

## *News Release*



### **Opening celebration launches school year**

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, August 29, 2005

Saskatoon Catholic Schools begins the 2005-06 school year with its opening celebration on **Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at Circle Drive Alliance Church (3035 Preston Avenue).**

The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with a mass celebrated by Bishop Albert LeGatt. Mr. Jim Carriere, board chair, and Dr. Helen Horsman, director of education, will speak to staff at 10:15 a.m.

This year the opening celebration continues for a full day. The more than 1,500 teachers and support staff gathered will receive messages of motivation and inspiration from a series of keynote speakers.

“It sets the tone for the year, in terms of celebrating, learning, and building on our cohesiveness as Catholic educators,” said Dr. Horsman.

Joan Stumborg, a teacher chaplain at Vanier Collegiate in Moose Jaw, will speak at 10:45 a.m. Stumborg’s strength is speaking practically and meaningfully to staff about school-based Catholic education.

She and the speakers that follow will help Saskatoon Catholic Schools staff further strengthen their commitment to the school division’s theme this year: “Answering the Shepherd’s Call.”

Bob Williston, a musician and former Catholic school teacher, will begin his keynote address at 1:15 p.m. Williston, who is in demand as a speaker at Catholic parishes across Canada, will incorporate music into his dynamic presentation. He will be joined by David Chobot, a professional musician with the Regina-based Jack Semple band.

At 2:25 p.m. Father David Tumback will deliver the final keynote address of the day. Tumback, a priest currently serving parishes in west-central Saskatchewan, was born and educated in Eston, Sask. He was ordained in June, 1995.

more . . . .

Saskatoon Catholic Schools has approximately 15,000 students in five high schools, 33 elementary schools and two associate schools. The purpose of Saskatoon Catholic Schools is to assist parents and the local church community in the formation of students in heart, mind, body and spirit.

*Catholic schools begin the new academic year with registration for elementary students on Thursday, Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. At the high school level, Grade 9 students will attend classes Thursday morning only. Start times at each school vary. High school students in grades 10, 11 and 12 begin classes on Thursday afternoon. Elementary students begin regular classes on Friday, Sept. 2, at 9 a.m.*

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Donella Hoffman  
Communications Consultant  
Saskatoon Catholic Schools  
Telephone: 659-7077  
Cell: 229-3743  
E-mail: [dhoffman@scs.sk.ca](mailto:dhoffman@scs.sk.ca)

***Media parking will be available near the main doors of Circle Drive Alliance Church.***