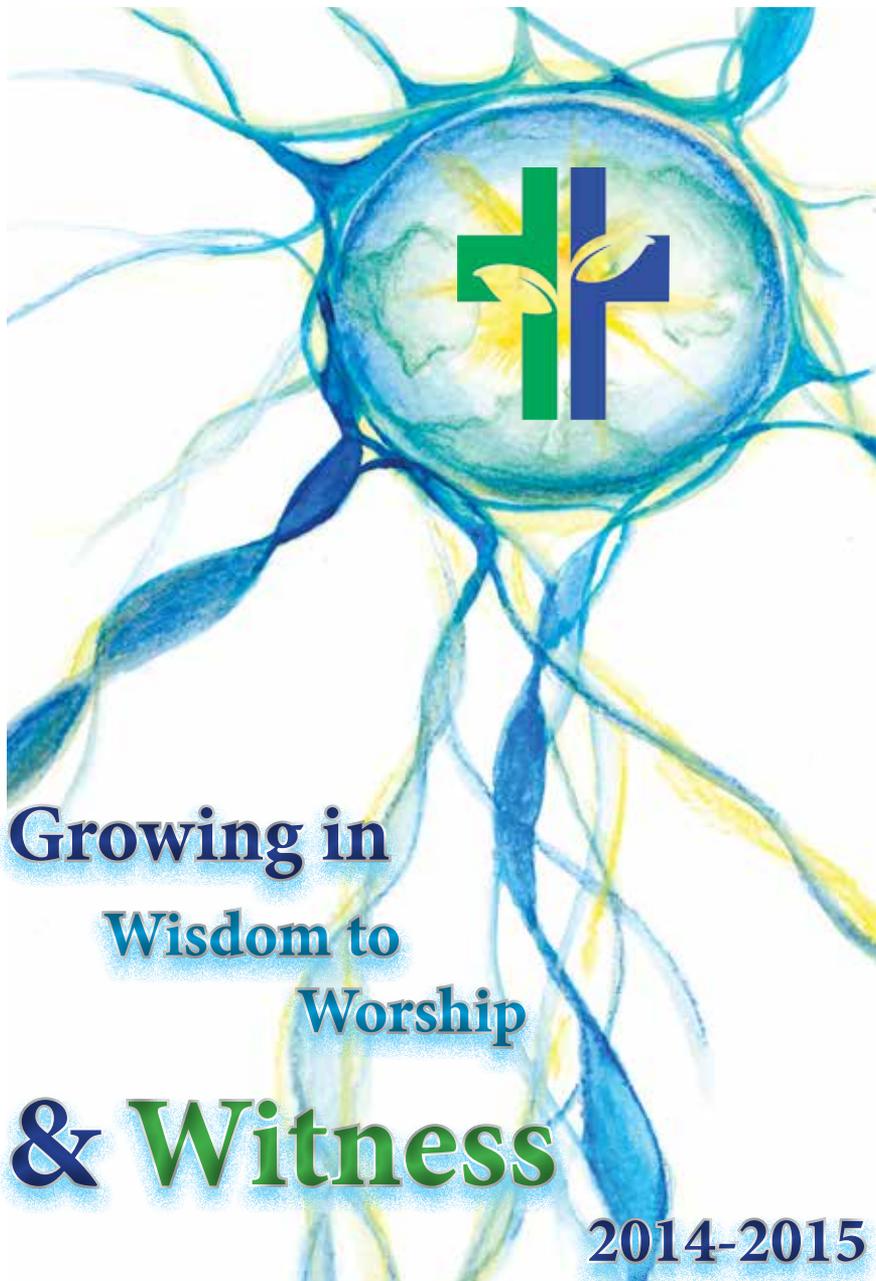


# Faith Formation Program



Growing in  
Wisdom to  
Worship  
& Witness

2014-2015

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# *Our Prayer*

*Gracious God, we pray that the  
Niagara Catholic community may be inspired  
to draw ever closer to you as we journey together in faith.*

*May we grow in Wisdom,  
Eager to delve deeper into the mysteries of our faith  
With our hearts open to your Divine Presence in our lives.*

*May we Worship and give You praise  
with sincerity and true devotion.*

*May we be witnesses to your saving power in our lives,  
with generous hearts and loving spirits.*

*Guide us and bless us as we grow in Wisdom to Worship and Witness.*

*We ask this through Christ, our Lord and teacher. Amen.*



*"The Niagara Catholic District School Board  
through the charisms of faith, social justice,  
support and leadership, nurtures an enriching  
Catholic learning community  
for all to reach their full potential  
and become living witnesses of Christ."*

Our mission statement defines our vision, but also includes its own challenge to each of us. We cannot nurture others unless we, ourselves, are fed. We cannot help to form community unless we, ourselves, engage communally.

