



<u>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</u> <u>BOARD POLICY</u>	
Board Policy Number:	P-8000
Subject:	Chapels in Secondary Schools
Reference:	GAP8000 : Chapels in Secondary Schools GAP8011 : Blessing of Permanent Chapels G035 : Archdiocese of Toronto Guidelines for Secondary School Chapels
Effective/Revised Date:	1991; 2011; (108) February 28, 2017; (194) June 2019; January 2025

"One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple."

Psalm 27:4

1. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's (DPCDSB) mission identifies a commitment to *"...Catholic Education which develops spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social and physical capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of the future, thus enriching the community."* This commitment is supported by the inclusion of a chapel in each secondary school.
2. Secondary school chapels provide staff, students and visitors a sacred space for prayer and reflection. Throughout the year, the chapel is used for liturgy (be it Eucharistic or Liturgies of the Word), communal and personal prayer, devotion, meditation, Eucharistic adoration, and/or reflective time of retreat that allows one to spend time with God.
3. Elementary schools sometimes have space in their schools to set aside a room that could be used for Catholic prayer. It cannot officially be called a "chapel," as that term is defined by the Code of Canon Law (Can. 1226). Elementary schools shall use the title "Catholic prayer room" for these spaces.
4. **Definition:**
A permanent school chapel is an oratory or sacred place which, by permission of the Archbishop, is set aside by the Board for divine worship, for the convenience of the secondary school staff and students who assemble there. With the consent of the Chaplaincy Leader and/or the Principal, other members of the faithful may have access (*The Archdiocese Guidelines for Secondary School Chapels, 1990*).
5. The *Archdiocesan Guidelines for School Chapels* and the *Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's Chaplaincy Guidelines (contained within General Administrative Procedure - GAP8000)* shall be adopted as guidelines for secondary school chapels in Dufferin-Peel Catholic District Secondary Schools.