

## 2015 SCSBA Awards

### Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award:



#### **Sr. Teresita Kambietz**

Awarded each year to those individuals who have made a highly significant contribution to Catholic Education in the Province of Saskatchewan. The individual must be nominated by a member board or the SCSBA Board of Directors. School boards wishing to nominate a person are requested to complete the appropriate nomination form and provide an accompanying summary statement of activities and service of the person nominated

Dr. Sr. Teresita Rose-Marie Kambeitz (OSU) has served Catholic education for 56 amazing years. Her tenure spans from 1959, when she began teaching in Tramping Lake, SK, through to her present position as a sessional faculty member of both Newman Theological College in Edmonton, AB and St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon, SK. The depth of service, faith and leadership that Sr. Teresita has provided to Catholic education during her long tenure of service has left an indelible and significant impact.

**Sr. Teresita as Teacher:** Sr. Teresita contributed many years to the vocation of Catholic teacher, teaching in Grades 8 through 12. During a 26-year span from 1959 through to 1985, she taught many grade levels and fulfilled many roles, including principal; however, the majority of her teaching was high school Christian Ethics at Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon. She paused for a brief break during this time, when she indulged her passion for continuous learning by obtaining her bachelors of arts and education degrees in 1969. Sr. Teresita was the consummate Catholic teacher— deeply faithful, talented, brilliant and had a charisma that drew her students to desire a deeper faith.

**Sr. Teresita as Teacher of Teachers:** After a distinguished teaching career, Sr. Teresita answered her call to focus on supporting Catholic teachers in their ability to more fully express their vocation. She earned her master of education degree in 1986, followed by her doctorate in 1988 from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, at which time she became the director and professor of the Religious Education Degree Program at Newman Theological College, Edmonton, AB. She held this post for 11 years. This work helped form and support many lay Catholics to assume the role of Catholic teacher. Most recently, Sr. Teresita led the establishment and implementation of a satellite program of the Newman Theological College's Master of Religious Education degree in Saskatoon.

**Sr. Teresita as Leader and Advocate for Catholic Education:** Sr. Teresita deeply understands the unique demands placed on a Catholic teacher. Unfortunately, many in various levels of government and other education sector partners do not have the same understanding. Sr.

Teresita challenged many of them. For example, she successfully advocated for changes to the College of Education undergraduate program at the University of Saskatchewan to allow for credit courses in Catholic education. Additionally, she successfully advocated for changes to teacher certification in the province of Saskatchewan to accept master's degrees in religious education for certification/salary purposes. These are just a couple of examples of how Sr. Teresita challenged seemingly immovable bureaucracies, and in her quiet but clear and determined manner, cleared a path for Catholic education.

Space does not permit sharing of the so many other ways Sr. Teresita has carried the torch for Catholic education these past 56 years. However the evidence of the profound impact that Sr. Teresita's life-long dedication to Catholic education has had is in our communities and this makes her a very worthy recipient of this award. Congratulations Sr. Teresita and thank you!

#### **SCSBA Appreciation Award:**



#### **Mr. Delmer Wagner**

Awarded to an individual in appreciation of commitment and contribution to Catholic Education in the Province of Saskatchewan. This award may be presented to anyone not classified in any of the above categories. The individual may be nominated by a member board or the SCSBA Board of Directors.

In June of 2009, Del retired after thirty years as an educator: nine as a Teacher (Eatonia and Swift Current), fourteen as an In-school Administrator (Swift Current), and seven as a Senior Administrator (Swift Current and Moose Jaw). The last five years of Del's career (2004-09) were as Director of Education for Holy Trinity School Division at a time when the Catholic educational communities of Shaunavon, Swift Current and Moose Jaw came together as one. During the 2009-10 school year, Del had some post-retirement employment as Acting Director of Education with Holy Family School Division. Del came out of retirement again during the 2013-14 school year as an Administrative Consultant, working again for Holy Family.

While Del enjoyed his years as a senior administrator, he will tell you that his best years in education were the ones he spent in Catholic schools as a teacher and principal. Still, Del says senior administration in the Catholic school divisions he served was rewarding because it allowed him to be instrumental in supporting student learning and faith development from a broader perspective through his involvements with his own Board, as well as organizations like the *Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association*.

Del has always enjoyed writing on topics related to Catholic education. His articles have been published in various national publications, as well as international journals such as *Momentum* (Washington DC), *Today's Catholic Teacher* (Dayton Ohio) and *Catholic School Studies* (Melbourne, Australia). In the year 2000, Del was also one of the pioneering members of *Catholic Curriculum Online*, which was designed as a clearing house of classroom ideas, activities, lessons plans, and instructional units that were put online and shared with Catholic educators across Saskatchewan. In 2002, Del was seconded by the *Catholic Section of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association* to write professional development modules on faith permeation, which also became an online resource for Catholic teachers. In 2002, the project and its founders received the *Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award* in Atlantic City, which was presented at the Annual Conference of the *National Catholic Educational Association*. Del was also presented with the *Annual Leadership Award* from the *Saskatchewan Council on Educational Administration* in recognition of his initiative in developing the leadership potential of teachers.

Doreen, Del's wife of almost 40 years, has been an integral part of his spiritual life and career through her constant love and support. Doreen currently serves as an Administrative Assistant at St. Joseph Parish in Moose Jaw. As well, Del enjoys the love and support of his children, beginning with his daughter, Genna, a Teacher Technology Coach with Regina Catholic Schools; his son Trent who holds an Executive position with TD Canada Trust in Winnipeg; and his son Braden who is a graduate of the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Police Studies Program and who currently works with the Ranch Ehrlo Society in Regina. The pride of Del's life is his granddaughter, Mayte who is three years old, and his grandson, Kai who is five months old.

Between Del's current involvements with the *Knights of Columbus* and being on the Board of the *Saskatchewan Transportation Company*, as well as President of a community based organization called *Heartland Hospice Moose Jaw*, Del says he has found the right balance of work and leisure in this semi-retirement chapter of his life.