



## BISHOP OF HAMILTON

April 16, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Christ,

Next Sunday (the Third Sunday of Easter, April 23,) each Parish in our Diocese will hold a collection in support of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. This collection supports local initiatives of healing and reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters and forms part of the larger \$30 million national commitment made by dioceses across Canada.

In May of 2022, we held our first diocese-wide collection, asking for support that would add to the Diocese's original \$4 million commitment. Though the fund was new and had neither projects nor committee members, parishioners responded generously - contributing in excess of \$170,000.

Since this time, the Diocese has formed our local Indigenous Reconciliation Fund advisory council, whose members are tasked with the ultimate funding decisions for local reconciliation projects. This advisory council, comprised of four Indigenous and three Diocesan representatives, will be the main point of contact with those local Indigenous groups who will work toward the fund's four priorities: healing and reconciliation for communities and families; culture and language revitalization; education and community building; and dialogues for promoting Indigenous spirituality and culture. Information about our local efforts can be found by visiting [hamiltondiocese.com/reconciliationfund/](https://hamiltondiocese.com/reconciliationfund/)

When the Holy Father met with Canadian Indigenous representatives last year, he remarked that, "any truly effective process of healing requires concrete actions." Your generous support does exactly this: it makes real the Church's deep desire for authentic reconciliation and serves as a tangible sign of the Church's closeness and fraternity with all Indigenous peoples. While the steps we take on this journey of reconciliation may feel small, they move nonetheless in the right direction. May the Risen Lord Jesus, whose resurrection triumphed over sin and death, guide us on this journey from pain to the hope of new life.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady of Guadalupe,

*+ Douglas Crosby, OMI*

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

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