



# NEWS RELEASE

December 15, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Communications  
Department  
80 Sheppard Avenue East  
North York, Ontario  
M2N 6E8

**Media Contact:**

Emmy Szekeres Milne  
Acting Manager  
Communications  
416-222-8282 Ext. 2356  
[emmy.szekeresmilne@tcdsb.org](mailto:emmy.szekeresmilne@tcdsb.org)

**Information:**

Michael Consul  
416-222-8282 Ext. 2572  
[Michael.consul@tcdsb.org](mailto:Michael.consul@tcdsb.org)

## TORONTO CATHOLIC STUDENTS TO BUILD HOMES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Eighteen students from Toronto Catholic Schools, including one from a York region school, will depart Toronto on December 27<sup>th</sup> for the Philippines. The youth will be helping to construct shelter homes in Manila.

The project was initiated by TCDSB teacher Michael Consul, who established a connection with “Answering the Cry of the Poor”. They will be visiting one of the poorest communities in Manila where people live in shanties and make-shift homes, without electricity or running water. In a separate visit to another community, they will be serving lunch to 200 children and distributing Christmas gifts. They will also be conducting a community clean-up and running a mini-Olympics. The gifts, luncheon and cleaning supplies are all donated by the students through their own fundraising efforts. The students will also visit an orphanage to meet the residents and help out with daily chores.

Students qualified for the trip by writing an essay explaining why they wanted to participate in the project. Most felt privileged to live in Canada and wanted to give back to those less fortunate. The students raised funds to pay for their transportation and accommodations. They will return to Toronto on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

“This project is one of many social justice initiatives that our students undertake at the TCDSB”, says Mr. Consul. “This experience cultivates responsible citizenship in our students, which is one of our Catholic Graduate expectations.”

For more information and/or to offer financial support to the students’ project, please contact Michael Consul at [michael.consul@tcdsb.org](mailto:michael.consul@tcdsb.org) or at 416-222-8282 Ext. 2572.

- 30 -

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates more than 93,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in its 201 Catholic elementary and secondary schools and serves approximately 475,000 Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto.*

**TORONTO CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
TRUSTEES 2011-2012**

**Wards**

1. Peter Jakovic	416-512-3401
2. Ann Andrachuk, Chair	416-512-3402
3. Sal Piccininni, Vice-Chair	416-512-3403
4. Patrizia Bottori	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6. Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406
7. John Del Grande	416-512-3407
8. Tobias Enverga	416-512-3408
9. Jo-Ann Davis	416-512-3409
10. Barbara Poplawski	416-512-3410
11. Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
12. Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
Sabrina Renne, Student Trustee	416-512-3413