



Durham Catholic District School Board

# John XXIII Catholic School

**Motto: "Sharing the Vision"**



## **In the Beginning**

John XXIII Catholic School was officially opened and blessed on June 16, 1968 by Monsignor Paul Dwyer, and classes began in September of that year.

Situated in the east Oshawa MacKenzie Park neighbourhood, the school was named for Pope John XXIII, who convened the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965). The original enrolment of 147 students spanned from Kindergarten to Grade 6, in eight classrooms with a total teaching staff of seven.

John XXIII is affiliated with St. Gertrude Parish, and has long been proud of its positive involvement in the Catholic community throughout its history.

The school received a much-needed addition and renovation, completed in the

1990–1991 school year, allowing the school to accommodate Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 classes. The renovation included more classrooms, a full gymnasium, library and amphitheatre. During this time, the school’s enrolment surpassed 450, and portable classrooms were added to meet the school’s needs. A staff of over 30 served at the school.

Two major milestones have affected and shaped the history of John XXIII Catholic School: a school opening and a school closure. In 2000–2001, St. John Bosco Catholic School opened, thus reducing John XXIII’s school population; then, in 2008, Father Francis Mahoney Catholic School closed, allowing our school’s population to increase. Both milestones were met with a positive attitude, allowing the transitions to be smooth and seamless. Our school continues to strive to meet new challenges and serve our Catholic community as faithfully as ever. In 2012, John XXIII was twinned with St. Hedwig Catholic School in Oshawa, providing a new learning opportunity for the staff and students of both communities.



*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations*

### **Stories and Anecdotes**

In preparation for their First Holy Communion, the Grade 2 students of John XXIII have enjoyed making rosaries with the ladies of St. Gertrude Catholic Women’s League.

Lynda Holla, former Chief Custodian at John XXIII Catholic School, continues to be a devoted Brownie leader with the 34<sup>th</sup> Oshawa Brownie group, and has served the Oshawa community for several decades.

Dianne Robert, former Program Support teacher, continues to be a strong guiding force at St. Gertrude Church, assisting in various capacities.

During the "Construction and Renovation Era", Sharon Cully, Grade 1/2 teacher, remembers the dust, dirt, machinery, fencing, and the need to wear a hard hat when outside of the school.

As a Senior Anesthesia Resident in his final year of specialization training in Anesthesia at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, and after over a decade of post-secondary education, Adam Puzio's journey to becoming a doctor began in the Durham Catholic District School Board. He was born and raised in Oshawa, and his parents always emphasized the importance of family, faith and education.



*John XXIII Catholic School Distinguished Alumni nominee Adam Puzio*

Living just around the corner, he spent all his elementary school years at John XXIII Catholic School. He was part of championship soccer and volleyball teams and was involved in organizing the Grade 8 video yearbook. His time at John XXIII culminated with the E.J. Finan and Highest Academic Achievement Awards at graduation. Adam first became interested in the medical field after witnessing his mother helping others as a pharmacist. It was in Mr. Masterson's Grade 11 biology class at Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School while dissecting fetal pigs, that he knew he wanted to be a doctor. Adam was also a competitive figure skater, along with his sister Stephanie, winning the bronze medal while representing Ontario at the 1999 Canada Winter Games in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland. His years at Monsignor John Pereyma C.S.S. ended with the honour of being chosen as valedictorian, being awarded the Governor General's Medallion, and receiving the Knights of Columbus Award. He was accepted into the Bachelor of Health Sciences Program at McMaster University where, after only three years, he began his medical education at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine. Adam graduated with a doctor of medicine degree and then began specialization training in the McMaster Anesthesia Residency Program. Adam will write his final exams in April 2013. He has always taken pride in sharing that his education began in Oshawa in the Durham Catholic District School Board.

## Pictures from the Past and Present



*Amphitheatre Display, 25th Anniversary    Memory Board, 25th Anniversary*



*25th Anniversary Displays and Celebrations*



*Newspaper Clippings from the Past*



*From Here and There around John XXIII*



*School Spirit*



*Student Work and Faith Communities*



## **Our Patron**

Blessed Pope John XXIII was head of the Catholic Church from 1958 until his death in 1963.

Angelo Roncalli was the fourth child of 13. He was born to sharecroppers in 1881 in an Italian village. He was ordained a priest in 1904 and served in various posts, including appointment as Papal Nuncio in a number of countries. During the Second World War, he did much to help Jews, who were being persecuted. Pope Pius XII made Roncalli a Cardinal in 1953. Pope John was elected on October 28, 1958, at the age of 77. Despite the fact that many expected him to be a "caretaker Pope," he called the historic Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) to "open the windows" of the Church to the world. Pope

John XXIII died in 1963, but the Council continued and resulted in many important Church teachings. Pope John was loved by many for his warmth and kindness. He was beatified on September 3, 2000.

### **School Prayer**

God our Father,  
watch over us at John XXIII Catholic School.  
Help us to use our special gifts to grow in knowledge  
and make our school a place where peace, love, caring and friendship  
can be seen and felt in all our words and actions  
so that we can be faithful followers of Jesus and examples to others.  
Amen.

### **Principals**

Michael Breaugh (1968–1972)  
Wilf Clavette (1972–1973)  
Lionel Kelly (1973–1976)  
Nick Barber (1976–1980)  
Allan Oerton (1980–1983)  
Joan Edwards (1983–1984)  
Allan Oerton (1984–1986)  
Neil Robbescheuten (1986–1993)  
John Quinn (1993–1999)  
Kate O’Quinn (1999–2004)  
Mary-Adelle Patterson (2004–2008)  
Joanne Gagnon (2008–2012)  
Andrew Oliver (2012-present)

*Contributors:*

*Joanne Gagnon*

*Jan Sauter*