jesus fill you with His love and compassion.

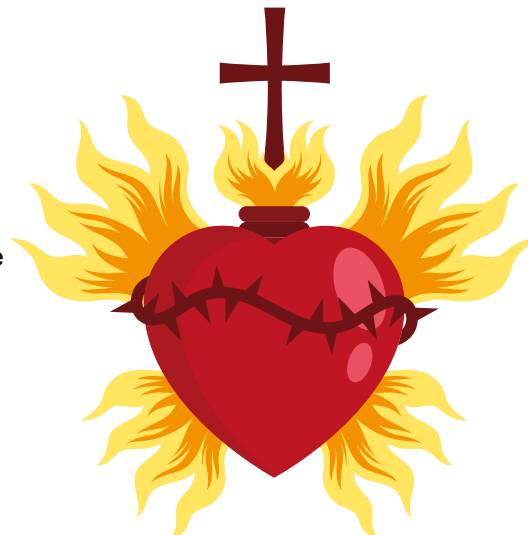
Many thanks for all you do to help our schools be wonderful places of faith and evangelization.

God bless,

Bishop Lobsinger

O most holy heart of Jesus,
fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you,
and with lively sorrow for my sins
I offer you this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient, pure
and wholly obedient to your will.
Grant, Good Jesus, that I may live
in you and for you.
Protect me in the midst of danger.
Comfort me in my afflictions.
Give me health of body,
assistance in my temporal needs,
your blessing on all that I do,
and the grace of a holy death.

Amen.



Catholic Education Week Celebrated Across the Province



Ottawa CSB Chamber Choir sings at Notre Dame Basilica in downtown Ottawa



Archbishop Michael Mulhall, celebrates CEW Mass with CDSB Eastern Ontario staff and students

Musician and speaker Chris Bray engages students at Algonquin and Lakeshore CDSB *Witness Faith Days*

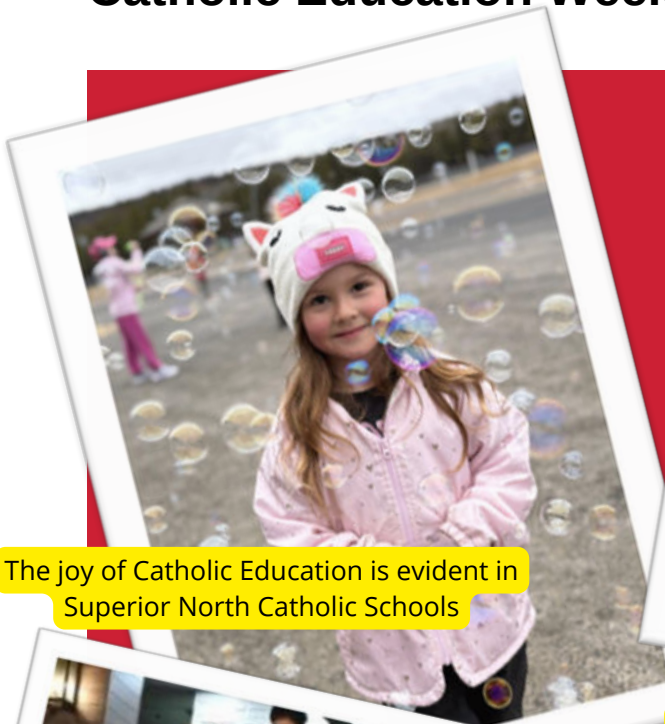


Waterloo CDSB welcomes The Rosary Brigade to build a community of prayer with students.



Peterborough VNCDSD recognizes 36 students at annual Catholic Student Leadership Awards

Catholic Education Week Celebrated Across the Province



The joy of Catholic Education is evident in Superior North Catholic Schools



Archbishop Dabrowski visits classrooms during story time in Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB



Niagara CDSB hosts a Student Symposium to hear the voices of our future leaders.

Kenora CDSB knows the importance of faith and building relationships as mental health tools.



Nippissing-Parry Sound CDSB students re-enact the Stations of the Cross on their Path to Holiness.



Durham CDSB honours exemplary staff members at their annual awards Mass.



Our Mission and Vision

CARFLEO, the Catholic Association of Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario, is an organization dedicated to supporting Elementary and Secondary Catholic educators through their boards' Religious and Family Life Education office in their

ongoing learning and engagement in the subject areas of Religious Education and Family Life. Working closely with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO), CARFLEO commits to being partners in education with the many organizations within the province that support the ongoing growth and development of theological thought, religious education and family life. CARFLEO works to engage educators in Religious and Family Life Education priorities in the province and the world at large. CARFLEO.com offers its members many resources to assist them in their role as Catholic educators. CARFLEO also offers in-person opportunities for educators to learn from one another and to share the Good News across the province. Our vision for CARFLEO is for the members to continue to renew their promise and commitment to the promotion and growth of Catholic Education in the Province of Ontario and beyond.

CARFLEO Executive 2025-26

Keri Calvesbert, Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB

Rick Frias, Windsor-Essex CDSB

Mike Gundert, Algonquin & Lakeshore CDSB (Chair)

Jennifer Koch, PVNC CDSB (Newsletter)

Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger, Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton

Lisa Malcom, Toronto CDSB (Secretary)

John Murphy, Waterloo CDSB

Stephanie Parniak, Huron-Superior CDSB

Caroline Thuss, Huron-Perth CDSB (Treasurer)

Kate Veinotte, CDSB of Eastern Ontario (Newsletter)

Amanda Wagg-Boyer, Niagara CDSB

Julie Webster, Dufferin-Peel CDSB

CONNECT WITH US

[CARFLEO.com](https://www.carfleo.com)



Have something you'd like to share for an upcoming CARFLEO newsletter?

Deadline for submissions is 2 weeks prior to publication dates.

Send to: Jennifer Koch at jeatonkoch@pvncdsb.on.ca

or Kate Veinotte at kate.veinotte@cdsbeo.on.ca

Upcoming newsletters: Spring - March 15 and Year End - May 15