

CATHOLIC TEACHERS TO TAKE PART IN LIGHTHEARTED 'CATECHISM CLASS'

As students enjoy their first professional activity day of the school year on Friday, their teachers and principals with the Northeastern Catholic District School Board will be filing into the Sylvia Gravel Theatre in Timmins for an 'untraditional' lesson on Catholicism. The Board will welcome the international hit comedy "Late Nite Catechism", a funny, witty and informative adult catechism class. The production begins at 10:15 am tomorrow morning in the Sylvia Gravel Theatre at O'Gorman High School, 150 George Street in Timmins.

Director of Education Paul Toffanello, who has attended a performance of Late Nite Catechism, believes that the teachers and principals of the Northeastern Catholic District School Board will have the chance to revive their understanding of our doctrine through this comical presentation. "Our focus on Friday will be for reflection on Catholic Education in a humourous and lighthearted way," explained Toffanello. "The purpose is two-fold. The presentation will allow all of us as educators within the Catholic school system to take another step in our faith journey through laughter and faith. At the same time, it will enhance our ability to strengthen the spiritual growth of our students. By engaging in professional learning through this interactive session, we will be better positioned to impart knowledge to our students that will benefit them, their families and the common good of our communities."



Special Assignment Teachers Elizabeth Mulholland and Kim Hall prepare the props required for tomorrow's performance of *Late Nite Catechism*.

Late Nite Catechism is an uproarious piece of theatre that takes audience members back - sometimes nostalgically, sometimes fearfully - to the children they once were. The irrepressible Sister teaches an adult catechism class to a roomful of "students" (the audience). Over the course of the play, Sister goes from benevolent instructor, rewarding the "students" for correct answers with glow-in-the-dark rosaries and laminated saint cards, to authoritative drill sergeant. These abrupt mood swings are bound to strike a resonant chord with everyone who survived the ups and downs of going to school, with an omniscient authoritarian at the helm.

Late Nite Catechism, which was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award in New York and recently won the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Lead Performance for Maripat Donovan, is currently playing publicly in cities around North America to full "classes" since it opened in 1993.

During the afternoon, the group will come together to celebrate the Eucharist at St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish. Board Trustee Jack Slattery is thankful to our parish communities for the support as we work in partnership, along with our families, to provide a climate where faith can gradually mature. "Our mass will allow participants to gather their thoughts and reflect after the more lighthearted approach to catechism delivered in the morning," explained Slattery. "Everyone will come together in recognition of our collective effort to understand our roles as Catholic teachers and administrators enriching and enhancing the spiritual lives of our children. The day will provide a powerful experience and further empower us to deliver programs in a manner that infuses the message of the Gospel in each of our school communities."

For more information, please contact Mélanie Bidal-Mainville, Community Relations Officer



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