

News Release

Date: November 24, 2009
Subject: Just-Us Youth Day
From: Bob Perreault, Communications Officer

Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206

Grade 10 Students Attend Annual Just-Us Youth Day

Kemptville, ON – More than 300 Grade 10 students from all Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario's secondary schools gathered at the North Grenville Municipal Centre in Kemptville on November 18, 2009 for the Just-Us Youth Day. This year, the theme was Aboriginal culture and education.

Catholic Student Trustee Chris Walasek coordinated the Student Senate to work hand-in-hand with the CDSBEO's Social Justice Committee to assist with this event. The Student Senate is made up of representatives from every CDSBEO secondary school.

The Senate began the day by leading the group in the Liturgy of the Word. The prayer focused on our call to become people of virtue, committed to justice and peace. The Senate also led the group in a closing Liturgy.

This symposium featured a keynote address by Elder Paul Skanks. Elder Skanks spoke to the group about helping others who seek to live a balanced life in harmony with Mother Earth and to establish a better understanding of native cultures and traditions. He also discussed the crucial role we must play to ensure our human, spiritual and ecological survival.

Following Elder Skanks' address, Aboriginal Experiences performed for the group. Aboriginal Experiences is an Ontario-based performance group featuring Aboriginal youth from across Turtle Island (North America).

In the afternoon, students took part in several workshops focusing on global social justice issues. Workshops were offered which furthered the Aboriginal theme.

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland, said, "We look to our students to provide leadership in our schools and our communities. The skills that our Grade 10 students learn on this day are taken back to the schools to share with their peers."

The Social Justice Committee created the Annual Just-Us Youth Symposium specifically for CDSBEO Grade 10 students. Superintendent of Education, and Social Justice Committee

We walk in good company!

Chair, Marg Shea-Lawrence said, “These students are at a point in their Catholic education that is ideal to learn key leadership skills as they continue down the road to becoming Catholic graduates.”

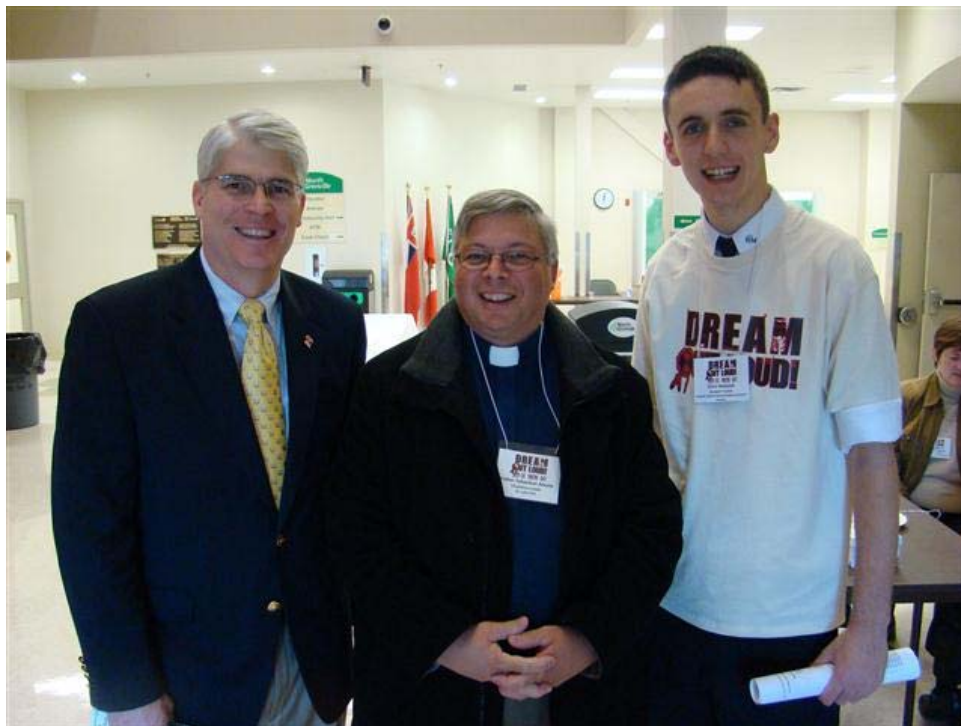
This was the fourth year for the symposium.

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206 or 613-859-0678 (mobile).

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

Photos for release:

JustUs1 – Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland is joined by Father Sebastian Amato, Chaplaincy Leader at St. Luke CHS in Smiths Falls, and Catholic Student Trustee, Chris Walasek at the fourth annual Just-Us Youth Day in Kemptville. The day brings together grade ten students from all CDSBEO secondary schools.



We walk in good company!

JustUs 2 – Grade ten students from CDSBEO secondary schools take part in one of several workshops at the fourth annual Just-Us Youth Day in Kemptville.



JustUs3 – Elder Paul Skanks, keynote speaker, addresses at the fourth annual Just-Us Youth Day in Kemptville. The day brings together grade ten students from all CDSBEO secondary schools.