With the 2014-2015 school year we move into the third year of our three year theological theme, Growing in Wisdom to Worship and Witness, with the focus on "Witness".

St. Francis of Assisi said "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words." We are called to be the face of Jesus for others, and challenged at a deeper level to ask ourselves some hard questions: What does this Christian life actually look like? Do I try to be consistent in the face I show to others? Do I allow my love for God to motivate my attitudes and actions?

This year a number of sessions have been arranged that will not only spiritually feed us and build our faith, but will also more directly support classroom efforts as we continue to work with the new Religion and Family Life Policy document.

May all of our work in the coming year bear witness to the joy of the Gospel, and may God bless you richly in all that you do.

## Registration - NEW

Please register for all sessions by logging into MyNiagaraCatholic, PD Place using the In-Service ID provided with each session.

Each session has been designated as an inservice under the broad course umbrella of “Niagara Catholic Adult Faith Formation 2014-2015.”

If you have any problems registering through PD Place, please contact Debra McCaffery, [debra.mccaffery@ncdsb.com](mailto:debra.mccaffery@ncdsb.com).

All staff are encouraged to participate in faith formation sessions, you might consider these perfect opportunities for your Annual Learning Plan!

Administrators are asked to commit to any three sessions.

New Teacher Induction Program and Leadership Internship Program are asked to commit to three general sessions

## NEW - Watch for the \*\*\*!

Would you like some help with the new Religion and Family Life Policy document?

Some sessions have been specifically chosen because the content will not only enhance the faith of anyone interested, but will also provide support in the classroom.

# WHEN FAITH MEETS PEDAGOGY 2014

## Proclaiming Joy on The Journey

presented by Catholic Curriculum Corporation

**October 23-25, 2014**

International Plaza Hotel, Toronto Airport

### Eucharistic Celebration

**Most Reverend  
Gerard Bergie, D.D.**  
Bishop,  
Diocese of St. Catharines

### Keynote Speaker

**John Allen Jr.,**  
CNN Senior Vatican Analyst,  
Associate Editor,  
Boston Globe

Thursday - 7:30 pm  
Friday - 8:30 am



Contact your Board Representative for details:

A Conference for Catholic Teachers  
and Catholic Community Partners

For further information contact:  
[www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org](http://www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org)

Conference Registration Fee  
**\$290.00** HST Included



Catholic  
Teachers



**\*\*\*The Catholic Teachers Companion**

*Two opportunities for all staff:*

Time: 4:15—6:00 p.m.

Date:..... Wednesday, September 24, 2014  
Location:..... Msgr. Clancy Catholic Elementary, Thorold  
..... PD Place 253  
Date:..... Wednesday, October 1, 2014  
Location:..... St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville  
..... PD Place 254

***Presenter:..... Les Miller***

The Ontario Elementary Religious Education Curriculum stresses the importance of knowing the key elements of the Catholic faith. Drawing on Les Miller’s Catholic Teachers Companion as well as the Foundations of our Faith series, we will explore ways of understanding and teaching the fundamental concepts from the curriculum.

Copies of Les Miller’s books will be presented to the first ten people to register and attend for each location.

**\*\*\*“What” on Earth was Jesus thinking?**

*Two opportunities for all staff:*

Time: 4:15—6:00 p.m.

Date:..... Tuesday, October 14, 2014  
Location:..... CEC, Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room  
..... PD Place 255  
Date:..... Thursday, October 16, 2014  
Location:..... St. Joseph Parish, Grimsby PD Place 256

***Presenter:..... Larry Novakowski***

With his characteristic spiritual attention to meaning, Larry will lead us in an exploration of the Sermon on the Mount and more specifically the Beatitudes which will provide personal foundation so helpful in strengthening classroom engagement with this often misunderstood blueprint for living.

