

CARFLEO Newsletter

June 2014

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Tongues of Fire: “Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” (Acts 2:3-4)

I am often struck, when I hear the account of the events of Pentecost, by the depth of ambiguity—or perhaps better, multivalence—in that phrase, and that image, of “tongues of fire.” All of us have seen those tongues of flame in candles and campfires, but we also know that “tongues” - even here there is multiple meaning--are central to the miracle of Pentecost. We know that this was the birth of the Good News; the origin of the Church’s evangelizing message spoken by the apostles to all nations.



We also know, in our context of Religious and Family Life Education in Catholic Schools, about the power of student voice. To cite the words on our Adult Faith Animator in one of his Pentecost reflections: “To see the tongues as a powerful affirmation of the freedom of speech for all, a clarion call to let all the voices be heard, a challenge to vault over the barriers erected by language with the understanding of the heart. To feel not only the warmth of the fire, but the sting of its cleansing.”

May we continue to be open to hearing, and to being, the “tongues of fire” within our own communities of faith. And may your summer be blessed with restorative energies that kindle the flame within your own spirit.

Recapping CARFLEO Conference & AGM 2014:
“Learn from me . . . And I will give you rest”
APRIL 7th & 8th, 2013; Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga.

With the ongoing education around the *Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8: Religious Education*, the development of new Religious Education programs for the Elementary level, and the upcoming revision of the Secondary Religious Education Policy Document, the time was ripe for reflection on the catechetical foundations for Religious Education in Ontario Catholic schools. The conference title, “Learn from me, and I will give you rest,” reflected the challenging times in which Religious Educators find ourselves, and the need for greater understanding of how we can all be a part of the New Evangelization through the very important work that is happening in our classrooms, our schools, and our boards.

The Annual General Meeting preceding the conference proper provided the opportunity to hear reports from representatives of a number of our Catholic partners: the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, ICE, the three Curriculum Cooperatives (CCC, NOCCC and EOCCC), Novalis/Nelson and Pearson Publishing, and Development and Peace. As well, Les Miller presented an update on the CARFLEO website and new connections with social media (Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr), and presided over the election of officers for the CARFLEO Executive.

The focus of the conference built on the theme of last year's conference: "New Evangelization: Religious Education in the 21st Century," by tapping into the knowledge and expertise of one of Canada's leading catechists. Anne Walsh, from the Archdiocese of St. John's, Newfoundland, and the principal writer of the CCCB Faith Formation document *On Good Soil*, shared her rich background with conference delegates concerning the tasks of evangelization and catechesis, as they arise from the *General Catechetical Directory* and the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, and find themselves expressed in the Elementary Religious Education Policy Document.

CARFLEO AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Following the Opening Prayer liturgy, CARFLEO Awards were presented to the following recipients:

Archbishop Pocock Award for Excellence in Religious Education:

The Archbishop Pocock Award was presented at the beginning of Monday evening's activities to Jan Bentham of the Ottawa Catholic School Board. Jan taught religion in both the elementary and secondary panels, she was a consultant in Religious Ed prior to becoming the coordinator, a position she has held for the past 6 years. An accomplished musician and songwriter, she employs music and drama to help students understand and express faith. Her letter to students appears in the Grade 12 text, *In Search of the Good: A Catholic Understanding of Moral Living*. Maureen Dufour, an OCSB Chaplaincy Leader, presented the award to Jan.



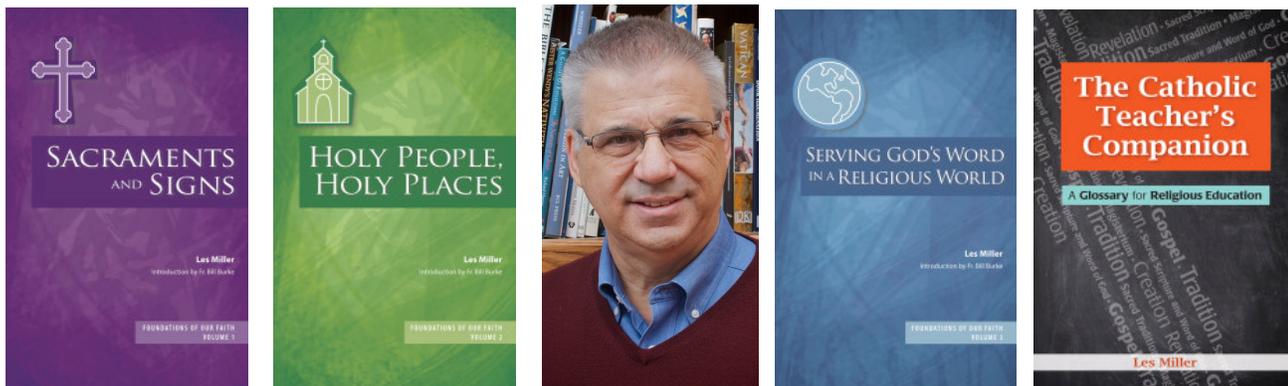
Father Angus MacDougall Award for Excellence in Family Life Education:



The Fr. Angus McDougall Award for Excellence in Family Life Education was presented to Leanne Thompson from the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. Paul Beaudette, CARFLEO Chair and her board colleague presented the award to Leanne, whose career as a teacher in the primary and junior divisions and Consultant in Religion and Family Life spans over forty years of service in Family Life Education. Always upholding the integrity and integration of Family Life Education within the Religious Education program, and providing strong and informed leadership in the area of Family Life Education in the Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB, Leanne has exemplified, in word and deed, her passionate commitment to Family Life Education. We wish Leanne well as she embarks on the next exciting phase of her life as she retires from teaching in June.

