

**Mario Pascucci**  
**Opening remarks to 2009 OCSTA AGM**

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow trustees and colleagues ,... friends...

My name is Mario Pascucci and I am chair of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

It is our distinct honour and pleasure to host the 2009 OCSTA Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of our board and my fellow trustees, I extend to you my warmest welcome and best regards.

I know that many of you have travelled some distance to be here and I hope you will feel very much at home with us.

I read recently that Catholic education is an expression of the mission entrusted by Jesus to the Church He founded.

Through education, the Church seeks to prepare its members to proclaim the Good News and to translate this proclamation into action.

If there was ever any doubt why we are here, these words certainly provide clarity.

We are here on a common mission, united by faith .... committed as stewards of the gift called Catholic education.

Over the next three days, we will have the opportunity to learn, to share ideas, and to be challenged.

I know I am looking forward to it and I hope you are as well. Let's take the next few days to learn, to love and to laugh.

God Bless you....