**We Witness by our Respect for Life:  
Caring, Not Killing**

*Time: 4:15—6:00 p.m.*

Date:..... Wednesday, November 5, 2014  
Location:..... CEC, Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room  
Participant profile:..... All staff - PD Place 257

***Presenter:..... Alex Schadenberg***

We are pretty clear in our minds about the meaning of the commandment “Thou shalt not kill”, and on the surface we understand our Catholic Social Teaching on the Dignity of the Human Person, but when the conversation turns toward Euthanasia and other end-of-life decisions, we discover multiple layers of understanding. Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director for Euthansia Prevention Coalition is a gifted presenter and will help us to explore and understand the various stages and concerns around end of life decisions and the way legislation is rolling out around the world on this difficult topic.

**We Witness by Showing our Love for Others:  
Creating a Culture of Upstanders**

*Time: 4:15—6:00 p.m.*

Date:..... Tuesday, November 11, 2014  
Location:..... TBA  
Participant profile:..... Elementary Staff - PD Place 258

***Presenter:..... Kate Dirks***

Jesus consistently stood up for members of the community who others shunned. In anticipation of Anti-Bullying Awareness Week, this practical session for elementary teachers will present a fresh approach to ending the bully cycle and instill empathy in our students.

### **\*\*\*What can be Brought to Life in You?**

Time: 4:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Date:..... Wednesday, December 3, 2014  
Location:..... CEC, Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room  
Participant Profile:..... All Staff - PD Place 259

**Presenter:..... Anne Jamieson**

How is God calling us this Advent to be ready once again for the birth of our Saviour? What does God want to bring to life in you? Join us as we look to images from classic art to illuminate Mary's extraordinary Advent journey and reflect on what we can learn about our own extraordinary call.

### **An Advent Gathering Praying Always & All Ways: Taize Prayer**

Time: 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Date:..... Tuesday, December 9, 2014  
Location:..... Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre,  
..... Niagara Falls  
Participant Profile:..... All Staff  
Cost: ..... \$25 for dinner - PD Place 260

Experience Taize Prayer in the beautiful Mount Carmel chapel followed by a delicious Mount Carmel dinner. A delightful way to embrace this season of joyful anticipation!

**Please RSVP directly to Debra McCaffery at the CEC by December 2, please make cheques payable to Niagara Catholic District School Board.**

## Art Witnessing to Faith

Time: 4:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Date:..... Tuesday, February 10, 2015  
Location:..... Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School,  
..... St. Catharines  
Participant Profile:..... All Staff - PD Place 261

**Presenter:..... Linda Dirks**

Does sacred art always flow from the brush of a faith-filled artist? This interactive session will explore various pieces of art which may feed our faith reflection, but will also include some biographics which will show that God can use the talents of all for sacred purpose.

## Ignatian Spirituality—An Introduction

Time: 4:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Date:..... Thursday, February 12, 2015  
Location:..... St. Joseph Parish, Grimsby  
Participant Profile:..... All Staff - PD Place 262

**Presenter:..... Sr. Mary Mettler, csj**

Are you drawn to the message of Pope Francis? This session will give you a peek into his formation as a Jesuit.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus wrote the Spiritual Exercises in the mid-16th Century for his own followers and for all Christians. Drawing from his own lived experience and pastoral ministry with both women and men, his insights into prayer, spiritual decision-making and seeking always the greater glory of God, continues to draw many people to this way of living the Gospel and growing into ever deeper intimacy with God.

## **Journeying with Children Through Grief & Bereavement**

*Two opportunities for all staff:*

Time: 4:15—6:00 p.m.

Date:..... Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Location:..... St. Joseph Parish, Grimsby - PD Place 263

Date:..... Thursday, March 5, 2015

Location:..... CEC, Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room

..... PD Place 264

***Presenter:..... Marny Atkinson***

It seems that far too often we are faced with children in our care who are suffering from very personal losses, and we struggle to provide appropriate support while sometimes negotiating our own grief. With a strong background in grief and bereavement and a wealth of experience, Marny will guide us through this challenging area.

