



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

May 8, 2022

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last month, Pope Francis welcomed delegations representing various Indigenous communities to Rome. In his remarks on the final day of their visit, the Holy Father expressed his indignation, shame, and sorrow at the role Catholics played in the abuses of the residential school system.

Pope Francis' remarks acknowledged the pain and sorrow he heard in the stories of those who attended residential schools and spoke of the path forward between the Church and Indigenous peoples. The Holy Father said, *"I wish to tell you that the Church stands beside you and wants to continue journeying with you. Dialogue is the key to knowledge and sharing, and the Bishops of Canada have clearly stated their commitment to continue advancing together with you on a renewed, constructive, fruitful path, where encounters and shared projects will be of great help."*

In living out this commitment to accompany our Indigenous sisters and brothers who are suffering, the Diocese of Hamilton has established the ***Indigenous Reconciliation Fund***. This fund, which is part of a Canada-wide \$30 million commitment, will support Indigenous-led initiatives of healing and reconciliation. Both the Diocesan and the national fund will be overseen by a board comprised of Indigenous members.

The Diocese of Hamilton is committing \$4 million to this fund, which will support projects both local and national in scope. This commitment from the Diocese is firm, such that any donations you make will support these projects over-and-above our \$4 million commitment. I ask humbly for your generosity in support of this initiative. May God, the Creator of all, bless this journey we will take together toward a relationship of trust, healing, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+ Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton

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