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2024 OAPCE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

A Celebration of
Change,
Commitment
& Catholic Education

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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



On Saturday, April 13, OAPCE's annual conference took place at Monsignor Percy Johnson Secondary School, Etobicoke.

The OAPCE Board of Directors want to thank all attendees and our valued sponsors and vendors for their help in making this conference a huge success!

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

Laura Salem



Parents from across the province were able to come from all regions and included parents from the following boards:

- Toronto
- Dufferin-Peel
- York
- Halton
- Hamilton
- Niagara
- Nipissing-Parry Sound
- Simcoe-Muskoka
- Waterloo
- London
- Thunder Bay
- Algonquin and Lakeshore

Attendees were treated to a delightful day of discussion and connection with the focus on how parents can use our collective voice to Engage, Advocate, and Enhance Catholic Education in Ontario.





KARL SUBBAN

Guest Keynote Speaker Karl Subban, hockey dad of NHL players PK, Malcolm and Jordan Subban, shared personal stories about arriving in Sudbury as a new Canadian in the 1970s, parenting his five children, and working as a school principal. He spoke about how important it is to let each child feel seen and to help them reach their full potential. Karl was kind enough to answer some audience questions and to sign his books "How We Did It" and "The Hockey Skates" after his presentation.



JOE PERRI

OAPCE Co-Executive Director Joe Perri treated parents to a fun and interactive presentation on "Superparents: Unlocking the Powers of Advocacy." Joe talked about how parents can truly become superheros in the lives of their children by staying actively involved in their educational lives and advocating for their success. Participants were given superhero-themed masks and were encouraged to introduce themselves and connect with others wearing the matching masks. The best part of the OAPCE conference is the connections made between parents throughout the province, and this interactive presentation gave parents that opportunity!



STEPHEN LECCE

Ontario Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce surprised parents and student volunteers with a visit where he took the podium and provided his endorsement for the thriving Catholic education system in our province. He thanked OAPCE and congratulated our parents for their active involvement in the education of their children and asked for our continued help as the Ministry continues its work to create a nurturing environment for our students.



DR. ANNE JAMIESON

After taking some time for lunch and a visit to the vendor mall, our parents heard from the Institute of Catholic Education Institute Executive Director, Dr. Anne Jamieson, who shared some personal stories about being raised by two loving Irish Catholic parents and her own experiences as a parent to her four children. Dr. Anne encouraged parents to understand how Christ has entrusted us with the privilege of raising our children and can help us stay strong and handle any obstacle that comes our way.

Presentation of OAPCE Distinguished award was given to Dr. Jamieson was the recipient of the Father Mozzarella Award which is given to a religious or layperson that supports the aims and goals of OAPCE and has substantially contributed to the Catholic system in the community and to the Association in particular.

ICEONT



CHRIS BRAY

Catholic Speaker & Musician Chris Bray capped off the conference and spoke about the challenges and blessings of raising five daughters during the pandemic and how he draws upon the power of prayer to stay strong. None of us are perfect at parenting, but our faith can give us the power to lead our children to live their values.

CHRIS BRAY





HIS GRACE, ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO

The celebration of Holy Mass followed the conference and was held at St. Benedict's Parish, located next door to the school, and was presided by His Grace, Archbishop Francis Leo, Diocese of Toronto Archbishop, OAPCE Liaison Bishop Mathieu, St. Benedict Parish Priests Father Sean McEwan, Father Branden Gordon, as well as other priests. The Mass included the commissioning of OAPCE Directors and representatives from across the province.





The conference Gala Dinner & Awards ended the day at the Sandman Signature Toronto Airport Hotel with His Grace, Archbishop Leo as a Keynote speaker where he spoke to the importance of Parents as the first educators of their children how the schools are there to support them as well as ensure the Catholic faith is prevalent in all that is taught in schools. A painting titled "Mother Mary" that was commissioned by OAPCE and painted by Monsignor Percy Johnson student Layla Subramani was presented to the Archbishop, as well as an Appreciation Plaque to thank His Grace for his support of OAPCE and his first Conference with us!



At the dinner the distinguished OAPCE awards were given out recognizing individuals, who in substantial ways, through their expertise, time and effort support the organization's principles to engage, advocate and enhance Catholic Education.





THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WERE PRESENTED



**Parent Volunteer of the Year Award –
Teresa Colonna, TCDSB Parent.**



**Special OAPCE 85 Honorary Lifetime
Membership Award – Garry Tanuan,
Trustee, TCDSB and long-time
OAPCE supporter.**



Monsignor Harrigan Award, the oldest award given to a priest, bishop, deacon or school chaplain who supports the aims and goals of OAPCE and has substantially contributed to the Catholic system in the community and to the associations in particular through at least two years of personal service: Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa-Cornwall and OAPCE Bishop Liaison Yvon Mattieu.



OAPCE 85 Legacy Leadership Award - In its inaugural year, The OAPCE Legacy Leadership Award is given to an individual or organization that actively leads initiatives to support the mission and vision of OAPCE with integrity and has acted in the best interests of the association to Engage, Advocate, and to Enhance parents in Catholic Education in Ontario. Co-Executive Directors Joe Perri & Annalisa Crudo-Perri were both given this award in recognition of all their work and for representing the organization as a whole in a positive and impactful way.

Thanks again to all OAPCE supporters for an inspiring conference!

We look forward to hosting parents again for our next annual conference in 2025!