

# THE VISION

## CTC/Religion & Family Life Department Newsletter

Advent Season 2013

### The Season of Advent 2013

*"The people who have walked in darkness  
have seen a great light."* Isaiah 9:2



- The 2013 Season of Advent began on Sunday, December 1st!
- Advent means "coming."
- We wait in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas
- The pink candle will be lit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

[http://www.archtoronto.org/events\\_news/adventA.html](http://www.archtoronto.org/events_news/adventA.html)

### 2013-2014 CTC/RELIGION & FAMILY LIFE TEAM

Welcome to the following wonderful people who have joined our team CTC/Religion & Family Life Department Team:

Fr. Obinna Ifeanyi  
Susan HooKong-Taylor  
Robert Gallo  
Catena Manco  
Michelle Peres

*Returning from last year:*

Glynnis Hope Dawson and Anne Marum

Living our Values:

Nurturing Our  
Catholic Community



A community of  
**FAITH**  
anchored in  
**HOPE**  
with heart &  
**CHARITY**



TCDSB - Three Year  
Pastoral Plan

FAITH	2012-2013
HOPE	2013-2014
CHARITY	2014-2015

## Important Catholic Links:

**Archdiocese of Toronto -**  
[http://www.archtoronto.org/about\\_our\\_faith/glossary.html](http://www.archtoronto.org/about_our_faith/glossary.html)

**Catholic Curriculum Corporation –**  
<https://www.google.ca/#q=catholic+curriculum+corporation>

**Institute for Catholic Education –**  
<https://www.google.ca/#q=institute+for+catholic+education>

**Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario –**  
<https://www.google.ca/#q=assembly+of+catholic+bishops+of+ontario>

**Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
<https://www.google.ca/#q=canadian+association+of+catholic+bishops>

## What does HOPE look like?

For St. Vincent De Paul students, it is the joy they bring to the elderly during their annual visit to a seniors' home.



## Anchor of Hope

The Anchor of Hope is a collaborative initiative involving the Religion Department, Arts Department, 21st Century Learning, and Communications Department of the TCDSB. A six foot wooden anchor created by the students at Father Henry Carr Secondary School will have three digital photo frames embedded inside. The frames will showcase both photos of the *Witness to Faith Cross's travels in our Year of Faith*, as well as photographs of **'What Hope Looks Like in Our School Communities'** submitted by each school in this **Year of Hope**, the second year of our pastoral plan of Faith, Hope and Charity. They will continually highlight the various representations of HOPE while in the atrium of the Catholic Education Centre, the central location of all of our TCDSB schools.

During Catholic Education Week, May 4-7, a video montage of all photos of hope, set to the music of Susan HooKong Taylor's song **'Hope in Christ'** will be available at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org), and a link will be emailed to principals to view with students at masses and assemblies board-wide.

The digital frames will be replaced with iPads on April 28th, celebrating the life of both Blessed Pope John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII as we commemorate their canonizations. This day will mark the Anchor of Hope's first visit outside of the CEC.

All photo submissions should be sent to [robert.gallo@tcdsb.org](mailto:robert.gallo@tcdsb.org)

The Anchor of Hope allows us to use creativity, think critically, communicate, and collaborate. This is another demonstration of our faith in action!

Robert Gallo  
 Religion & Family Life Resource Teacher – Areas 5 & 6

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – POLICY DOCUMENTS

### 1) *Ontario Catholic Secondary Curriculum Policy Document Religious Education - 2006*

The Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, through the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE), will be putting a writing team together, in 2014, to update the 2006 *Secondary Religious Education Policy Document*. An initial committee recommended that the Secondary Curriculum Policy Document should maintain the five strands and not align itself with the new 2012 *Elementary Religious Education Policy Document*, which has six Strands. The bishops accepted this recommendation.

