

## **‘Good News’ from the Four Schools of St. Benedict Parish**

**On June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009 over 1500 students and staff from Holy Child, St. Benedict, St. Stephen and Msgr. Percy Johnson schools gathered by the Humber River to celebrate a Mass dedicated to Mother Mary. Interschool rivalry was put aside as this Eucharistic celebration allowed all the children to experience the reality of belonging to one parish community. The idea of a Mass by the River began as a casual conversation between Fr. Pace and the school principal during the St. Benedict School walk in 2007. This seed blossomed and became a reality because of many volunteers and the enthusiasm and positive attitude of those who formed the committee.**

**The celebration started with a pilgrimage by each school along the river valley to the gathering place at Esther Lorrie Park. The procession for the Mass included ten students carrying the Virtue banners and waving colourful ribbons. Students from all four schools participated in the singing of the hymns, readings and offertory procession. The Msgr. Johnson students added serenity and melody to the natural surroundings with their music.**

**This event was the culmination of a year’s worth of planning by the committee with representation from each school and the rectory. We are particularly grateful for the support of our parent community; Knights of Columbus Council 14327, TCDSB media center, Councillor Rob Ford and the constables from 23 division who helped with road safety.**

**The event was a great success and an open and joyous proclamation to the community of our Catholic faith. It was the Virtues in action and a personification of the Word, Worship and Witness.**