

This information is to help parish leaders inform themselves on all the current ministries working with Indigenous Communities. THIS IS NOT an official document to be distributed widely. Thank you.

1. Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (Indigenous Ministry) is a community of Indigenous, Metis and non-Indigenous Catholic Faithful. Funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, Guadalupe's community began in 1984, the same year as the Bishop's Annual Appeal began. A house was purchased which is still used today for courses and administration. Over the years as the community grew, St. Mary's Church downtown by St. Paul's Hospital opened their doors to the Guadalupe community and their weekly mass has held there for a very long time. There are four elders in the Guadalupe community and these people are a great and constant source of comfort and healing within the community. They also provide hamper assistance within the community. When the news of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc discovery hit, a four day wake was held quietly at Guadalupe to provide the community the opportunity to share stories and grief and to find solace in the silent witness of the elders. This culminated in a powerful closing mass which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAkwxmaseOg>
2. Restorative/Prison Ministry is an office funded entirely by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Dianne Anderson is an incredible individual and Metis elder at Guadalupe. Her passion is being there for incarcerated individuals of all walks of life. Due largely to the fall-out of residential schools and the generational trauma that has led to deep social wounds, Indigenous peoples are overrepresented in our prison system.
  - a. Dianne went through a lot of work to tailor the Indigenous Led program "Returning to Spirit" and received an approval for her version to be implemented in the prison system. Aside from the Returning to Spirit program, she routinely visits prisoners.
  - b. She also takes donations of backpacks, pajamas and storybooks. Then a film crew will come in and film a man reading bedtime stories to his children. When the DVD is ready, the family receives the backpack with new pajamas for the children and a video of their father reading the book to them. It's a beautiful program that fosters the relationships that so often become broken and give the men a stronger connection to home with the hope that they will be stronger upon release.
  - c. During the last year and a half when she has been unable to operate inside the facility, she has been operating mostly over the phone, spending the rest of her time outdoors finding former inmates and those currently awaiting trial and making time for discussion, prayer and hope for the future.

Guadalupe parish ministry and the Restorative Ministry relate to call to action #61 to develop healing & reconciliation projects, education and relationship building. As of the beginning of July Dianne is being allowed back into prison for the first time since Feb or March of 2020. I always say that what she does is look at criminals like Jesus looked at the man on the cross next to Him. Nothing but love there.

3. Indigenous Education Initiatives. Last year, in conjunction with St. Thomas More College, the Diocese launched a four part series of Indigenous Ministry Education that covers the history of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, their relationship with non-Indigenous peoples, the experience with the Roman Catholic Church, and the opportunities before us to have a harmonious future as children of God, respecting all. This directly relates to the TRC calls to action #59 & #60
4. The office of Justice and Peace is another ministry office funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. This office run by Myron Rogal facilitates partnerships between the Diocese and many

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outside organizations, Indigenous and non-Indigenous. One of the very specific things Myron does is coordinate the Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation who meet, share knowledge, and seek to foster understanding and reconciliation within the Diocese and the community. This takes many forms, most of which happen quietly without a lot of interference or fanfare. I believe the long term hope of the council would be that every parish in the Diocese would engage in a parish meeting of parishioners, knowledge keepers and elders for the purpose of education and healing. This is slow and tedious work though, I imagine especially as our elders are exhausted from speaking their stories and need time for joy and peace themselves. Other outside organizations he partners with (not on a constant basis but in some capacity) are the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Straight Up Ministries, and organizations frequented by Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the community such as the Lighthouse Assisted Living, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, The Friendship Inn (which is also a direct financial beneficiary of the Bishop's Annual Appeal) and many, many more.

5. Support for the Arch-Diocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. As part of the Bishop's Annual Appeal an amount of \$30,000 is annually sent to the Northern Diocese in order to facilitate sacraments, youth programming, and other operations. In addition, last year the Diocese sent one of our own priests to the Northern Diocese full time as they are facing a very massive shortage of priests for their people who seek the Church with very strong faith.

Aside from these ministries, we are running the 5 year Catholic TRC Healing Response to support Cemeteries on the sites of former residential schools in Saskatchewan, Healing Projects and Education Initiatives. Final partnerships have not been decided at this time. For more information: <https://dscf.ca/catholic-trc-healing-response>