

**English Catholic Council of
Ontario Directors of Education**

2009

Catholicity Best Practices



Compiled by:
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Director of Education
Ottawa Catholic School Board
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KENORA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: PHYLLIS EIKRE

Best Practice #1: Spiritual Development Day

Contact Information: Sister Maria Ciccarelli, snjm, Religious & Family Life Education Coordinator; mciccarelli@kcdsb.on.ca

Details: A gathering on the first day of a new school year of all teachers, educational assistants, administration, priests, trustees, and representatives from school councils to provide spiritual nourishment and focus to our mission as Catholic school educators. The day, held in the gymnasium of one of our schools, begins with a Morning Prayer Service, an address by the Director of Education, sessions with a very motivational/inspiring keynote speaker throughout the day, and ends with the celebration of the Eucharist.

Throughout the years we have been blessed with excellent and inspirational resource persons such as Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, Dr. David Roy from the Bioethical Institute in Montreal, Dr. Mark McGowan from the Toronto School of Theology, and many others.

Best Practice #2: System Retreat

Contact Information: Sister Maria Ciccarelli, snjm, Religious & Family Life Education Coordinator; mciccarelli@kcdsb.on.ca

Details: This is an optional retreat opportunity provided on the first Saturday in May by the KCDSB to all its employees, trustees, priests/pastoral workers, and representatives from school councils, retired teachers, and some community services.

This retreat has been held for a number of years at Andy Lake Resort, a most beautiful place in God's creation, isolated in the bush yet only a half-hour drive from Kenora. It begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends with the celebration of Eucharist at noon followed by lunch. Both body and spiritual nourishment are exceptional. This is always an extremely positive experience for a community that desires to gather, to be nurtured spiritually, to pray, and to celebrate together.

We have had some of the most inspiring retreat directors for this occasion, such as Jamie McCracken from the Ottawa-Carleton School Board, Archbishop Weisgerber from Winnipeg, Msgr. Pat Stilla and Bishop Colli from Thunder Bay, Sister Clare Fitzgerald from Boston (with Bishop Colli able to join us as presider for the Eucharistic Liturgy), Fr. Fred Olds from St. Bernadette's Parish in St. Boniface, Fr. Gerry Ward from Winnipeg, and Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick who also does chaplaincy for OCSTA.