



Date: **May 31, 2022**
Prepared by: **Scott Johnson, Director of Education**
Subject: **Appointment – Board Chaplain**

BACKGROUND

On April 21, 2022 Deacon Jerry Lozon corresponded by email with the Director of Education to indicate his intention to retire from the position of Board Chaplain, effective June 30, 2022. Deacon Jerry has served in this role since September 2010. Previous to his appointment as Chaplain, Deacon Jerry was a former teacher and principal with St. Clair Catholic, having retired in 2005.

I am grateful for the many, many years of service that Deacon Jerry has devoted to our Board – 12 of them as Board Chaplain. With experience, wisdom and deep faith, he has served four Directors of Education and three Boards of Trustees. On behalf of the entire Board, I say a heartfelt ‘thank you.’

I am pleased to announce today, that Father Chris Gillespie has accepted our invitation to become the next Board Chaplain for St. Clair Catholic. Father Chris is currently the Pastor of the Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes, which includes St. Michael, Dresden; Sacred Heart Port Lambton; and Holy Family and Our Lady Help of Christians, Wallaceburg.

Father Chris was born in Scotland and immigrated to Canada with his family at the age of one-and-a-half years. He grew up in Sarnia and attended St. Patrick’s Catholic High School. He studied at St. Peter’s Seminary in London and was ordained in 1997 at St. Peter’s Cathedral.

Following ordination, Father Chris served as Associate Pastor at the former St. Pius X, now Holy Family parish in London, Mary Immaculate in London and St. Peter’s Cathedral. For 11 years, Father Chris served as a Reserve Army Chaplain and did a tour of duty in Bosnia.

On his return to Canada, he served as Pastor of Immaculate Conception in Stratford, St. Joseph in Clinton, St. James in Seaforth and St. Patrick’s in Dublin. In addition to his current role as Pastor for the Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes, he is also Episcopal Vicar for the Kent Deanery.

Of course, Father Chris is no stranger to St. Clair Catholic. As our neighbour and friend, he has frequently celebrated Mass for Board staff, both at Our Lady Help of Christians Church and here at the Catholic Education Centre, during Inaugural and Initial Meetings of the Board. We are delighted that, with the support of Bishop Fabbro, Father Chris has accepted the call to serve as our next Board Chaplain.



RECOMMENDATIONS

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Appointment – Board Chaplain* for information.

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board appoint Father Chris Gillespie to the position of Board Chaplain, effective July 1, 2022.