

NIAGARA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD HONOURS FOUNDING RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS



Early in January, John Crocco, the Director of Education for the school board contacted me. He was interested in “telling and retelling the story” of the development of Catholic Education in the Niagara peninsula. He wanted to honour the religious congregations who were pioneers in establishing what is now an enviable Catholic system. Each of the eight

Congregations was to be recognized by having a Board Office room named in their honour. I was delighted to accept for the **Sisters of Holy Cross**. It also gave me the opportunity to meet many friends from the years we had been present in the area!

In the context of a Board meeting, February 24, the eight congregations were named. Led by Bishop James Wingle, each room was blessed and a red ribbon was ceremonially cut. The most significant honour was naming the **Board Meeting Room** the ‘**Father Ken Burns CSC**’ room. It now has a picture of Father Burns,



with a write up on his life. There is little doubt of the high regard in which Ken is held in Niagara. “Father Ken Burns has shaped the very fabric of Catholic education in the Niagara Region. For half a century his name has become synonymous with our tradition of excellence”. (Dedication booklet).

The **Holy Cross** room has a beautiful picture of Blessed Basile Moreau, a crucifix and a brief history of Holy Cross, provided by the priests and brothers. In 1947 they arrived in Welland to take over the growing high school population by establishing Notre Dame College School. There are now nine Catholic high schools in the Board.

In 1984, we arrived in the Niagara area. Initially we came to collaborate with the priests and brothers. It did not take long for us to absorb the spirit and

enthusiasm we found there. We taught in four of the area high schools. Our **Sisters of Holy Cross** room has an enlarged picture of our logo and a copy of the Forum picture which had been copied from our Web site! I did remind the assembly that Basile Moreau was our founder as well. It was his vision that the three branches: priests, brothers and sisters would work together in any part of the world to which they were sent.



Holy Cross, in keeping with Moreau's vision, has made education in the faith, the most important responsibility of the Catholic school, as well as a commitment to high standards of academic excellence. Although we are no longer physically present in the area, it is evident that we have had a solid influence on both colleagues and students.

(Submitted by Joan Quinn CSC)