SASKATCHEWAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2026
Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service and Appreciation
Awards Ceremony
&
Banquet

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

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Sheraton Cavalier Hotel
612 Spadina Crescent East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Awards Ceremony & Banquet

Reception - 6:30 p.m.
Banquet Dinner – 7:00 p.m.
Banquet Program 8:00 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies:

Michelle Rusteika, SCSBA Vice President

Welcome Introductions
Grace
Banquet
Greetings

- **Most Reverend Mark Hagemoen**, Bishop,
  Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
- **Harry Salm,** President, Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association
- **Kelly Whalen,** President, Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association
- **Shawn Davidson,** President, Saskatchewan School Boards Association

Awards Ceremony

Appreciation Award

Father Nestor Gregoire
Doctor Garry Andrews
Ron Boechler
Wayne Stus

Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award

Darcie Lich

SCSBA 2026 Appreciation Award
Father Nestor Gregoire



Father Nestor Gregoire has been a devoted champion of Catholic education, sharing his faith, time, and pastoral care with the students, staff, and families of Holy Trinity Catholic School Division. As parish priest at the Church of Our Lady in Moose Jaw, he has helped build a meaningful connection between parish life and the daily experiences of Catholic schools.

For Father Nestor, ministry is rooted in presence. He is a familiar and welcome face in school hallways, classrooms, and gatherings, taking time to listen, encourage, and engage with young people. His warmth and genuine interest in others help students experience the Church as a caring community in which they belong. He brings faith to life not only through his words, but through the simple gift of showing up.

His contributions to school communities are both extensive and deeply personal. Father Nestor supports reconciliation and sacramental preparation, leads teaching Masses and church tours, visits classrooms, and contributes to staff faith development. He has also participated in division-wide celebrations and gatherings, including the All Schools Ministries Team and All Schools Music Ministry events. In each setting, he makes Catholic traditions and teachings accessible, welcoming, and relevant to everyday life.

Beyond his parish responsibilities, Father Nestor has served the wider Catholic community through local faith leadership, regional school division initiatives, and community service alongside organizations such as the Knights of Columbus. His willingness to collaborate reflects a belief that schools, parishes, families, and community partners share a responsibility to nurture faith and support young people.

Father Nestor's example embodies servant leadership: generous, humble, and grounded in relationships. He understands that Catholic education extends beyond lessons and liturgies; it is lived through kindness, belonging, and care for others. His faithful presence strengthens the mission of Catholic schools and inspires students and educators alike.

The Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association proudly recognizes Father Nestor Gregoire with its Appreciation Award, honouring his steadfast service, compassionate ministry, and enduring commitment to Catholic education. His ministry reminds us that faith grows strongest when it is shared through meaningful and genuine human connection, respectful relationships, shared celebration, and daily acts of care and compassion.

SCSBA 2026 Appreciation Award



Doctor Garry Andrews

For more than five decades, Dr. Garry Andrews has dedicated his life to education, leadership, and the development of young people, embodying the values of faith, service, and community that define Catholic education.

A native of Moose Jaw, Dr. Andrews began his career in 1966 as a physical education and English teacher at Vanier Collegiate. Beyond the classroom, he coached football, volleyball, basketball, and track and field, establishing a lifelong commitment to helping students discover their gifts through academics and athletics.

His dedication to learning led him to earn degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, Bemidji State University, and Union Institute and University, where he completed his PhD. He also undertook postdoctoral studies at several institutions, including Newman Theological College.

During a 38-year formal career, including 19 years in Catholic education, Dr. Andrews served communities in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, and Swift Current. His roles included teacher, school administrator, Assistant Director of Education, and Director of Education. After retiring in Saskatchewan, he continued serving Catholic schools as interim Superintendent of Schools for Elk Island Catholic Schools and Medicine Hat Catholic Schools in Alberta. He also conducted board and superintendent evaluations and taught graduate courses in Catholic school administration at Newman Theological College.

Returning to Moose Jaw in 2017, Dr. Andrews renewed his commitment to youth athletics, coaching basketball at St. Mary School and continuing today with Holy Trinity Catholic School Division's Saints Club Basketball program. He helped develop this inclusive program for students in Grades 6–8, creating affordable opportunities for participation, mentorship, and belonging. Initially offered in spring, the program expanded to fall as well.

Whether guiding a school system or encouraging a young athlete, Dr. Andrews leads with humility, generosity, and a steadfast belief in every child's potential. His enduring legacy is reflected in the students, educators, and communities whose lives he has enriched. His example continues to inspire others to serve with compassion, purpose, and faith. The Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association proudly honours Dr. Garry Andrews with its Appreciation Award in recognition of his exceptional and lasting service to Catholic education across Western Canada.

SCSBA 2026 Appreciation Award

Ron Boechler
(Posthumous Award)



For nearly three decades, Ron Boechler devoted himself to Catholic education through faithful and dedicated service as a trustee with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. Elected to the Board of Education in 1997, Ron became a respected leader whose passion for Catholic schools, strong convictions, and unwavering commitment to students and families helped shape the division for almost 28 years.