Congratulations, Les Miller

Les (centre) was also honoured for four recent titles he has written: three "Foundations of the Faith" volumes, and *The Catholic Teacher's Companion*. Glenn Byer from Novalis made a surprise presentation to congratulate Les on this achievement and to share the news of the publication of these new catechetical resources.



The conference concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by Bishop William McGrattan, Liaison Bishop for CARFLEO, whose appointment as Ordinary to the Diocese of Peterborough had just been announced that morning.

Next Year's CARFLEO Conference: Plans for our 2015 Conference, to take place on March 26th-27th are well underway. Once again we will gather at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga. We look forward to offering you a rich and healthy dialogue about the issues important to you in Catholic Education. Please put March 26th and 27th in your calendar now and look to our website for conference and registration information: www.CARFLEO.org

"An Adult Faith Journey. . . Credible Witnesses"

This Symposium on Adult Faith Formation will take place on Thursday September 18 (after lunch) to Friday September 19, 2014 in the Hugh Foster Room, Milton Town Hall. The conference plans to be an exciting one with featured speakers Jerry Creedon and Anne Jamieson. Please see attachments for registration information and forms.

Summer Learning Opportunities:

Becoming Agents of Evolutionary Change: A Symposium at King's College, Western University Would you like to deal differently with polarization? Engage conflict in new ways? Learn to live differently? During this symposium, Carter Phipps, Sue Wilson and all of us will explore the frontier of what is being called integral spirituality and integral politics. We will explore both the challenges we face in our lives and also the expanded inner consciousness needed to meet them in new ways. Click on the poster to find out more information. July 4-July 6, 2014. For more information, see <http://carfleo.com/2014/04/18/summer-symposium/>

The Summer Institutes in Pastoral Liturgy and Religious Education, offered by the Faculty of Theology at Saint Paul University, will take place on July 7-18, 2014. These Institutes provide courses on key topics for adult learners and offer participants a rich forum for liturgical, theological, and catechetical formation in a prayerful community environment. For more information, <http://carfleo.com/2014/05/21/the-summer-institutes-in-pastoral-liturgy-sipl-and-religious-education-sire-ottawa/>.

Authentic Witness and Evangelization: Christ Connecting Leaders and Youth

A Conference/Retreat for adults engaged in ministry with youth – Aug. 18-22, 2014 – London, ON The A.W.E. Conference will gather up to 60 adults who are engaged in faith based relationships with youth, inclusive of teachers, chaplaincy leaders, parish youth ministry leaders and parents. This experience of spiritual renewal and formation responds to a need for skill development toward authentic witness and ongoing faith conversation with young people, in the context of the New

Evangelization, and the nurturing of the domestic Church. It promises to offer the participants skills, practice and tools for witnessing to the Good News in our daily encounters with younger disciples. See attached flyer.

CARFLEO Presentation at When Faith Meets Pedagogy:

The “When Faith Meets Pedagogy” Conference takes place on October 23rd-25th, 2014. For more details, see <http://www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org/conference.html>. As a partner in the conference, CARFLEO is excited to be presenting a workshop at When Faith Meets Pedagogy—watch the conference program for further details.

www. CARFLEO.org

The website continues to gather great interest and to be an easily maneuverable resource to many.

The CARFLEO website at www.carfleo.org is home to one of the richest resources available to Ontario Religious Education and Family Life teachers. It contains some of the most important documents you will use and points you in the direction of many others. Included in the website you will find:

- CARFLEO supports for Family Life and Religious Education;
- Updates on upcoming conferences and events;
- Religious Education and Family Life curriculum resources; and
- Annotated links to many websites related to Religious Education and Family Life Education.

See also the social media sites at:

<https://twitter.com/TWEETcarfleo>

<https://www.facebook.com/Carfleo>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/VIDEOCARFLEO/videos>

<http://carfleo.tumblr.com/>

If you want (nearly) daily postings of new resources pertinent to Ontario Religious and Family Life Educators, go to www.carfleo.com and click on the “Follow” button on the top right.

If you have any resources that you wish to share with CARFLEO members by putting them on the website, please contact Les Miller at rl.miller@utoronto.ca.

2014/2015 Executive Committee

Paul Beaudette , *Chair*, Kevin Welbes Godin, *Past Chair*, Sr. Pat Carter, *Treasurer*, Michael Way-Skinner, *Secretary*,

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