

**Religious Affairs  
Annual Committee Report**

**Committee Members:**

Veronica Tuzi (Executive Liaison), Fr. Michael Lehman (CEC), JoAnne Maher (Chair)

**Terms of Reference:**

- a) To sponsor activities to support the members of the Toronto Secondary Unit as teachers in a Catholic education system. Such activities may include, but are not limited to: liturgies, speakers, retreats, workshops, columns/articles for the Unit newsletter.
- b) To liaise with other Catholic and other denominational/faith groups and organizations.
- c) To develop and maintain a Unit resource centre for personal and professional use of the membership
- d) To report on initiatives/conferences with respect to religious affairs, for the purpose of supporting and educating the membership.
- e) To maintain a media file of relevant media coverage.
- f) To work with the executive and the Political Advisory committee to observe the Religious Affairs committee of the TCDSB.
- g) To recommend to the TSU executive appropriate TSU representatives to committees in the area of religious affairs and spiritual development.

**Activities:**

- Veronica Tuzi represented TSU on the Board's NCC Committee (Nurturing Catholic Community committee) in order to provide the membership's input on issues relating to the faith dimension of our school communities and advocate for a comprehensive Bereavement Package.
- Due to administrative job action earlier in the school year, the workshops planned for the LOYOL Day were unable to be held. The Committee hopes to hold the LOYOL workshops for February 2021.
- The Committee will be pursuing the creation and distribution of a prayer card.
- The Committee attempted to hold workshops for members, around religious education. Unfortunately, the October workshops was cancelled due to low interest, and the April workshop was cancelled due to the school closure/pandemic situation. The Committee hopes to hold these workshops in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- The committee considered options for broad outreach to members
- The committee recommended leadership training of Association Reps from New Beginnings which is an organization that does workshops and groups sessions for members who have experienced bereavement and/or separation/divorce.

**Recommendations:**

- That the TSU Executive, through the Religious Affairs Committee and through its membership in the NCC Committee, take every opportunity to promote social justice issues and a culture of life.
- That the committee continue to have the Board, through the NCC, develop a bereavement package to assist family members of deceased teachers in navigating the process for closure of paperwork
- That the committee continue to seek partners for and to promote PD sessions for the Jt Board/TSU LOYOL PD Day next year.