



Durham Catholic District School Board



## ***St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School***

**Motto: "Be Who God Meant You to Be  
and You Will Set the World on Fire"  
(St. Catherine of Siena)**



### **In the Beginning**

The Facilities Report prepared by David Mills Associates Ltd in March 1989 for the Durham Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board detailed the building schedule for a structure of 3340 square metres. From the terrazzo floor finishes and cabinet hardware to the 35-foot-high tilt-anchor base of the flagpole, plans were afoot for a new school. The location would be at the corner of Sullivan Avenue and Bennett Avenue in North Ajax. In the meantime, the 1990–1991 academic year was about to begin.



**The Durham Region  
Roman Catholic Separate School Board, 1992**

**Board Trustees**

Tom Oldman .....	<i>Board Chair</i>
Mary Zecchino .....	<i>Board Vice-Chair</i>
Kevin Ashe .....	Ginette McCann
Robert Boisvert .....	Judy Morris
Joe Bugelli .....	Gerry Noonan
Joe Corey .....	Janice Oldman
Judy Feeney .....	Cathy Stokes
Ed Finan .....	Paul Woodcroft
Kathy LeFort .....	Jim Woodward
Mary Ann Martin .....	Kathy York
Jim McCafferty .....	

**School Staff**

Breen O'Connor .....	<i>Principal</i>
Christopher Hurst .....	<i>Vice-Principal</i>
Pamela Aasen .....	Dawn Sutherland
Laureen Bawden .....	Mark Taylor
Ronda Black .....	Lynne Tramble
Anne Broderick .....	Cathy Tynan
Shelagh Carroll .....	Geraldine vanBergen
Terry Crowley .....	Kim Wilson
Cathy Fillion .....	Darlene Woodward
Cynthia Holliday .....	Johanne Vincelli
Doreen Isherwood .....	Denise Pye
Jane Kiyonaga .....	Bruce Strachan
Bernadette MacDonald .....	Gary Murray
Betty McDonald .....	Helen Reid
Sandra Micallef .....	Tammy Fleming
Bill Myers .....	Tonya Hawley
Maureen Prendergast .....	Paula Aasen
Connie Rosario .....	Patricia Power
Beverly Sanghvi .....	Susan Macdonald

**Administration Officials**

Earl J. Lagroix .....	<i>Director of Education</i>
Grant Andrews .....	<i>Associate Director</i>
Gerry Blake .....	Jean-Paul Patenaude
Joanne Carroll .....	Cleary Smith
John Brown .....	Fred Sweeney
Conrad Noel .....	Teresa Freedman

**Blessing and Official Opening**

of  
**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**  
Catholic School  
by  
**Most Rev. R. B. Clune, D.D.**



**Tuesday, June 2, 1992**  
15 Bennett Avenue, Ajax, Ontario

Tom Oldman  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Earl J. Lagroix  
Director of Education and Secretary Treasurer  
Grant Andrews  
Associate Director in Charge of Business Affairs

**St. Catherine of Siena**

Catherine was born in the Italian city of Siena in 1347. She had her first mystical experience at age six and vowed her life to God. She received the habit of the Third Order of St. Dominic at age sixteen.

Catherine was very much involved in the events of her time. She worked among the poor of Siena. She devoted herself particularly to ministering to the terminally ill and to condemned prisoners. She was a great mediator in the cause of justice and peace. She was instrumental in persuading Pope Gregory XI to abandon Avignon and return the papacy to Rome.

Catherine died in 1380 at age thirty-three. She was canonized in 1461. St. Catherine of Siena was one of the first two women to be declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

St. Catherine of Siena is a great inspiration for all. Her focus in life was certainly on Jesus and the Kingdom of God. She was concerned about justice and peace. She was deeply devoted to the "least" of God's people — the poor, the sick and the incarcerated. St. Catherine is a shining example of the significant contribution of women and the equality of women in a time when history and culture were male dominated.



**PROGRAM**

O Canada ..... CHOIR and AUDIENCE  
Welcome and Introduction of Guests ..... GERRY NOONAN  
Choir Selection ..... CHOIR  
Official Blessing ..... MOST REV. R.B. CLUNE, D.D.  
Remarks By:  
Bishop ..... MOST REV. R.B. CLUNE, D.D.  
Chair of the Board ..... TOM OLDMAN  
Greetings From:  
Ministry of Education ..... STAN WELLS  
MPP ..... JIM WISEMAN  
Mayor of Ajax ..... JIM WITTY  
Director of Education ..... EARL J. LAGROIX  
Presentation of School Keys:  
Architect ..... DAVID MILLS  
Contractor ..... BOB GALLAGHER  
Director ..... EARL J. LAGROIX  
Vice-Principal ..... CHRISTOPHER HURST  
Responses By:  
Principal ..... BREEN O'CONNOR  
Student ..... DARRYL GONSALVES  
President PTA ..... LORRAINE GREEN  
Parish Priest ..... REV. J. BOLGER  
Recognition of Special Guests ..... J. P. PATENAUDE  
Closing Song ..... CHOIR

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO TOUR THE SCHOOL AND  
ENJOY REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE PROGRAM

*Program from the 1992 official opening of the school*

In 1995, Gene Kiernicki became the new principal of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, with Anita Sherwin-Hamer and Brian Miettinen serving as vice-principals for the next three years. During these first years at St. Catherine of Siena, many of the traditions that continue to be hallmarks of the school were initiated. The year 1993 saw the passing of Jason Brunshaw, a student who was loved and admired by all. Mr. and Mrs. Brunshaw, wishing to honour Jason's memory, initiated the Jason Brunshaw Award, presented yearly to the Grade 7 student who embodies Christian values. This tradition continues to this day, and to be nominated for this award is considered a great honour by our Grade 7 students. At the final school Mass of the year, Mr. and Mrs. Brunshaw present the award to the recipient for that year.



