

## Christian Community Day at the OCSB

On October 7, the Ottawa Catholic School Board celebrated their annual faith-based professional development day called Christian Community Day. Over 4,000 employees gathered at the Shaw Centre to celebrate Catholic education at the OCSB and launch the new spiritual theme based on the passage from the Gospel of Luke, “Sent to be the Good News.”

The major highlight of the day was the mass presided over by Archbishop Terrence Prendergast. The day was interspersed with the music of the talented OCSB Choir filling everyone present with joy and wonder.

Guest speaker, Steve Pemberton shared a profound message that truly brought the Board’s new spiritual theme to life by explaining how God brought special people into his life at various moments to be his “Good News.” Despite the hardships he endured as a child, he was able to rise above the challenges and find success – and more importantly, people he could truly call family. Needless to say, everyone was deeply moved by his powerful presentation and left thinking about how they could share the hope and love of Christ with those we interact with on a daily basis.

OCSB Associate Director of Education, Tom D’Amico, presented the 2016 Distinguished Catholic Alumni Award to Bishop Christian Riesbeck who was unable to attend but sent his thoughts in a touching pre-recorded video. His nominators describe him as a kind and approachable leader, and say he stands out as a young member of the Church who has chosen to dedicate himself to religious life at a time when ordinations are in decline. Despite being very busy, he always finds a way to make time to assist with school and board activities. His kind presence is always welcomed by teachers and students - he’s even been known to join a student hockey game or two while visiting schools. For all these reasons and more, Bishop Riesbeck is an inspiration to everyone he comes in contact with, and is more than deserving of the award. Watch his [acceptance speech video](#).

All in all, it was a wonderful opportunity to bring our whole community together to pause, reflect and recharge as we head back into the world reflecting the hope and light of Christ to everyone God brings into our paths.