

48<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Catholic Classic  
Friday Feb 7th - Saturday Feb 8th / 2025

Over the years, the Ontario Catholic has completely epitomized grassroots participation from all the players, coaches and many volunteers, each of which have contributed to what is truly a great basketball experience.

There is a lot to be proud of looking back at the rich tradition. In fact, the Catholic “tournament” dates well back into the 1960’s playing at some of the original Catholic schools such as Windsor’s Assumption, Hamilton’s Cathedral, Kitchener’s St. Jerome’s, Welland’s Notre Dame and Toronto’s St. Michael’s College. Eventually, in 1975 Levio “Red” Ferricuti (Denis Morris Catholic) hosted and the tournament found a permanent home at Denis Morris Catholic. Although times have changed from teams overnighting on the church basement floor and tournament dances, the comradery and hospitality has always remained a pillar in the tournament experience. The “Classic” has always strived to maintain that original shared Catholic vision among players / coaches of experiencing great basketball while enjoying each other’s friendships. The bond and solidarity shared in the early history of the tournament continues to be the standard of motivation.

You only have to glance back over past champions and Father Cundari Most Valuable Player recipients to appreciate the highest quality of play at the tournament. Many players have gone on to great success at the OCAA, CIS, NCAA and even the NBA level. The “Classic” is also very proud to acknowledge some of the early Catholic athletic pioneers. Pioneers such as Father Kennedy (Cathedral), Danny Pendergrass (St. Michael’s College), Bob Coul (Windsor Assumption), Emond O’Shea (Denis Morris) and Jack Chambers (Welland Notre Dame) to only mention a few who have helped make basketball what it is today in our province. Interestingly, many of the current coaches follow in the family and coaches lineage dedicated to building upon the principals of those early pioneers.

The “Ontario Catholic Classic” Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate every participant for making the tournament a special part of every season. Your commitment and interest in building upon the rich tradition of the tournament is extremely appreciated.

“Great traditions are always under construction”.

