



## *Growing Together In Faith*

### *Northwest Catholic Celebrates 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



Dear Students, Parents, Staff, Parishioners, and Stakeholders in Catholic Education,

During this Year of Faith 2013, Bishop Fred Colli encouraged Catholic School Boards to reflect on and deepen our faith through engaging in professional learning, prayer and reflection. Bishop Colli encouraged us to reflect on the many struggles and sacrifices that were endured in the early years to bring Catholic education to the people of Northwestern Ontario. The Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association, through the Friends and Advocates for Catholic Education initiative, have encouraged us to educate our Catholic community about the history of Catholic education in Ontario so that our communities understand the reasons why we have publicly funded Catholic education today.

Northwest Catholic District School Board celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an amalgamated Catholic School Board, but our history of Catholic education is more than 120 years in Northwestern Ontario. This history book was collated using Board Archives, local history books and personal collections of memorabilia to illustrate that we have; strong parish and school connections, and a passion for ensuring the gift of Catholic education to the families in our region.

Our Catholic schools:

- have a strong tradition of academic excellence.
- are a very integral part of Ontario's history for more than 170 years.
- are a vital component of the four publicly funded education systems in Ontario with more than 670,000 students in our Catholic schools.
- integrate the teachings of Jesus Christ throughout the curriculum and support the teaching of the Sacraments.
- partner with the home and parish to ensure our Catholic Graduates Expectations for our students are realized and lived out in everyday life.

The distribution of this collection of resources about the History of Catholic Education in Northwestern Ontario was a labour of love. As this work was done in-house, it only cost \$4.00 a copy to produce. Our goal was to educate all of our community about Catholic education and to help everyone to be able to articulate; who we are, why we are here and why we need to continue to exist and be funded into the future. In these political times, it is important for our community to know the story of Catholic education in Ontario so that we can defend it and continue to advocate for it so that our families will continue to benefit from this "Enduring Gift" into the future. It is important to know your roots!

This book is also a celebration of the people who have served Catholic education, with a tribute to those that went before us and those who work in our Catholic schools today.

We encourage you to read and learn about Catholic education during "Catholic Education Week 2013; Growing Together in Faith". If you do not want to keep your book, we encourage you to pass it along to your relatives, friends and parishioners to share the information across the district.

Sincerely,

The Catholic Trustees of the Northwest Catholic District School Board

