

CARFLEO Newsletter

June 2009



On feeling the Mighty Wind in our Midst:

As we look back to the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, it is a time to survey and marvel at the richness of how the Spirit has been with us throughout this past school year.



For CARFLEO, our year has been punctuated with the important on-going work of Family Life education and the Intermediate resources. With support from our partners, and the help of Bishop Paul Andre Durocher, we are now able to expand video P.D. for teachers and parents, and can look forward to even more engaging and empowering implementation strategies.

This year's CARFLEO conference addressed important theological and spiritual issues around our fragile environment. At the centre of our time with Stephen Scharper, Marianne Karsh and Daisy Radigan were real and tangible signs of hope and how we need to reflect and only then engage in the co-creation of a healthier world.

Many have commented on the usefulness of our website, of which we are very proud. We will continue to update this resource to make available a wide array of resources and links that assist our members in the important work of Religion & Family Life education.

As we bask in the many experiences of this past school year, may you go into the summer weeks with the hopes of some well deserved rest and change of pace. May the Spirit inspire you in your undertakings so that you can continue in the ongoing building of God's presence among us.

Grade 7 & 8 Family Life Supplements

From its inception, Bishop Paul-Andre Durocher insisted that the Supplemental Resources to the Grade 7 & 8 *Fully Alive* be supported by PD for teachers. Project director John Podgorski is currently working with Bishop Durocher on the Professional Development components to the Supplemental Resources package. This video resource will give profile to Family Life Education in general, with positive outcomes in teacher professional development that will benefit both *Fully Alive* and the Supplemental Resource for years to come. The goal is for the video content to be streamed online, providing both teachers and parents with information, and formation related to Family Life Education.

CARFLEO Conference & AGM: “Toward a Climate of Change: Finding Hope and Keeping Faith Amidst Our Present Environmental Movement” April 28 & 29, 2009

Following a lively Annual General Meeting complete with environmental door prizes, Daisy Radigan, a D.Min. candidate from TST, led the delegates to this year’s CARFLEO Conference in a retelling and an experiencing of the Cosmic Story on



Tuesday evening that truly “set the table” for the offerings to follow on Wednesday. A small number of stalwarts rose with the dawn at a 6 a.m. sunrise service. Keynote speakers Stephen Sharper, Associate Professor with the Centre for the Study of Religion and the Centre for the Environment at the University of Toronto, and Marianne Karsh, a professional forester Director of *Arbor vitae*, presented those assembled with an experience that was nourishing both intellectually and spiritually.

Award Recipients

The Fr. Angus MacDougall Award for excellence in Family Life Education, and the Archbishop Pocock Award for excellence in Religious Education were presented at the CARFLEO Conference.

The winner of the Fr. Angus MacDougall Award was Shelly MacKenzie, London CDSB. Shelley worked very closely with Patrick Gallagher and Sylvia Santin in the rollout of the renewed *Fully Alive*, and the PowerPoint presentations she prepared have been widely-used throughout the province. John Van Dommelen, in presenting her for the award, pointed out that Shelley is a shining example of a teacher whose practice in the classroom can have influence across the province.

The winner of the Archbishop Pocock Award was Les Miller, York CDSB. Les is the past chair of CARFLEO and its current webmaster. His contributions to Religious Education across the province are many; the prayer resource “Gifts of Love”, with 150 prayer liturgies for occasions throughout the school year is just one example. In her remarks, Katherine Pellegrini stated that Les shares his many gifts generously with others. providing inspiring resource sto assist teachers in creating authentic faith experiences for students and staff.



The Canadian Forum on Theology and Education

“Evolutionary Faith” was the theme for Diarmuid O’Murchu’s offerings at St. Jerome’s University from the evening of Thursday May 7th to noon on Saturday May 9th. The conference was an ideal follow-up to the invitation extended at the CARFLEO event just a week earlier, to enter into the Universe Story. In his inimitably well-informed and passionate manner, Diarmuid O’Murchu was persuasive in urging his hearers to imagine the shift “from boundaries to horizons” and to embrace home-coming as the spiritual metaphor of the future.

News on World Religions

No doubt in great part because of the number and persuasiveness of submissions from Catholic school boards across the province, the Ministry of Education has elected to keep the World Religions, or “Human Expressions of Belief in Daily Life” course in its present Pathway as part of Grade Eleven. This is good news for those many schools and boards for whom that course was the standard Religious Studies course in Grade Eleven, and provides so many of our students with their Senior Social Science credit.

“Voices that Challenge” Youth Forum

Once again, Greg Rogers from TCDSB is coordinating a Youth Forum anticipating When Faith Meets Pedagogy that will gather hundreds of secondary Students from the south, central and western parts of Ontario to experience the work of Free the Children and Development and Peace. Taking place on Thursday, October 22nd, the Forum welcomes nine students and one teacher/supervisor from every high school in the seventeen CCC board to hear the voices that challenge youth today, especially Craig and Marc Kielburger, who will be the keynote speakers for the day.

When Faith Meets Pedagogy XIV

Among the “Voices that Challenge” at the Conference on October 22, 23, and 24, will be Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB, Craig and Marc Kielburger, Sr. Joan Cronin, Dr. Josie Lombardi, Tony Cosentino, Karen Connolly, and John Kostoff. The Eucharist will be celebrated by Archbishop Tom Collins of Toronto.

Free Canadian Resource about World Hunger from the UN World Food Program

Fighting Hunger the Rights Way is a free Canadian curriculum resource based on the internationally successful educational computer game “**Food Force**” from the UN World Food Programme. The resource, developed by Cape Breton University Children’s Rights Centre was designed to enable students to attain and demonstrate knowledge about nutrition, appreciation of the gravity of the world hunger issue, demonstrate an understanding that hunger exists in their communities, and identify areas in which they may make meaningful contributions. It was designed to fit closely with common provincial curriculum outcomes in Canada, the lesson plans enable teachers to use Food Force in English, math, social studies and science subjects, each subject is divided into two grade grouping: 4-6 and 7-9. The activities are fun and engaging for students, requires little preparation time and is very relevant to today’s issues.

To download a free copy of Fighting Hunger the Rights Way (French or English) go to:
<http://www.wfp.org/students-and-teachers/classroom-activities>

***Next year is an Election year for CARFLEO's executive.
If this is something you are interested in, please feel free to enquire
with Kevin Welbes Godin.***

WWW.CARFLEO.ORG

The website continues to gather great hit numbers and to be awesome. Contact
les.miller@ycdsb.org to contribute your excellent resources and links.

2008/2010 Executive Committee

Kevin Welbes Godin, *Chair*, Dan Reidy , *Past Chair*, Michael Jenny, *Treasurer*, Paul Beaudette, *Secretary*
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