## **We witness when we build community:**

### **Finding Common Ground – The Three Abrahamic Faiths**

Time: 4:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Date:..... Thursday, April 9, 2015

Location:..... CEC, Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room

Participant Profile:..... All Staff - PD Place 265

***Presenter:..... Jolene Smith***

Currently in the ThM program at St. Michael's and studying in the area of Ecumenism and Interfaith Studies, over the summer of 2014 Jolene attended the Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. In a group of 20 participants from around the world, somewhat evenly divided male/female and Christian/Jewish/Muslim, they explored the concepts of building an interfaith community while focusing on the theme "Religion and Climate Change: Together Safeguarding Creation." Jolene will share her amazing experience while also challenging our own responses to this engaging topic.

**We witness through our stewardship:  
Responsible Donating**

Time: 4:15– 6:00 p.m.

Date:..... Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Location:..... CEC Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room

Participant Profile:..... All Staff - PD Place 266

***Presenter:..... Leone Strilec***

Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that those of us who live in the Global North have a responsibility to maintain a Preferential Option for the Poor throughout our life. The opportunities to share our wealth with others in the Global South are great and varied - so how do we choose the organizations that we will support?

Much has been written on the subject of Effective Aid and this workshop will give participants a chance to explore responsible charitable giving. Using Catholic Social Teaching as the lens, and the ideas from Samantha Nutt’s book “Damned Nations: Greed, Guns, Armies and Aid”, participants will gain a better understanding into how to go about contributing effectively to the Preferential Option for the Poor.

(The first ten people to register and attend will receive Dr. Nutt’s book.)

## O Freedom – The Path from Slavery to Salvation

Time: 4:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Date:..... Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Location:..... Heartland Forest, 8215 Kalar Road, NF

Participant Profile:..... All Staff - PD Place 267

**Presenter:..... Fr. Tony Ricard**

Back in the days of Slavery, African-American often sang about freedom: freedom from the bondage of slavery, freedom from spiritual oppression, freedom from the sins of this world. They truly longed for Freedom in every form. Through their faith in God, they found that freedom and a pathway to liberation was created.

Come and join Fr. Tony as we explore the musical heritage and faith journey that brought Freedom to the South. Through the gift of faith, you too just might be set free from some of the chains of today.

## \*\*\*Lessons from the Mother of a Miracle Child

Time: 4:15 – 6:15 p.m.

Date:..... Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Location:..... St. Joseph Church, Grimsby

Participant Profile:..... All Staff - PD Place 268

**Presenter:..... Christine Way Skinner**

Using scripture, story, image and song, we will look at the life of Mary with fresh eyes and consider how she can be a source of strength and inspiration leading us to a deeper relationship with her son.

## Administrators, Managers and Senior Staff

### \*\*\*The Catholic Teachers Companion

Time: 8:45 – 11:00 a.m

Date:..... Wednesday, October 15, 2014  
Location:..... Alexander Kuska Catholic  
..... Elementary School  
Participant Profile:..... Elementary Administration-PD Place 269

**Presenter:..... Les Miller**

The Ontario Elementary Religious Education Curriculum stresses the importance of knowing the key elements of the Catholic faith. Drawing on Les Miller’s Catholic Teachers Companion as well as the Foundations of our Faith series, Les will explore the ways that administration can best support their staff during this rollout.

Copies of Les Miller’s books will be presented to the first ten people to register and attend.

### We Witness by our Respect for Life - Caring, Not Killing

Time: 8:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Date:..... Thursday, November 6, 2014  
Location:..... CEC, Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room  
Participant profile:..... Senior Staff, Managers, Administrators  
..... PD Place 270

**Presenter:..... Alex Schadenberg**

We are pretty clear in our minds about the meaning of the commandment “Thou shalt not kill”, and on the surface we understand our Catholic Social Teaching on the Dignity of the Human Person, but when the conversation turns toward Euthanasia and other end-of-life decisions, we discover

multiple layers of understanding. Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director for Euthansia Prevention Coalition is a gifted presenter and will help us to explore and understand the various stages and concerns around end of life decisions and the way legislation is rolling out around the world on this difficult topic.

**\*\*\*“What” on earth was Jesus thinking?**

Time: 8:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Date:..... Thursday, January 8, 2015  
Location:..... CEC, Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room  
Participant profile:..... Senior Staff, Managers, Administrators  
..... PD Place 271

***Presenter:..... Larry Novakowski***

With his characteristic spiritual attention to meaning, Larry will lead us in an exploration of the Sermon on the Mount and more specifically the Beatitudes which will provide personal foundation so helpful in strengthening school wide engagement with this often misunderstood blueprint for living.

