

*"To change the world we must be good to those who cannot repay us."*

*Pope Francis*

Earlier this year the Board created an ad hoc committee to look at how Simcoe Muskoka Catholic can implement the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee in our schools. As a first step, some Trustees and staff came together to listen to Sr. Priscilla Solomon speak about her journey as an Ojibway woman who joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie. She talked about the importance of acknowledging the Truth of what happened as a result of Canada's colonial system of government, including Residential Schools, before we can move on to Reconciliation. Hope was the underlying message; it will take time and hard work, but the journey will be worthwhile.

In keeping with the goal of helping our students empathize with those around them, secondary school students from across Muskoka and Parry Sound will come together on April 5<sup>th</sup> for the second annual Muskoka-Parry Sound Poverty Challenge. Students will have the opportunity to experience poverty by assuming the role of a local person, with challenges and responsibilities based on their actual experiences. Volunteers will portray staff of local agencies as students navigate the system in a real-world simulation. The day will end with a discussion of how students can become agents of social change and act on what they have learned.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Easter!

God Bless!

Carol Corriveau-Truchon