



Date: **September 26, 2023**
Prepared by: **Scott Johnson, Director of Education**
Subject: **Appointment – Board Chaplain**

BACKGROUND

In June 2023, Bishop Ronald Fabbro announced the appointment of Father Chris Gillespie as Pastor of the Windsor-Lake St. Clair Catholic Family of Parishes. As a result, Father Chris stepped down from his role as Board Chaplain following the June 20, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, which was the final meeting of the 2022-2023 school year.

The Director of Education subsequently contacted Bishop Fabbro, to express an interest in inviting Father John Jasica, currently Pastor of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes, to serve as the next Chaplain of the Board. I am pleased to report to the Board that the Bishop has appointed Father John to serve in this capacity for the next five years.

Born and raised in London, Ontario, Father John attended Catholic Central High School and later King's College, before entering St. Peter's Seminary in 1996 to study for the priesthood. He was ordained in 2001. He has served as Associate Pastor of the former St. Pius X (now known as Holy Family) and St. Joseph parishes, London; Associate Pastor of Sacred Heart, Port Lambton and Holy Family and Our Lady Help of Christians, Wallaceburg; and Pastor of St. Peter's, Goderich, St. Joseph, Kingsbridge and St. Mary's, Lucknow. In 2010 he accepted the position of full-time Director of Vocations for the Diocese of London. In 2012, he returned to the role of parish priest and became pastor of St. George Parish, London. He has been pastor of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes since 2021.

Father has also coached basketball and is a certified basketball referee, officiating at games in Chatham, Sarnia and London.

His appointment is effective September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2028.

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 confirm the appointment of Father John Jasica to the position of Board Chaplain, for a five-year term, beginning September 1, 2023 and ending August 31, 2028.