**Journeying with Children and Staff  
Through Grief & Bereavement**

Time: 8:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Date:..... Thursday, February 5, 2015  
Location:..... CEC, Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room  
Participant Profile:..... Senior Staff, Managers, Administrators  
..... PD Place 272

***Presenter:..... Marny Atkinson***

It seems that far too often we are faced with children and staff in our community who are suffering from very personal losses, and we struggle to provide appropriate support while sometimes negotiating our own grief. With a strong background in grief and bereavement and a wealth of experience, Marny will guide us through this challenging area.

## We witness Through our Stewardship: Responsible Donating

Time: 8:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Date:..... Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Location:..... CEC Fr. Kenneth Burns csc Board Room

Participant Profile:..... Senior Staff, Administrators, Managers  
..... PD Place 273

**Presenter:..... Leone Strilec**

In our schools we are inundated with requests for financial support, and we often find ourselves on committees trying to decide what our school can support. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that those of us who live in the Global North have a responsibility to maintain a Preferential Option for the Poor throughout our life. The opportunities to share our wealth both locally and with others in the Global South are great and varied - so how do we choose the organizations that we will support?

Much has been written on the subject of Effective Aid and this workshop will give participants a chance to explore responsible charitable giving. Using Catholic Social Teaching as the lens, and the ideas from Samantha Nutt's book "Damned Nations: Greed, Guns, Armies and Aid", participants will gain a better understanding into how to go about contributing effectively to the Preferential Option for the Poor.

(The first ten people to register and attend will receive Dr. Nutt's book.)

### Our Speakers:

**Marny Atkinson** – Marny is a warm, effective presenter in the area of grief and bereavement, currently serving as a Bereavement Coordinator . Her training includes psychiatric nursing, Writing for Professionals at Niagara College and Thanatology at King's College, University of Western Ontario.

**Kate Dirks** – Long term occasional teacher with Niagara Catholic – a faith-filled young lady with many talents

**Linda Dirks** – art and special education teacher for Niagara Catholic, currently pursuing a Masters of Theology with Christ the King Seminary.

**Anne Jamieson** – Anne holds a Masters of Catholic Thought and is now pursuing her Doctor of Ministry through the University of Toronto. Currently serving as Director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Hamilton, she has also worked for the Ministry of Community and Social Services in Toronto and taught with the Waterloo Catholic Board for 14 years.

**Janet Loo** – Director of Music Ministry at King’s University College, UWO Sr. Mary Mettler, csj - a Sister of St Joseph, is a spiritual director and a former hospital chaplain. She has an M.Div from TST and is a graduate of the Haden Institute for Spiritual Directors from Mount Carmel.

**Les Miller** – A Catholic educator, author, and speaker, Les has served the Catholic education community in many capacities. Check out his website: [www.lesmiller.ca](http://www.lesmiller.ca)

**Larry Novakowski** – spiritual director, trained in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and an experienced retreat master, Master’s degree in spirituality from the University of San Francisco and has studied at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

**Alex Schadenberg** – currently the Executive Director and International Chair of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Alex is a speaker, author and advocate for the vulnerable in prolife issues. Alex has served in various prolife positions, including director of the Pro-life Office for the Roman Catholic Diocese of London.

**Jolene Smith** – Jolene holds a Masters of Divinity from St. Peter Seminary and is pursuing doctoral studies with St. Michael’s College, specializing in ecumenism and interfaith studies. Jolene currently serves as Chaplaincy Leader for Niagara Catholic at Saint Michael Catholic Secondary School.

**Leone Strilec** – Leone is a retired teacher from the NCDSB. Her focus as a High School teacher was on Social Justice, Religious Education, World Issues and Politics. Leone has been on study trips to Grenada, El Salvador and Rwanda that added experiential learning to her life. Currently Leone is a volunteer at 10000 Villages and is the Education Coordinator for the St. Catharines Diocesan Council of Development and Peace.

**Fr. Tony Ricard** – Fr. Tony holds a Masters of Theology and Master of Divinity, is a priest for the Diocese of New Orleans, currently serving as Chaplain for St. Augustine’s, an all-boys high school in New Orleans. Speaker, author and chaplain for the New Orleans Saints, he is also a favourite speaker each year for Niagara Catholic’s Grade 7 Faith Festival. AND he can really sing...

