



Jubilee Year of Hope September 2025

*For those Working for
Integral Ecology and
Indigenous Reconciliation*

HEROES OF HOPE

Heroes of Hope is a monthly newsletter from the Diocese of Hamilton, shining a light on the extraordinary individuals and ministries who inspire hope and transform lives in our communities.

#HEROESOFHOPE

During the month of September we observe the **Season of Creation**, a time to reflect on our responsibility as stewards of creation, called to care for our environment as a means of caring for one another and providing hope for future generations. This is also a time of deep reflection, repentance and solidarity as we commemorate the **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples**, and seek to bring about hope through the healing of past injustices.

Care for Creation

Our Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace provides formation opportunities to support parish and school initiatives to bring needed change in our use of the earth's resources and connection to our communities. Following the lead of Pope Leo XIV, many parishes this year will be celebrating a special Mass for the Care of Creation, giving thanks for creation and praying to use wisely the gifts of our common home.



↖ **Regina Mundi Parish in Hamilton** is celebrating the Season of Creation by hosting a retreat and spreading the gospel of Creation in fellowship with their community. Their team will be closing out the season by running a bottle drive in support of the new Good Shepherd Men's Shelter in Hamilton, demonstrating the beautiful commitment to integral ecology and outreach.

Ignatius Centre in Guelph is a place for spiritual reflection, ecological engagement and community connection. In addition to offering peaceful places for retreat and prayer, the centre provides educational opportunities on regenerative farming, conservation and creation care. You can learn more about IJC and their work by checking out their website: <https://ignatiusguelph.ca/>



The 19-acre **De Mazenod Farm in Ancaster** is an initiative working to turn idle land into a source of fresh, locally grown produce and nourishment for those in need in Hamilton. The farm welcomes volunteers from all walks of life to learn and contribute to its mission to nourish and feed our community. Through this program they are able to share the harvest of vegetables, herbs, honey, and eggs with the De Mazenod Door Outreach Centre, Good Shepherd of Hamilton and Hamilton Food Share.



Indigenous Reconciliation

The process of Truth and Reconciliation takes time and an unwavering commitment to listen, learn, act and stand in solidarity with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples across Turtle Island. The Diocese of Hamilton is engaged in several on-going programs and provides many educational resources to support and encourage this journey toward reconciliation.

The annual **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th** is meant to acknowledge the painful legacy of Residential Schools, to honour the children who did not return home, and the survivors of these institutions, their families and communities. Acknowledgement and commemoration of this painful history is a vital component in the healing process and a source of hope for future generations.

The **Indigenous Reconciliation Fund** is a national effort by the Catholic Church in Canada to devote \$30 million dollars to fund Indigenous-led and supported initiatives that promote health and community healing, cultural, spiritual and language revitalization, and Indigenous education and community-led development. Each Diocese is responsible for coordinating and distributing a local Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. The Diocese of Hamilton – responsible for approximately \$4 million in funding – hosts an advisory committee lead by Indigenous representatives from across the Diocese and support by diocesan staff. **Since 2022, our IRF has dispersed over \$850,000 to projects and initiatives across the Diocese.**

One of the organizations that has received funding from the Diocesan IRF, is the **Woodland Cultural Centre**, the site of one of Canada's longest running Residential Schools located in Brantford. The Centre is entirely First Nations run, offers numerous educational and cultural programs and recently received its Historical Site designation.



St. Matthew's House, a non-profit organization working in Hamilton, received funding to support their 412 Barton St. E project. This initiative provides deeply affordable, permanent housing and support services to Indigenous seniors at risk of homelessness.



Working as partners with local community organizations and countless volunteers, members of our Catholic Community are engaged in helping us care for our common home and commit ourselves to bringing healing and reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. **We salute these heroes of hope!**



HEROES OF HOPE PRAYER FOR THOSE WORKING FOR INTEGRAL ECOLOGY AND INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism,
you have given us new life in Christ
and called us to serve as pilgrims of hope.

We pray in thanksgiving for those
who have responded to your call
to bring about the healing of our earth,
raising our awareness of the gifts of creation
which are ours to safeguard,
and for reconciliation with the
Indigenous Peoples with
whom we are privileged to
share a common home.

Through their varied ministries,
may they touch the hearts
of all in our community who long
for the hope, born of our Christian faith,
that never disappoints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The **Justice & Peace
Office** has compiled a
number of **resources &
events** at [bit.ly/justice-
peace-events](https://bit.ly/justice-peace-events)

