

Remarks to Zone Meeting-February 11, 2009
Mario Pascucci

Your Excellency, Reverend Fathers, fellow trustees, administrators, staff ...it is my distinct honour and pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

As trustees, my 10 colleagues and I have been granted the privilege of stewardship of what has been called, "The Enduring Gift" ... Catholic education.

We are simply the latest in a long line of concerned, committed and dedicated lay Catholics to help carry the torch.

Spreading the umbrella, we, meaning trustees, administration, teachers, support staff ... and you ... dedicated men of God, commissioned to lead our parishes and our faith community, form two-thirds of what has often been referred to as the foundational pillar of Catholic education ...school, parish, and the third being the home.

We have a long tradition of shared responsibility in helping educate our youth in mind, body and spirit. And it is in a spirit of continued co-operation that we share that responsibility across our 145 schools and 38 parishes today.

There are incredible things taking place in our schools every day ... learning ... the transformation of minds ... faith formation and you are both a witness and a party to these marvelous events.

2009 marks 40 years of excellence in Catholic education in Dufferin-Peel. But that tradition of excellence ... that tradition of co-operation with our parishes ... that tradition of home-school-parish that stretches back more than 150 years in Ontario and in our communities ... remains strong, healthy and vibrant today.

As we look to the future, I look forward to forging bonds that are even stronger than those of the past and the present. I look forward to greater collaboration on shared issues and I look forward to stronger, faith-filled schools, students and staff.

As we gather together today, let's work together as one to ensure that the banner of Catholic education continues to fly high and proud in Dufferin-Peel.

May God continue to bless you in all that you do.