### 2) *Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document Grades 1 – 8 Religious Education – 2012*

<http://www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org/Units/ReligiousPolicyDocument.pdf>

Two of the main elements in the Elementary Religious Education Policy Document are as follows:

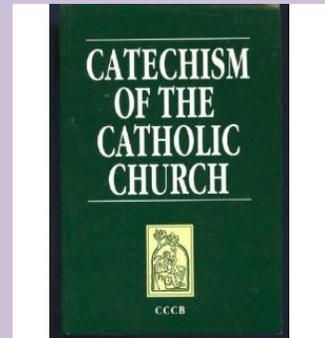
- **Hope Expectations** (*Our Hope for Students*)  
(Primary; Junior; Intermediate)
- **Strands in the Curriculum (6)**
  - Believing
  - Celebrating
  - Living a Moral Life
  - Living in Communion
  - Living in Solidarity

In developing the framework for the organization of expectations under specific strands, Catholic bishops took two church documents into consideration:

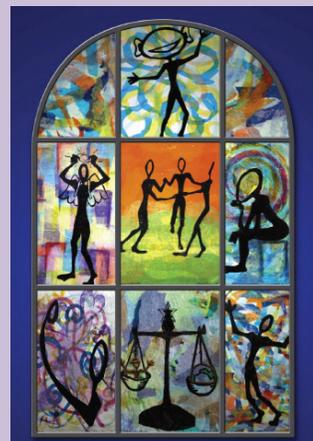
- *The General Directory for Catechesis (GDC)*
- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*

**Current Religion texts to be used until new resources are written.**

Elementary principals will be introduced to the new Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1 – 8 Religious Education at K-8 meetings in 2014.



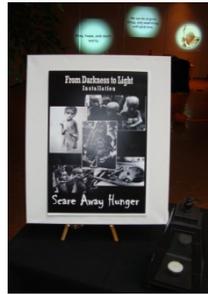
### **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations**



### **Institute for Catholic Education (ICE)**

### **Adapted Elementary wording for OCSGE**

<http://www.iceont.ca/page1785519.aspx>



## We Scare Hunger

On Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the Catholic Teacher Centre together with the Arts Department and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning hosted a “We Scare Hunger” themed liturgy and Taizé prayer service at the Catholic Education Centre to commemorate *All Hallow’s Eve*.

As CEC staff gathered, they were invited to make donations of non-perishable food items by following a candle lit pathway. The pathway led staff, through a hallway of projected images of Saints and quotes on hope, towards the donation display. A few staff members dressed up as skeletons with statistics of hunger pinned onto their shirts to exemplify the need of many who are hungry in our city.

The gathering was followed by a wonderful and thought provoking liturgy delivered by Fr. Obinna, about the meaning of *All Hallow’s Eve* and its roots in Christianity. Subsequently, staff participated in Taizé prayer, led by Susan HooKong-Taylor from the Catholic Teacher Centre.

All donated food was given to the Angel Foundation for Learning for their school nutrition programs.

Michelle Peres, Religion & Family Life Resource Teacher – Areas 7 & 8

## Glossary of Common Church Terms:

### Cantor

One who leads the singing during the liturgy, such as the responsorial psalm.

### Cathedral

The principal church building of a diocese or archdiocese. It is the seat of the bishop.

### Celebrant

The priest or bishop who presides over the assembly and consecrates the bread and wine at Mass.

### Chalice

The cup used to hold the wine that is consecrated to become the Blood of Christ.

### Alb

A white robe worn during Mass by priests to cover street clothes.

### Chasuble

Worn over the alb. Colors vary depending on liturgical season, feasts or other observances.

### Ciborium

A vessel used to hold the consecrated bread for its distribution during Communion. Plural: ciboria.

### Source:

Archdiocese of Toronto

[http://www.archtoronto.org/about\\_our\\_faith/glossary.html](http://www.archtoronto.org/about_our_faith/glossary.html)

## PRAYERS - IN THE REVISED *FULLY ALIVE* TEXTS (Grades 1-8)

### Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario



Click on the links below to find out the prayers for each grade level in *Fully Alive*. Remember, “*Blue things do things!*”

#### Grade One:

[http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/Prayers\\_Gd1.pdf](http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/Prayers_Gd1.pdf)