Throughout his service, Ron played an important role in guiding Saskatchewan's largest Catholic school division through periods of growth, change, and new opportunities. He contributed his leadership to numerous local, provincial, and community initiatives, including service with provincial school board associations, the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation, and educational partnerships with Indigenous and Métis organizations. In every role, he brought a genuine belief in the transformative value of Catholic education and a deep desire to ensure every student had the opportunity to thrive.

Ron was known for his enthusiasm, sincerity, and willingness to speak up when it mattered. He approached board service with energy and conviction, never hesitating to share his perspective or ask difficult questions when he believed it would lead to better outcomes for students. While he valued collaboration and respectful dialogue, he was equally committed to standing firm in his beliefs and advocating for what he saw as the greater good. His colleagues knew him as someone who brought both heart and honesty to every discussion.

A long-serving trustee and multiple-term vice-chair, Ron helped strengthen governance, support strategic planning, and preserve the strong Catholic identity that continues to define Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. His faith-filled leadership reflected the Gospel values of stewardship, integrity, courage, and service.

Ron's legacy lives on in the students, families, educators, and communities he served so faithfully. He will be remembered not only for his years of service, but for the passion, dedication, and authentic commitment he brought to Catholic education and to the mission of supporting every student to learn, grow, and flourish. The Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association proudly honours Ron Boechler with its Appreciation Award in recognition of his dedicated service, passionate leadership, and enduring commitment to Catholic education.

SCSBA 2026 Appreciation Award

Wayne Stus



Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is honoured to recognize Wayne Stus with the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association Service Award.

For 18 years, Wayne served on the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education with unwavering dedication to Catholic education, faithful governance, and the families entrusted to our schools. Throughout his service, he brought wisdom, humility, and a deep sense of purpose to every responsibility he undertook.

Wayne's leadership was marked not by seeking attention, but by thoughtful discernment, careful listening, and a genuine commitment to serving the common good. Colleagues came to value his steady presence, respectful approach, and ability to provide thoughtful perspective grounded in faith and principle. His contributions consistently reflected a desire to place the needs of students and families at the centre of decision-making.

Deeply committed to his role as a Catholic trustee, Wayne understood the importance of being present and engaged. Whether attending school events, board functions, community gatherings, or provincial Catholic education activities, he represented Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools with sincerity, pride, and a genuine interest in the people he served. His consistent presence demonstrated his belief that relationships matter and that Catholic education is strengthened through connection, visibility, and service.

A man of deep faith, Wayne has long understood Catholic education as a ministry that supports both the intellectual and spiritual development of young people. His commitment to Catholic schools was rooted in the belief that every student deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and encounter Christ within a nurturing and faith-filled community.

Wayne also helped strengthen relationships with Indigenous and Métis partners through his service on the nākatēyimitowin educational partnership and the māmawohkamātowin Governance Committee, supporting meaningful collaboration, mutual understanding, and reconciliation.

The Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association proudly recognizes Wayne Stus with its Service Award, honouring his faithful service, steadfast presence, and enduring commitment to Catholic education and community.

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 2026 Service Award



Darcie Lich

Since joining Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools in 1998, Darcie has spent nearly three decades in service of Catholic education. Beginning as a band teacher, she spent 17 years teaching students from K–12, specializing in Music, French, and the Performing Arts, before moving into division-level leadership as a Religious Education Consultant. Since 2015, she has served as Coordinator of Learning Services with responsibility for Religious Education and Faith Formation.

Throughout her career, Darcie's work has centred on the permeation of faith into the everyday life of Catholic education: supporting teachers and school leaders, developing and implementing curriculum, facilitating retreats and faith formation, creating opportunities for prayer and worship, and accompanying communities through difficult circumstances as a member of the division's Tragic Events Response Team.

Her work extends beyond GSCS. In addition to her ongoing collaborative work with the Catholic Education Coordinators Association of Saskatchewan, Darcie contributed to the development of Saskatchewan's Catholic Studies curriculum, co-authored the provincial Catholic HIV/AIDS program, and served as a pre-publication specialist reviewer for the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* Religious Education program. Her wider Church involvement includes several diocesan and interprovincial committees, parish leadership and music ministry, and advisory board service with Catholic colleges and universities. As a Lay Associate of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, her ministry includes writing, vocations work, and leadership in local, national, and international settings. Across all of these contexts, Darcie also works as a speaker, writer, retreat facilitator, and formation leader.

At the heart of Darcie's work is the conviction that faith must be able to speak into the complexities of real life. Her work is rooted in a spirituality that takes people and their lived experience seriously, trusting that faith is formed not outside the realities of everyday life, but in the midst of them.

It is fitting that this award, named in honour of a leader whose work strengthened Catholic education across Saskatchewan, is presented in 2026 to Darcie Lich. Through her unwavering commitment to faith formation, Catholic learning, and service to both church and school communities, Darcie has and continues to make a profound and lasting contribution to Catholic education in our province. The Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association is honoured to celebrate her achievements and congratulate her as the recipient of the 2026 SCSBA Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award.

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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.**