



Authority: Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board

Subject: **“Speakers’ Forum 2007 Focus on Orphans in Africa”**

Date: November 5 & 6, 2007 - Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Courtice
November 7 & 8, 2007 - St. Stephen’s Secondary School, Bowmanville

Release: Immediately

One of the most devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is the breakup of families, the creation of millions of orphans and the disintegration of social cohesion.

Students at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Courtice and St. Stephen’s Secondary School, Bowmanville, will have an opportunity to meet and hear from guest speaker, Sister Raphael, who has worked tirelessly in Africa to help feed and educate orphaned children. She will describe how refugee issues, as well as HIV/AIDS, have impacted families in the village of Rural Kisii, Kenya.

St. Bonaventure Mixed Secondary School has over 200 students enrolled who are educated in two classrooms. One class is taught under the trees. Sixty of the students are either total orphans or have only one parent and many of the parents have died from AIDS leaving the oldest child or a grandmother as the head of the household.

The ensuing poverty means that these children and youth go hungry. Sister Raphael provides one good meal a day for the 200 youth and 100 nursery school children between ages 5 and 9. A few of the children from the community are also fed.

Sister Raphael inspires and challenges all listeners with her stories of perseverance, resistance and the protection of the human spirit. She will be at the school all week visiting classrooms and speaking with groups.

Media are invited to visit Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Courtice and St. Stephen’s Secondary School, Bowmanville during the dates listed above. Sister Raphael will also be making presentations at St. Peter’s Secondary School, Peterborough (October 22-25); Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, Peterborough (October 26); and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, Lindsay (October 29 & 30).

For further information, please contact Jill McGrath, Curriculum Chair - Canada/World Studies, Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Courtice, (905) 404-9439, and Shawn Carmichael, Curriculum Chair - Canada/World Studies, St. Stephen's Secondary School, Bowmanville, (905) 623-3990.

Thank you.



Nancy Sharpe
Manager of Communications and
Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy

NS/jpl • October 22, 2007 • P06

To view this document on our website, go to www.pvnccdsb.on.ca