**Christine Way Skinner** – catechist at St. John Chrysostom Parish in Ontario, Canada. She received a Bachelor of Arts degrees from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia and a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### Faculty Of Theology Satellite Programs

St. Michael College Faculty of Theology is offering a satellite program of graduate studies rooted in Catholic Tradition. The following programs are being offered:

#### **Master of Religious Education (MRE)**

This professional program is designed to prepare individuals for the ministry of religious education. It welcomes women and men from various aspects of this ministry such as teaching or supervising in schools, parishes, dioceses or international settings.

The MRE assists students:

- To appropriate and integrate the Catholic intellectual heritage and its relevance for educational ministry in current cultural contexts
- To develop and apply the knowledge and skills required for inclusive educational ministry in response to contemporary social issues, from a faith perspective, and
- To foster growth in personal and spiritual maturity, capacity for authentic public witness, and a commitment to life-long learning.

## **Master of Arts in Catholic Leadership (MACL)**

The MACL aims to enable Catholic principals, vice-principals, chaplaincy leaders, department heads, and others aspiring to leadership in Catholic education, health or social service institutions:

- To acquire knowledge of Catholic theological tradition and the ability to think theologically,
- To develop and apply the knowledge and skills required for inclusive institutional leadership, in relation to social and ecclesial communities
- To foster an authentic personal and spiritual foundation for the responsible exercise of leadership

### **Satellite Location**

Corpus Christi Secondary School  
5150 Upper Middle Road  
Burlington, Ontario

For registration information, please contact via email:  
Emil Iruthayathas, Student Services Registrar  
[usmctheology.registrar@utoronto.ca](mailto:usmctheology.registrar@utoronto.ca)

or Christian McConnell  
[christian.mcconnell@utoronto.ca](mailto:christian.mcconnell@utoronto.ca)  
416-926-7115

## St. Augustine's Seminary Of Toronto Institute Of Theology

The Institute of Theology offers the following degree and diploma programs. Students can take 10 courses off the main campus using a combination of online distance education courses or extension site courses in the MRE and MTS degree programs and 5 online or extension site courses in the Diploma programs. Our Lay Spiritual Formation Program conducts retreats and development days throughout the academic year and is open to our students, clergy and all interested laity. If you would like more information on our programs and the Lay Spiritual Formation Program, please send an email to [ioftsas@rogers.com](mailto:ioftsas@rogers.com).

### **Master of Religious Education (MRE)**

The MRE equips persons for professional leadership in educational ministry within the Catholic ecclesial tradition. The areas of study in this Tradition include biblical, historical, pastoral, systematic and moral theology.

#### **The MRE assists students:**

- To build on the understanding of the educational, social and behavioural sciences that ground educational practice.
- To develop the capacity for critical and constructive theological reflection regarding the content and processes of Catholic educational practice.
- To enrich and strengthen the theological understanding and leadership skills necessary to be effective educators in the Catholic faith.



## Master Of Theological Studies (MTS)

The MTS Program at St. Augustine's Seminary provides the opportunity for students to deepen their faith as they acquire greater understanding of the key elements of the Catholic theological tradition. The areas of study in this Tradition include biblical, historical, pastoral, systematic and moral theology, with an opportunity for specialization.

### **The MTS assists students:**

- To respond effectively to the call of the Second Vatican Council to discover God active in the world and to infuse the world with Gospel values.
- To develop the intellectual and pastoral resources necessary for various forms of service and leadership within contemporary ecclesial and diverse cultural contexts.

### **Diploma In Theological Studies (DTS)**

The DTS assists theology students in developing their faith by course content and through interaction in a structured learning situation.

### **Diploma In Lay Ministry (DLM)**

The DLM Program offers to those already serving or hoping to serve as Lay Ministers the chance to enhance their ministry through theological education. This is not a certification program but rather a coordinated combination of introductory courses.





## NOTES

“I am the Light of the World”

Molly Hockton  
*Saint Paul Catholic High School*

The artwork for the front cover was  
created in celebration of  
Catholic Education Week 2012  
and was inspired by the work of  
Canadian artist  
Alex Janvier.



*The Print Shop*  
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**September 2014**