

St. Pius X Catholic High School has been one of the brightest beacons for Catholic education in the Ottawa area for almost 50 years. It was founded in 1958 at its current Fisher Avenue site as a preparatory seminary for boys of high school age, aimed at fostering vocations to the priesthood. Archbishop Lemieux named it after Pope Pius X whom he considered an appropriate role model for boys interested in the priesthood.

The original teachers were priests, mainly from the Ottawa Archdiocese, but also assisted by a number from the Antigonish Archdiocese in Nova Scotia. The priests lived on site, as did some of the students who boarded at the school, including some from as far away as Hamilton. St. Pius X at that time was the closest preparatory seminary to Hamilton, so the Hamilton Diocese made arrangements for a number of students, usually about eight, to board at the Ottawa facility. Hamilton students stopped traveling to St. Pius X around 1967, although the school continued to have other boarding students until 1971. The school also drew students from all parts of the City of Ottawa, although there was no school busing.

Right from the beginning, religion, academics and sports all played an important role in school life, a tradition that has carried on to the present day.

In the 1960s, increasing enrolment and demand from the community brought about the construction of a stand-alone gymnasium as well as the construction of a cafeteria, a chapel and a residence. In addition, lay teachers, as well as priests, were hired. In the early 1960s the school's drama guild offered its first production and an adult training centre program was established to help support and entertain disabled adults in the community. This program, now a 40-year tradition, enables

ST. PIUS X

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



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disabled adults to participate in socials hosted by St. Pius X students on a bi-monthly basis. Both of these initiatives have continued to thrive over many years.

St. Pius X athletes have proved to be formidable in sports, beginning with the school's first city championship, the 1962 bantam boys' basketball title. There would be many more to follow in ensuing years.

Dramatic changes and challenges ruled the 1970s for St. Pius X Catholic High School. The Carleton Roman Catholic School Board was established in 1969, becoming responsible for grades 9 and 10 students

at St. Pius X in 1972. The grades 11 to 13 section of the school continued to be privately run. Female students were accepted beginning in 1972. As a result, the student population grew to over 1,000.

The challenge of operating a large, comprehensive high school with no government funding for the senior grades meant financial problems for the school. This led to the first meeting of the St. Pius X Parents' Foundation in December 1974. Over the next several years, this parents' group raised over one million dollars in support of the school, organizing bingos, lotteries, spring fairs and other events. Meeting this financial challenge led to the development of a strong and special bond among the teachers, parents and students of St. Pius X High School, fostering a strong sense of community and pride in the school. In 1984, full and fair funding was announced by the Provincial Government, resulting in Grades 11 to 13 being funded and included under the jurisdiction of the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board. Thus ended more than 25 years of private funding of Catholic education at St. Pius X.

In the 1980s, daily Mass was still celebrated at the school. The school's academic program was enhanced by a plethora of sports and school activities, instilling spirit, enthusiasm and goodwill throughout the school community. The school won a total of 56 championship athletic banners during the 1980s alone.

In the early 1990s, a major reconstruction and renovation was necessary at St. Pius X. A new atrium, cafeteria and chapel became part of a new inter-connected complex. The opening of new high schools in the 1990s by the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board meant that some St. Pius X students and staff were relocated, but St. Pius continued to flourish and excel.

In 1998, St. Pius X came under the jurisdiction of the new Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board, an amalgamation of the former Carleton Roman Catholic School Board and the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

With the new millennium came more changes in education, such as the elimination of the Grade 13 year and new curricula. But St. Pius X Catholic High School continues to be, as it was when it was established nearly half a century earlier, a well-known and strong bastion for Catholic education in the Ottawa area.

The school is now approaching its 50th anniversary year in 2008. The facility currently includes 40 classrooms, 20 classrooms in two port-a-paks, five computer labs, two gymnasiums, a library, an in-school chapel, a multi-functional cafeteria and several playing fields. Enrolment currently stands at around 1,100 students.

Students in Grades 9 through 12 continue to participate in more than 25 high school league sports, as well as in over 30 clubs and activities at the school. The school supports a variety of charitable causes including the Terry Fox Run, Walk for the Cure, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Development and Peace, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Catholic Missions in Canada, the Shepherds of Good Hope, Toy Mountain and the Waupoos Foundation. Since 1975, the Waupoos Foundation (a registered charitable foundation) has welcomed families with children under the age of 16 who have no other opportunities for holidays, apply for a vacation at Waupoos Farm or Waupoos Island.

Present Principal

Jennifer Oake (2006-present)

Past Principals

Rev. John Capstick
 Rev. Robert Bedard
 Monsignor Leonard Lunney
 Peter Linegar
 Bogdan Kolbusz
 Lise St. Eloi
 Bernard Swords
 Tom Duggan

First Teaching and Support Staff

Rev. John Capstick,
 Principal/Teacher
 Rev. Murdock J. MacLean,
 Rector/Teacher
 Rev. William Allen,
 Bursar/Teacher
 Rev. Paul Baxter
 Rev. Robert Bedard
 Rev. Don Gavan
 Rev. Leonard Lunney
 D. Gavan, Office Manager
 Mrs. K. Terry, Secretary

Companions of the Cross

Rev. Robert Bedard, who was a teacher and then principal at St. Pius X Catholic High School, founded the Companions of the Cross, a community of priests.

Former Students

Rev. C. Monaghan, Rev. J. Vandenaeker, Rev. R. Vandenaeker and Rev. J. Muldoon, are now priests in the Ottawa area.

Dr. Patrick McGrath, is a professor of psychology in the Psychiatry Department at Dalhousie University in Halifax and recipient of the Order of Canada.

Dan Aykroyd, an actor and comedian.

Jim Foley, played for the Ottawa Rough Riders of the Canadian Football League.

Jesse Palmer, a quarterback, played for the powerhouse Myers Riders amateur minor football club in Ottawa in the mid-1990s. He went on to play major university football on a scholarship at the University of Florida and then played for the New York Giants of the National Football League. In December 2003, Jesse, while playing for the New York Giants, became the first Canadian-trained quarterback to start a National Football League game.

School Colours

Green and white

Motto On Crest

"To Establish All Things In Christ"