

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Above, four-year-old Michael Ortiz carries his classroom's blessed cross back to his junior kindergarten class at the conclusion of the Guardian Angels ceremony. Top left, members of the grades 3 to 6 choir perform at the school's opening.

# Students, teachers proud of their new elementary school

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

The Champion

A little girl craning her neck to catch a glimpse of her big sister in the choir. A new Milton couple meeting like-minded parents. A proud principal welcoming the guests that packed into the gymnasium.

These are snapshots from Thursday night's blessing and official dedication ceremony of Milton's newest Catholic elementary school, Guardian Angels.

A grade 6 student from Our Lady of Victory School started the night off playing bag pipes not much smaller than him, followed into the gymnasium by school staff and visiting dignitaries.

Although students have been attending Guardian Angels for more than a month, this was their chance — and that of those who make Guardian Angels function each day — to show off their school to parents and siblings.

And if the filled-to-capacity attendance was any indication, the opportunity was warmly received.

The snip of a ribbon and the blessing of classroom crucifixes were highlights of the ceremony, as was the school choir's debut performance.

"The opening of a school is a significant occasion in looking after our future," said Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh. "Nothing is more important."

The opening of Guardian Angels, he said, is another step "along the way to seamless growth."

Joyce Savoline, Halton chair, addressed the importance of schools in children's lives.

"Schools are a genesis where young minds take hold. It's the focal point of their learning," she said.

To students, she said: "I hope your school experience is filled with laughter, joy and success."

Principal Sonia Bien spoke from her heart.

"I feel our society is in good hands as you become our future leaders," she told her students.

Bishop of Hamilton Diocese Anthony Tonno gave an inspirational message. He spoke of the school, church and home all being important components in teaching children.

"I can see by the spirit that's evident here that Guardian Angels will be a great school," he said.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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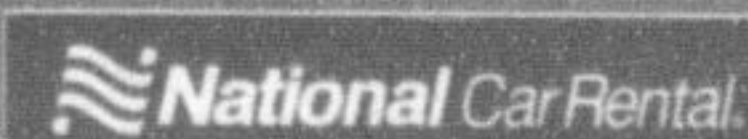
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