#### Grade Two:

<http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/Grade2Prayers.pdf>

#### Grade Three:

[http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/GD3\\_Prayers\\_PDF.pdf](http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/GD3_Prayers_PDF.pdf)

#### Grade Four:

<http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/Grade%204.%20prayers.pdf>

#### Grade Five:

<http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/Gd.5%20Fam.Ed.Prayers.pdf>

#### Grade Six:

<http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/Gd6%20Fam.Ed.prayers.pdf>

#### Grade Seven:

<http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/Gd.7%20Fam.Ed.prayers.pdf>

#### Grade Eight:

<http://acbo.on.ca/englishdocs/Grade%208%20Prayers.pdf>

## Revised *Fully Alive* - Rollout Update

The Revised Grade Seven *Fully Alive* Program was rolled out successfully in October 2013 with over 300 teachers attending one of four workshops across the city. Next year, 2014-2015, the rollout will be completed with the purchase of the revised program for Grade Eight classes and the subsequent in-services for teachers.

## WFMP 2013 Conference “Opening Doors of Faith”



This year, the TCDSB Religion and Family Life Department collaborated with the Arts Department to facilitate a workshop for the **When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference: Opening Doors of Faith** which took place from October 24-26, 2013. Titled, **“Making Religion Come Alive through the Arts: Puppetry”**, participants learned and discussed the importance of integrating core subjects into the Religion and Family Life programs. With styrofoam, plastic bags, masking tape and duct tape, the puppets began to take a life of their own as teachers added their own flair to their work. Excited discussions on how they could use this art project in their classrooms filled the air as teachers created their puppets. From ones that looked like Jesus to puppets that resembled themselves, teachers enjoyed this hands-on workshop that made room for Christ, the Arts and imagination to soar.

Glynnis Hope Dawson  
Religion & Family Life Resource Teacher - Areas 1 & 2

## Chaplaincy Leaders Retreat 2013

The annual Chaplaincy Leaders Retreat was held at St. Gabriel’s Parish on November 27<sup>th</sup>. The retreat was facilitated by Fr. Obinna Ifeanyi and Susan HooKong Taylor from the Catholic Teacher Centre. Chaplaincy Leaders also enjoyed Elisa Lollino’s one woman, one act dramatization, *“He Thirsts for You”* based on the biblical story of the woman at the well.

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TCDSB

### Mission Statement

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ.*

*We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*

### OUR VISION

*At Toronto Catholic, we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

### YEAR OF HOPE RESOURCES

<http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/Pages/Default.aspx>

### RELIGION DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

<http://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/BoardServices/ReligionFamilyLife/Pages/Default.aspx>

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**A Catholic Call to Serve (ACCTS)**

On October 16<sup>th</sup> 2013, over 100 high school students from the TCDSB community came together at Holy Rosary Parish Hall to be Anchors of Hope, demonstrating a commitment to leadership and making a difference. These students are becoming role models for others in their own school community by demonstrating what it means to be a responsible citizen and a collaborative contributor. A C C T S - A Catholic Call to Serve gives students and staff the opportunity to touch the lives of those most in need and give back to the community by participating in a variety of diverse service projects - from fall cleanup of gardens to visiting seniors, to working with people with disabilities or the homeless.



The day began in prayer lead by the Catholic Teacher Centre and the Religious Education Department. We were reminded that as Catholics we are called to use our gifts to serve those in our community. We were then led in wonderful community building activities lead by Michael Consul, and Student Leadership. Following this, we were treated to an inspiring motivational speech by Neil McCarthy, Director of Communications at the Archdiocese of Toronto. Before we knew what was happening, Neil had us all laughing and meeting new people. Students and teachers then went out to tangibly live our faith by doing charitable works all over the City of Toronto. No sooner did we return from our time spent with those in need, did we receive emails of thanks for the awesome work that our community has done and continues to do. TCDSB staff and students demonstrated how taking a few hours out of our busy schedules to help others renews our spirits while being anchors of hope for those in need. Thank you to all the Chaplains, teachers and staff who participated in this day and all the great works that are accomplished daily. Until next year!



Catena Manco - Religion & Family Life Resource Teacher - Areas 3 & 4