

Grace Notes from the System Chaplain 🎵 🎵

January 2018

Dear Friends,

Our new calendar year is off to a flying start and we are at the end of first semester for our secondary schools. It seems to me that the older I get the faster the wheel is turning and I frequently stop to wonder where the time has gone.

It is important to take time for ourselves and I make it a point to take five minutes each morning to read a reflection from the Center for Action and Contemplation (Meditations@cac.org) as I usually find a personal message in the words of Fr Richard Rohr. You may find this site a valuable addition to your prayer life also; the site does invite one to share with a friend and so I am sharing it with you.

I also draw your attention to the monthly reflections written by our secondary school chaplains which can be found (quite literally) under the Focus on Faith heading in StaffNet: just click on Board Information and you will find the heading on the bottom right side of the page under School Services: you click directly on the heading and the reflections are listed under "Theological Theme". You can also direct parents to these as they are on the public website under "Community" ∨ Focus on Faith.

We are hearing many good stories about the success of Christian Meditation in our schools, in most cases starting small but growing. We are currently working on building a package which could be lent out to families to try CM at home. Watch for more on this.

Plans are full steam ahead for the Diocesan Youth Rally, open to students in Grades 7-12. It is hoped that our young people will attend with a parish youth group; however, there is provision for a school to send a group or someone to attend independently if there is no local parish group to join. Details can be found at www.hamiltondiocese.com/youthrally where you will find information, posters you can print and the registration info and forms.

There are three Adult Faith Formation events in February: Wednesday February 7th AM – Finding Love in Ash Wednesday; Wednesday February 7th PM – Forgiveness and Love; and, Wednesday February 28th – God is Love, with two sessions, AM and PM.