



Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service and Appreciation Awards Banquet & Ceremony

*In honour of contributions
to Catholic Education
in the Province of Saskatchewan*

Saturday, May 10, 2025

***St. Mary's Cultural Centre
240 Wellington Avenue
Yorkton, Saskatchewan***

Banquet

Social - 6:15 p.m.

Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies:

Michelle Rusteika, SCSBA Vice President

Welcome Introductions

Grace

Banquet

Greetings

- ◆ **Archbishop Donald J. Bolen**, Archdiocese of Regina
- ◆ **Barret Kropf**, MLA and Legislative Secretary,
on behalf of the Hon. Everett Hindley, Minister of Education
- ◆ **Rose Burton Spohn**, Executive Director, CCSTA
- ◆ **Kelly Whalen**, President. Alberta CCSTA
- ◆ **Shawn Davidson**, President, Sask. School Boards Association

Awards Ceremony

Appreciation Award

Deanna Pellatt

Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award

Gwen Keith



SCSBA 2024 Appreciation Award

Deanna Pellatt

It is with a grateful and humble heart that I reflect on my 36-year career dedicated to Catholic education in the community of Yorkton. For the past 16 years, I have served as the Religious Education Consultant for Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools, following 20 years of classroom teaching. In addition to my consultant role, I've had the privilege of teaching the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* program to elementary school students, and Catholic Studies 30 at Sacred Heart High School. Both have been deeply rewarding experiences as I near the end of my career.

Although I attended public school, my passion for Catholic education was ignited during my internship at St. Paul's School in Yorkton in 1988. This experience affirmed my calling, transforming what began as a profession into a vocation. I was blessed to start my teaching career at the same school in 1989, and I've remained committed to Catholic education ever since. My school division and my parish of St. Gerard are cherished extensions of my family, where I've been fortunate to serve both in education and spiritual ministry. Over the years, I've served in a variety of ministries, most currently as our CWL President and a member of the parish's vision team.

In my role as Religious Education Consultant, I've been involved with CECAS since its inception, and I've had the privilege of reviewing faith education programs and contributing to the development of Catholic Studies curricula. My passion for deepening my understanding of the faith led me to complete the Archdiocese of Regina's Lay Formation Program in 2009 and a Master of Religious Education through Newman Theological College in 2017.

Throughout my career, I've found fulfillment in sharing my faith with others, continually learning, and contributing to the mission of Catholic education. It has been a blessing to have my career shaped by the values of Catholic education making it a true vocation.

I am deeply honoured to be recognized by the SCSBA, and I thank my family, colleagues, and friends who have supported me throughout this journey. May we walk in God's grace always!

SCSBA
Julian Paslawski
Meritorious Service
Award

Beginning in 1982, this award was simply called the Meritorious Service Award. It honours individuals who have made a highly significant contribution to Catholic Education in the Province of Saskatchewan. In 2006, it was re-named the Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award to honour the outstanding service of long-time Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) Executive Director Julian Paslawski. He began his tenure in 1987 and continued his service until his retirement in 2007. During that time, he guided the association through enormous changes to education in the Province of Saskatchewan.

He facilitated the amalgamation of Catholic divisions from more than 20 to the eight divisions we have today. Along the way he supported the formation of a number of new Catholic school divisions prior to their later amalgamation with larger divisions. He coordinated the incorporation of the Catholic Section of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association into the SCSBA in 2006. His work maintaining relationships with politicians and bureaucrats was legendary. He was awarded the 1998 Meritorious Service Award and in 2008 he received the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association's highest honour, the Justice James Higgins Award, for outstanding leadership in Catholic Education in Canada.



Julian Paslawski Meritorious 2024 Service Award

Gwen Keith

Gwen has spent over 50 years in education, with 27 years in senior administrative positions. She was Director of Education for Yellow Knife Catholic Schools, for Regina Catholic Schools for 14 years and for Holy Family RCSSD for 11 years. Gwen served as the Executive Director of a Jesuit Academy, Mother Teresa Middle School, a school of innovation in North Central Regina. Gwen put great value on recognizing all students, especially those most in need, were children of God.

Gwen demonstrated her deep love of Catholic Education in many leadership roles. She has shown this love in planning and chairing the SCSBA Education Committee. She has been passionate in working closely with Bishops and Catholic Directors in the development of the Pastoral Guide to Support Students in the Development and Understanding of their Sexuality. Gwen has worked with Knowledge Keeper, Lyndon Linklater, to improve connections for Catholic students and staff for land-based learning and local Indigenous learning and reconciliation. Gwen deeply understood the need for a strong Catholic voice with respect to our reconciliation journey. She was a passionate steward of Catholic Education while keeping positive relationships with Public Boards.

Gwen has mentored educational leaders both provincially and nationally. As a female senior administrator in education, Gwen continues to support and guide women in leadership roles, both personally and professionally. Gwen's stewardship to being a servant leader is well known to all those who encountered her.

Gwen is a founding member of RaiseHER Community with her daughter and another mother daughter duo, a for impact intergenerational movement that recognizes the shared challenges facing women and girls. RaiseHER Community aims to create opportunities for guidance, leadership, collaboration and insightful conversation to empower women and girls to realize their potential.

Gwen's most beloved title however, is "Gramma" to five grandchildren!



Mission Statement

- ◆ **Serving Catholic Education through faith-filled leadership.**

(Approved April 2009)

Vision Statement

- ◆ **Devoted to bringing God's children to know Jesus Christ's love through Catholic Education.**

(Approved January 2009)

Core Beliefs

- ◆ **The SCSBA believes that it, along with its member boards, must assume a leading role: advocating for, preserving and promoting Catholic Education in Saskatchewan.**
- ◆ **The SCSBA believes that it has a responsibility to support all member boards in their provision of a distinct Catholic Education.**
- ◆ **The SCSBA believes that its actions must be: Christ-centered, in communion with the Bishops of Saskatchewan.**
- ◆ **The SCSBA believes that it has a responsibility to support faith formation for trustees and staff.**
- ◆ **The SCSBA believes that it has a responsibility to respect Board of Education autonomy; while acknowledging that its strength comes from mutual support and cooperation.**



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
FATHER DELAERE COUNCIL NO. 5182
YORKTON, SK



**UNGAR
CONSTRUCTION**



AON



