

March 31, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

I pray your Lenten preparation for Easter is proving fruitful.

We often take for granted having a roof over our heads and place to retreat with our families when times are tough – our home – whether it is a large single-family unit or a small but perfect size for us apartment. Having a place to call home is about more than shelter because it is a place to gather family and friends and to enjoy a sense of security.

We know that homelessness and housing insecurity are chronic problems in our area. Many people do not have a place to call home or are in danger of losing their shelter because of economic insecurity.

Indigenous peoples are significantly more at risk for experiencing these problems and often have greater difficulty in finding a place to live. Part of our commitment to the ongoing work of truth and reconciliation with indigenous peoples is to help provide for physical needs so that the important work of spiritual and mental healing can take place.

You may know already of two organizations doing wonderful work to help the economically disadvantaged and the homeless: the Ottawa Central Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society ([Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada \(ssvp.ca\)](http://www.ssvp.ca)) and the Ottawa Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) ([MULTIFAITH HOUSING INITIATIVE - HOME](http://www.mutifaithhousing.ca)) (www.mutifaithhousing.ca).

I am pleased to share the good news about a joint project between these two agencies to provide housing for indigenous families. The Ottawa Central Council (OCC) of the Society of St-Vincent de Paul and the Multifaith Housing Initiative are working together to build a new housing project, called the “Anchor,” to be located at 7 Rossland Avenue in Nepean. Through various fundraising activities, they aim to raise sufficient funds to cover the down payments of 4-6 apartments for Indigenous families in need.

One way you can support this important cause is to participate in the popular lottery called “Catch the Ace.” There are draws every Monday and tickets are only \$10. It is an online draw, so getting a ticket is only a click away. For information see: [Home | Society of St-Vincent de Paul \(Ottawa Central Council\) \(ssvpottawa.ca\)](http://www.ssvpottawa.ca)

I encourage you to support this initiative which provides a home for indigenous families in need. We all need and deserve a place to feel “at home”, safe and secure, with our family. Please help make this goal a reality by supporting the “Catch the Ace” draw or by making a donation.

May God bless you, your family and the place you call home.

Sincerely,



✠ Marcel Damphousse
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall