



2012

Inaugural Address

HSCDSB Chair – Laurie Aceti



We have come together today to celebrate the reconstitution of the Board of Trustees for the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board. This past year was the first year for this group of Trustees and we have demonstrated how well we can work together to support and enhance Catholic education in our school system.

As a team we combined our gifts to enhance the vision and values of this Board so that all students, parents and staff could have a common focus and could continue our journey of excellence where we educate the heart, soul, mind and body of our students.

This past year has been a wonderful time to be a Catholic Trustee. We have seen many examples of the great spiritual work that is alive in our schools. We have watched our high schools develop a Super Council to bring together all the voices of the young people who will be our leaders of tomorrow. We have watched as all our schools participated in supporting Development and Peace in the relief efforts for Japan and the Horn of Africa, as well as The Soup Kitchen, Christmas Cheer and many more events that allowed our students to share their good fortune with the less fortunate.

In Elliot Lake, the students at Our Lady of Lourdes sent letters and packages to Canadian soldiers serving overseas. Many of us had the opportunity to watch the students of St Paul's Catholic School in their powerful presentation of the Last Supper that made the Easter Story come alive. Truly our staff and students are demonstrating how to "Walk in the Light of Christ".

As exciting as this last year has been, this next year holds even more changes and challenges. In September 2012, we will open the newly built Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School. It is the first new build school, the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board has opened in over a decade. As we prepare for that move we will also be involved in the planning and development of a new high school to be opened by September 2015. It is very exciting to be involved in the creation of a new Catholic school. I can assure everyone, that input for the design and development will be as inclusive as possible among the Catholic community.

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This year will also bring to a conclusion a project that the Trustees undertook three years ago – a history of the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board and all the predecessor boards. We are hoping to have the book ready by Catholic Education Week.

There are chapters that deal with each individual board, that initially only represented one school, and their evolution into larger boards. There are stories of the individuals who worked diligently in the formation and foundation of Catholic Education across our district. The significant role and contribution of OECTA is also well documented.

Like any historical document there are passages that are of great human interest as well as the slow moving details of the various political laws that were enacted over time. I invite you to take the time to learn the story and then you will value what has been accomplished by the founders of Catholic Education and understand why we must still be vigilant to maintain this jewel that we call Catholic Education.

In closing, I would like to thank the Trustees for their confidence in returning me as Chair of the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board. I would also like to thank Director John Stadnyk and Superintendents Maria Esposito, John Bruno, Toni Nanne-Little and Chris Spina for their encouragement and support over this past year. We have a great team with this combination of Trustees and Administrative staff.

Together in 2012 we will “Walk in the Light of Christ”.

Sincerely,



Chair

