

Message of the Archbishop to be read after the Prayer after Communion at all weekend Masses of July 6-7, 2024 and to be posted on parish websites following the weekend Masses

Message from the Archbishop

Dear People of the Archdiocese of St. John's:

On June 30th, the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's (RCECSJ) received a summary of the Claims Officer's *Notices of Determinations* related to abuse at Mount Cashel Orphanage and by members of the Clergy. At present, the Claims Awards total \$104 million.

The Archdiocese is respectful of the work of the Claims Officer in preparing the *Notices of Determinations* and will continue to work collaboratively with the Court and with legal counsel for the Claimants in determining a fair and just settlement of these claims.

For the past three years, in an effort to raise funds for the anticipated claim awards, the RCECSJ has been in the process of selling all of its assets. To date, the RCECSJ has raised approximately \$43 million from these sales and it is continuing its efforts to liquidate all of its remaining assets.

I am very grateful to all of the individuals and groups who have, with understanding, patience and trust, collaborated with the Archdiocese, both in the sale of the assets of the RCECSJ and in the securing of the properties and finances necessary for the ongoing effective pastoral ministry of the Catholic Communities of the Archdiocese.

The Claims Officer's Determinations are an important step forward in the process of settling the claims of the victims of abuse. However, there is still much to be done in: settling the claims against the RCECSJ; in bringing healing to the victims, their families and the Archdiocesan Faith Community; and in bringing closure to this dark chapter of the history of the Archdiocese.

Asking that you please join with me in continuing to pray for God's healing grace for the victims of abuse and for the gifts of understanding, wisdom, and patience for all of us as we journey through this time of restructuring and change, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Peter Hundt
Archbishop of St. John's