



Durham Catholic District School Board



# St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School



## **In the Beginning**

In 1865, the idea of building a parish in Whitby was brought to the public's attention. The pastor of Oshawa, Father John Shea, was very determined to build a church in Whitby, where there were currently only 414 Catholics living in the town. He noticed that many Catholics from the area were suffering hardships in order to attend church due to lack of transportation, and would have to find ways to the parishes in Oshawa or Duffin's Creek (now Pickering). Father Shea called a meeting in May 1865, where he donated \$1,000 to fund a new parish in Whitby. In addition to Father Shea's donation, another \$600 was collected. Over the years, the community gathered enough funds to build the church and an attached school for \$3,041.78 and enlisted 70 volunteers to help in its creation. St. John's Parish was established in Whitby in 1883. The first parish priest was Father P.J. McColl.

The following years proved trying for the church. In 1901, a request was sent

by the separate school trustees to close the school affiliated with the parish. It was cited to have poor conditions and lack funds. Then, on December 10, 1901, the church was completely destroyed by a fire. The church had to be rebuilt one year later.

Perhaps one of the greatest contributions to the parish came in 1907, when Father Cline came to Whitby and rebuilt the school house and re-established the separate school system in Whitby. The school was named St. Bernard.

As Toronto started to grow in the 1950s, so did the town of Whitby. The church was becoming overcrowded and a new parish was built to suit the needs of the Catholic community on Giffard Street adjacent to St. John School. This new parish was opened on June 7, 1958, and resembles what we know of our parish today.

### **St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School Opens**

Staff and students of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School began attending their temporary site in September 2000 at St. Matthew the Evangelist Catholic School in Whitby while they waited for their 22-classroom school to open in the north Whitby, Williamsberg area. St. Luke was officially blessed on May 7, 2001, by Bishop Anthony Meagher and opened its doors to 323 students. Currently, St. Luke Catholic School is home to 600 students.

The St. Luke Catholic Professional Learning Community promotes spiritual, academic, social and emotional growth by inculcating the faith and gospel values and providing opportunities for students to improve academically and as human beings. The Catholic Graduate Expectations and Catholic Social Teachings are a guide for staff as they provide opportunities for students to promote respect, collaboration/teamwork, inclusion, lifelong learning, a healthy lifestyle, and higher-level and critical thinking. Staff members work together with parental, parish and community partners and stakeholders to provide a nurturing environment for students and their families.



*Our first staff: 2000-2001*

### **School Accomplishments**

Over the years, the St. Luke Catholic School community has been involved in a variety of social justice and charity projects that make the school unique. Two of the highlights include involvement in the Free the Children organization through the school's Me to We team and ShareLife fundraising events. In the past few years, St. Luke C.S.'s Me to We team has raised awareness about many important global and local issues. The team, which is gaining a voice worldwide, is built on the belief that all young people are free to achieve their full potential as people of change. In an effort to help create change, the school team has arranged food drives in the community to donate food to St. Vincent's Kitchen through the "Fill the pod with hearts and hands to end hunger" initiative.



*Me to We team*

St. Luke C.S. has also adopted families through Catholic Family Services to help ensure that all children in the area receive a Christmas gift during the holidays. The school has raised awareness about the world water crisis through presentations and has raised money to help donate funds to developing countries.

The ShareLife committee is very successful at St. Luke C.S., taking on many special fundraising events, such as Hat Day, Jersey Day, Crazy Tourist Day and Soup Day for staff members.

St. Luke C.S. is also involved in the BRICS program, which stands for "Building Respect In Community and School." The BRICS program is part of the school's Safe Schools initiative, which adopts zero tolerance for bullying at school. Each Monday, students participate in engaging activities that focus on the three walls of BRICS, which outline the role of the bully, victim and bystander. The school welcomes numerous guest speakers and holds recognition assemblies to honour students who implement the views of BRICS in their daily life at school.



*Building Respect in the School and Community (B.R.I.C.S)*

St. Luke Catholic School's Eco Spirit and Garden Club have also made large contributions in the past few years in helping St. Luke C.S. become an EcoSchool, receiving Gold status. The school has had numerous initiatives to "power down" at lunch hour to save electricity as well as boomerang lunches to reduce waste.

### **St. Luke Catholic School's Connection with Global Events**

For the past two years, St. Luke Catholic School's Me to We Team attended "We Day" in Toronto. This televised event is hosted by young celebrities to help youth promote local and global change. It helps in the education, engagement and empowerment of young generations.

Recently, a graduate of St. Luke C.S. made the news. Kelita Zupancic, a professional Judoka, took part in the Olympics in London in 2012. This is a great accomplishment for a school so young. The school raised money to help Kelita attend the Olympic Games.

### **Our Patron Saint**

Luke was born at Antioch, Syria. He was a Greek by birth and a physician by profession. Luke was one of the earliest converts to the Christian faith. Later, he became the companion of Paul on his second and third missionary journeys. He attended Paul during his imprisonment in Caesarea and Rome. Paul refers to him as "the most dear physician" and "fellow laborer." Luke is the author of the third Gospel, written before the year 63. He also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. Luke is the patron of physicians and surgeons.



## **School Prayer**

O God,  
You chose to reveal in writing and preaching  
Your love for all Your people.  
Grant that those who already glory in Your name  
may persevere in one heart and one mind,  
and that all people  
may hear Your Good News of Salvation.  
Amen.

St. Luke the Evangelist, pray for us.

### **Principals**

John Nichols (2001-2006)

Bob Camozzi (2006-2009)

Lynda Morrison (2009 - present)

### *Contributors:*

*Ms. Badgley's Grade 7 class*