

OHS RESOURCE CENTRE NAMED IN HONOUR OF THE LATE FATHER LEONARD DELLA BADIA

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board honoured a supporter and spiritual leader yesterday during the official dedication of the Father Leonard Della Badia Resource Centre at O’Gorman High School. Father Leonard served at Sacred Heart Parish in Timmins and St. Joachim Parish in South Porcupine many years ago.



Bishop Paul Marchand blesses the Father Leonard Della Badia Resource Centre.

Bishop Paul Marchand joined the Board in their celebration for the blessing of the centre, which houses the school’s library including information technology resources:

“Father of all, look with love and mercy on us as we gather to dedicate the Father Leonard Della Badia Resource Centre for your glory and the service of the staff and students of O’Gorman High School.

Enrich their minds and hearts with the wisdom and beauty of the ages, and help them to grow in understanding of your goodness and power and glory.

Loving Father, we praise your name for ever and ever. Amen.”

The legacy of Father Leonard was shared by Joe Cecchini during the event, as a retired teacher and former student of O’Gorman High School and parishioner of Father Leonard. “When I entered O’Gorman High as a student in 1961, the school was very new,” recalls Cecchini. “That is when Father Leonard’s devotion to Catholic education and his involvement with youth became prevalent to me. There was nothing that was going to stop this school from surviving - whether it was skepticism, criticism, anti-Catholicism or lack of finances. He raised thousands of dollars through bingos at the Porcupine Dante Club to maintain what was then an unfunded O’Gorman private high school. I have known few individuals who were as sincere and selfless as he was. He never sought recognition for his efforts. He never bragged about any of his accomplishments. He was most integral in O’Gorman High School surviving its inception despite many adversaries. What will always be most significant and memorable to me are Father Leonard’s faith in prayer, his devotion to Sacred Heart Parish and his efforts to keep O’Gorman High School and Catholic education alive.”

Several students and staff gathered in the foyer of O’Gorman to pay tribute to Father Leonard.

**For more information, please contact Mélanie Bidal-Mainville
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OHS Principal John D’Alessandri, retired Teacher Joe Cecchini, Chair of the Board Colleen Landers and Bishop Paul Marchand participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

