



**TOWARDS
HEALING**

journeyforhealing.ca

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Beloved Parishioners,

Grace and peace be with you all.

It is with a heart filled with gratitude and joy that I write to you today. As we reflect upon the past year, I am overwhelmed by the remarkable journey we have undertaken together in the Archdiocese's *Christ-Centred Co-Journey Toward Healing* (for the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund). Your unwavering generosity has been a testament to the boundless love and compassion that flows within our parish communities. I extend my warmest appreciation for your profound acts of kindness and selflessness.

In the past year, our collective efforts have exceeded even the highest expectations. Through your dedication, we have raised an astonishing \$650,000 for the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. This achievement is nothing short of a divine blessing, a clear sign that God's grace works through each one of you to bring about opportunities for healing in the lives of our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Your support has ignited a beacon of hope.

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, fueled by your generosity, has already disbursed funds. These grants have gone to initiatives that embrace the essence of unity, understanding, and restoration. For example, Kateri Native Ministry is organizing six retreats to promote healing and reconciliation; the Odawa Native Friendship Centre hosted a traditional Pow Wow for children and youth; Mādahòki Farm is pioneering an equine assisted learning program for Indigenous children and their families. These initiatives stand as living testimonies to the power of your generosity. Visit www.journeyforhealing.ca to read about all the recipients.

As we continue this *Christ-Centred Co-Journey Towards Healing*, I urge each one of you to embrace the spirit of generosity once again on the weekend of November 4th and 5th. Let us come together, as one church to financially support our Indigenous brothers and sisters who have faced historical injustices and continue to strive for healing with the Church. Remember the words of 2 Corinthians 9:10-15, which remind us that God provides us with the means to be generous and blesses us so that we may be a blessing to others. In this spirit, let us respond to God's call with open hearts and open hands, just as the Thessalonians were encouraged to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

In the Gospels, we are reminded of Christ's boundless love for all of humanity. Let our actions be a reflection of that love, as we extend our hands in support, our hearts in understanding, and our prayers in unity. With each contribution, we sow the seeds of hope and reconciliation, nourishing the roots of a harmonious relationship between all members of God's family.

Once again, I extend my sincere appreciation to each one of you for your incredible generosity and unyielding support. May God's blessings be abundant upon you and your families.

+Marcel Damphousse

Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall