

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:** Hi everyone,

The week-long coverage of the disaster in Haiti propels people around the world to look at the situation in that broken country with new eyes. The rubble has uncovered, for all who wish to see, the injustice that has been in effect since the 1800s. The crippling effects of abject poverty is now staring us in the face and the astounding effect is that the people who have been serving the poor of Haiti all these years now look to the future with a renewed sense of hope. Out of the ashes.....

I would like to frame this catastrophe with reference to our upcoming Faith Development Day. Our pre-activity prayer seems almost predestined in its call to service to the poor and marginalized. Our opening prayer, gospel, reflection and individual commitment cards all reference the gospel call to service to all in need. As a community we are doing marvelous works. No listing required. :)

As we move towards our special day, let us remind ourselves of some past FDD events. Years ago Father Pepin, who worked with street folk in Montreal, reminded us that the gifts these people give to us often outweigh the gifts we give to them. Remember his "handkerchief" story? Father Riechers (Build Bethlehem Everywhere), through his own story, taught us that living through disappointment, pain and loss are just simply the facts of the human condition and our dealing with such things brings out the best and the worst in us. (his line after a joke... "...Write it down!") Sister Claire's message is as true now as it was then: "If you are among us unfaithfully you do us great harm". She begged us to reflect on this and use it as a mantra in all our relationships. Sister José Hobday spent her day chiding us about our use of clocks and our disrespect for time. She asked us to be present to everyone when they come into our lives and give them the gift of our time — a good thing to remind ourselves of when we seem to be spinning out of control in our hectic lives. John Shea brought us the power of story and how we use story and parable to bring the things we cannot fully explain to life. His simple wisdom is still there in every one of his books. Father Ron Rolheiser's ability to peel away the layers of scripture offer us endless opportunities to see how we can be faithful to the gospel and, in doing so, explain the same to the students in our care. Last year Sister Kovats brought social justice to us in most practical ways and this year Jerry Goebel will experience the hospitality that we extend to all visitors.

I know that this is only my perspective on this day but I hope that we all embrace the time together as a sign of our solidarity. On behalf of all our members, I extend a huge thank you to our religion department personnel and their committee who work so hard to bring everything together for this day. Continue to care for each other ~Sandy

**MATERNITY LEAVE INFORMATION NIGHT—Monday, February 8, 2010**

If you are expecting a baby, or planning to start a family soon, we invite you to register for our Local's Maternity Leave Information Night being held Monday, February 8, 2010, Room 502, at Barnett House beginning at 7:00pm. Topics covered during the evening will include: the Collective Agreement, Employment Insurance, ASEBP, and recent developments regarding maternity leaves. You and a guest are most welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. Please register by emailing: [jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca)

**SMART BOARD PRESENTATION OFFERED**

The Local's PD Committee has organized a Smart Board presentation for teachers on Wed., February 3 from 4:30-6:30pm at St. James School (7814-83 St). This session is Notebook 10 for Beginners. We will uncover the basics of creating lessons and activities using Notebook 10. One hour presentation will be followed by one hour of hands-on experience. Refreshments will be provided. Limited to 25 participants. Register by email: [jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca) ~Christine Bowers, PD Chair

**AD HOC SCHOLARSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE**

As you know, every year, our Local awards nearly \$8000 in scholarships and vocations. If you would like to be part of an ad hoc committee to review these scholarships, please email [kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca](mailto:kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca) The committee will meet on Tuesday, February 16 at 4pm, in Room 402, Barnett House.

**Meetings and Events**

**Monday, January 25, 2010**

Pre-Retirement Workshop  
Session #2, 6-9pm,  
Auditorium, Barnett House.  
Dinner available at 5:30pm.

**Monday, January 28, 2010**

Substitute Mtg., 7pm, St. James  
School. Topic: 21st Century  
Learner. Register by email:  
[jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca) or  
phone: 780-451-1196

**Monday, February 1, 2010**

Mentorship Session for new  
teachers, 4pm, St. Peter's (LSS)

**Tuesday, February 2, 2010**

*Faith Development Day*

**Wednesday, February 3, 2010**

PD Smart Board: Notebook 10  
Session for Beginners, 4:30-6:30,  
St. James School. Limited to 25.  
To register email  
[jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca)

**TURKEY DRIVE \$\$ still being  
accepted:**

Please make cheques  
payable to "Local 54" and send to  
Room 402, Barnett House.

**Website:**

[www.local54.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.local54.teachers.ab.ca)

**Kathy MacIsaac**, Exec. Director  
[kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca](mailto:kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca)

**Sandy Gillis**, Local President  
[sandy.gillis@ecteachers.ca](mailto:sandy.gillis@ecteachers.ca)

**Jan Bossmmin**, Office Manager  
[jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca)

**WORDS OF INSPIRATION**

"Vision without action is a  
daydream.  
Action without vision is a  
nightmare."