



## **Kathleen McGilly: Canadian Witness to Faith**



### **What kind of difference do you hope to make in living a life based on Jesus' teachings?**

The criteria for being called to be a Catholic teacher need to reflect the Gospel stories. Jesus was concerned not so much with the past of those He called to his teaching ministry, but with each one's WILLINGNESS to journey with Him. His focus was on the future! Ed Nelligan, the first director of this Toronto Board said "The good Catholic teacher is always at the level of IMPERFECTION! Consequently the criteria should allow for faults and failings as well as gifts and attributes (This Moment of Promise).

### **What advice do you have for a young Catholic finding ways to express their faith?**

The Jesus ministry of teaching ALWAYS involved healing and welcoming. So this healing, compassionate presence of a teacher in our Gospel based Catholic schools should also be part of the expectation and of course of the evaluation. Today's teachers, like Jesus, are called to be there for the least, the last, the little and the lost! Success in our schools goes beyond academic evaluations. Like Jesus, we need teachers who can be a compassionate healing presence in a very broken secular world. To quote "Rainbows for All God's Children". "CHILDREN CANNOT LEARN IF THEY HURT INSIDE". No matter how good the program, the teacher learning cannot happen in brokenness! So often today's teachers must do, as Jesus did in the Synagogue in Capernaum, put down the curriculum to attend to the diseased learner!

The mission statement of Jesus in the Synagogue in Nazareth before he began his ministry should be the pattern of each of our mission statements -Board, office and schools. Our evaluations and hiring processes should embrace the values Jesus espouses there in Luke 4: BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR

TO BRING THOSE WHO ARE BLINDED TO NEW SIGHT AND INSIGHT

TO FEED ALL HUNGER -FOR KNOWLEDGE, FOR SPIRITUALITY, FOR ACCEPTANCE

TO FREE ALL IMPRISONED BY THE MANY BURDONS, PRIORITIES AND DEMANDS OF TODAY'S WORLD

2,000 years later these ARE STILL THE NEEDS and, in my experience , our schools have been very effective in being a life giving presence to so many in our care .My hope and prayer is that we will never let the values of our secular society replace those of Jesus -what an awesome task ! We Catholic teachers job-share with the Divine One!