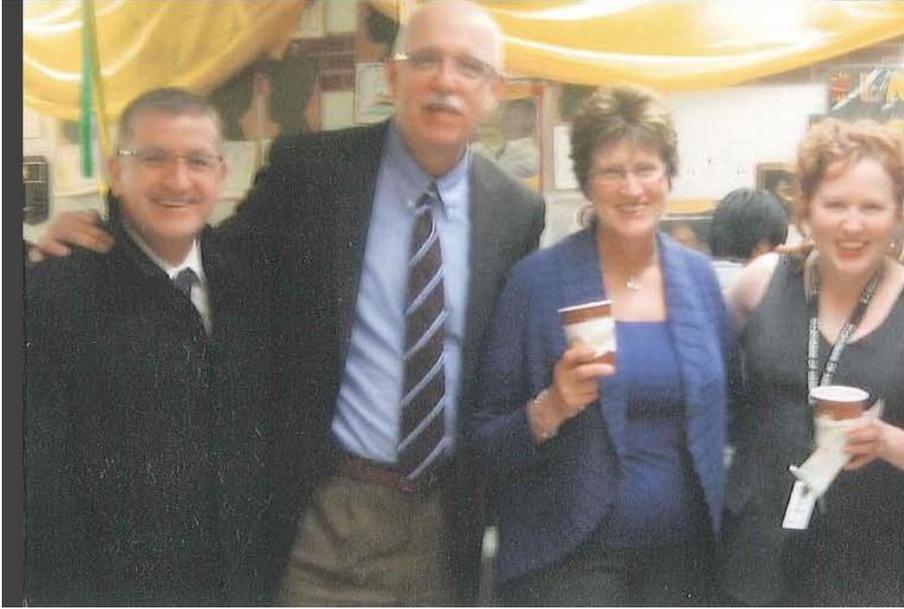
*Becoming a Silver-level EcoSchool. Water is a sacred gift!*

School spirit has been a tangible part of life at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School. Colours of teal and silver were selected after spirited student debate! The team mascot of a stinger was shortlisted and eventually selected because of its fierce persistence. The population of our school was growing to include families that were both new to Durham region as well as to the country. Reflecting and celebrating the cultural diversity of the school, the flags of many nations began lining the halls of the school.



*Carmela Giorgio, Bev McRorie and Dawn Selda, parents from our Catholic School Council, get the BBQ going!*

During the summer of 2010, construction began once again at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School. This time, a permanent addition to the primary hallway would eliminate seven portables. Throughout the fall, winter and early spring, the school was a construction zone. On a daily basis, students saw the progression of construction and began speculating about which classroom would be their new home. On Shrove Tuesday, 2011, the school community came together to celebrate the next chapter in the life of our school. At the time of the opening of the new addition, Norma Wheeler was principal, with Paddy Cauley and Liz Snow spending time in the vice-principal role.

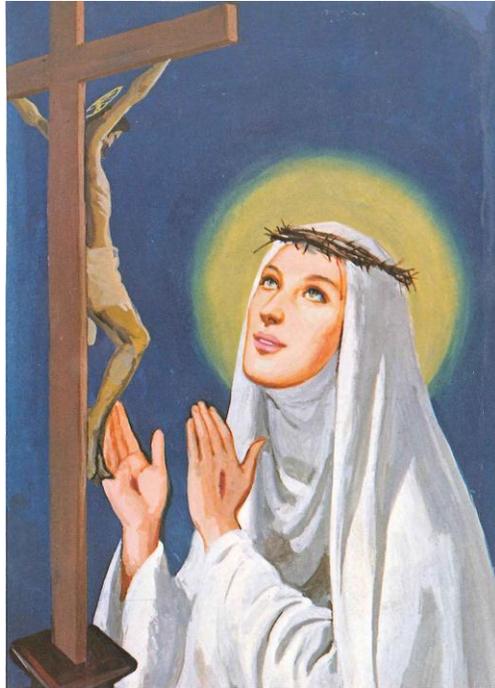


*Celebrating the opening of the permanent addition on Shrove Tuesday, 2011  
– L to R: Tim Robins, Facilities; Mitch Lepage, Superintendent; Liz Snow,  
Vice-Principal; Norma Wheeler, Principal*

The commitment to developing and sustaining this Catholic learning community remains strong today. In the words of our great patroness, St. Catherine of Siena, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."



*Living the Catholic Graduate Expectations: preparing donations of food and clothing for Haiti*



St. Catherine of Siena, Pray For Us.

### **Our Patron Saint**

St. Catherine of Siena, Teacher and Doctor of the Church, is one of the great figures of Christianity. She was born in Siena, Italy, on March 23, 1347. She was a brilliant child who sought to imitate the Christ Child as closely as possible. When she was 18, she joined the Order of St. Dominic, living a life of prayer and penance. She was blessed by her body having the stigmata, the wounds of Christ. Burning with the love of God, Catherine worked for the poor and sick. She especially sought to bring sinners back to their religion. She laboured to bring the Popes back to Rome from Avignon. She had great influence on Church affairs and was a respected writer. When Catherine died in Rome on April 30, 1380, she was made Patroness of the city. Pope Pius XII made her protectress of nurses.

### **Principals**

Breen O'Connor (1991-1995)  
Gene Kiernicki (1995-1998)  
Sheila Connolly (1998-2002)  
Lorraine Aarons (2002-2008)  
Nikole Perreault (2008-2010)  
Norma Wheeler (2010-present)

### *Contributors:*

*Joanne Gemin, Betty MacDonald, Norma Wheeler*

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