

Testimonials

Extending Our Embrace



Congratulations! That was the best interfaith program I have ever seen anywhere in the last 25 years. So much compassion, creativity, and good works! Some call me the historian of interfaith in our area.

Michelle and John, if there is a way to nominate one individual program to the World Interfaith Harmony organization, please nominate this one. With much thanks.

Leslie Mezei, a 90-year-old Holocaust Survivor and Interfaith Activist

I just wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for the beautiful and meaningful event you put together yesterday. My world religions class and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It brought faces and stories of young people of faith to life and was filled with creativity and hopeful messages.

It was also very appreciated that Pink Shirt day was specifically mentioned by the priest from the archdiocese (sorry I have forgotten his name) as a timely day and example to extend our embrace. Thanks to all of you who wore pink yesterday for the event too.

The passing of the candle at the end was very creative! Who knew it could be done virtually.

Monica Godin, Teacher

A splendid presentation... very well choreographed, especially the thoughtful emphasis on young adults.

Chandra Khanna, An Interfaith Activist

Great testimony of faith in action, talents and excellent media presentation. Beautiful balance of prayer, spirituality and practical reach out to other brothers and sisters in need. Will the first and today's presentation be available for study by groups, chapters or fraternities? May God bless you in this much needed work. Thank you.

Susan and Konrad Hanz, Dominican Laity

Truly an extraordinary celebration and call to extend our embrace!

*Michael Caccamo, Superintendent
Toronto Catholic District School Board*

I found the story about Nick Gunz and Alison Jenkins to be so interesting. Even during a pandemic, everyone, including strangers on the internet, found it in their hearts to do something great. Although it was only a small act of kindness regarding a lost diary, it really made an impact. A small opportunity had helped Nick and Alison gain a new friendship. I think experiences like these during a pandemic are not only enlightening, but also one in a lifetime.

The speaker I connected with the most was Cheryl Perera. I was very inspired by her story because she had so much courage and passion at a young age. I thought she was just so courageous to go to a completely different country to help people. The things she talked about reminded me that not everyone gets to be in safe environments and that there are children that go through those things. It showed me that we should be grateful for people like her who are working to help that change.

*Students, Sacred Heart Catholic High School
York Catholic District School Board*

Congratulations on a meaningful webinar for Harmony week. I am sure you had a lot of organizing to make it so beautiful, creative and inclusive. I missed the last 15 minutes and folks here commented about the closing with the seamless passing of the candle.

Sr. Betty Lou Knox, Sister of St. Joseph's

Great work! Impressive. You really embrace large! I was impressed by the technology of the candle...

Raymond Latour, Assistant Provincial of the Dominicans Canada

That was a great 'Extending Our Embrace' event that you organized today – lots of great speakers and sharing. I look forward to following the links to those who spoke and learning more about their work. Your office is making a strong contribution to interfaith harmony in the city.

David Walsh, The Awakening Project

You know the expression "words fail me." Well, it is so true here. "Extending Your Embrace" was truly beyond my words to thank you and all who participated. It has truly reawakened me to "hear the cries" of my suffering sisters and brothers and also to rejoice in the Presence of God in all and all around us. Thank you so much for your life-giving work.

Mary Baier

Congratulations! It was an incredible event! I was only able to attend for about 50 minutes

and the speakers were just outstanding. I hope you will share the recording soon so I can watch the balance.

*Michelle Singh, Executive Director of Faith and the Common Good,
Co-Chair of World Interfaith Harmony Week Toronto*

The "Extending our Embrace" celebration today was truly inspiring! Thank you both and your committee for the time and hard work involved in making the video event happen. I have already shared the video link with some of my colleagues at The Salvation Army.

Jim E. Champ, Lt. Colonel, Salvation Army, Ecumenical Office

It was an extremely well produced presentation. Very moving and Inspirational stories of young people especially was heartwarming.

Shahid Aktar, founder of Conciliators Without Border, an Interfaith Activist

OMG...what a session...so well planned and presented. I feel we are blessed in this pandemic time cause the best is coming out...such professionals..Well done. I enjoyed every speaker and wish to be a more mindful, kindful and compassionate person.

Artimizia Tellis

I participated in today's celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week. I was so happy I did. It was very informative, creative, and emotionally uplifting. The participants are to be commended and applauded for their creative and passionate presentations.

Mary Zuccon-Maudsley

Thank you and the speakers for organizing such a powerful and inspiring afternoon. It truly brings our hectic world together when we hear the voices of so many with the same message of compassion and support.

Catherine Barry

With all my heart I thank you and everyone on the team, all the presenters, participants and collaborators for the truly inspiring and uplifting "Extending Our Embrace" virtual event I had the great joy of participating in.

I give all of you a standing ovation 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌 for giving this gift to all who were able to join in online! Truly the talents of EVERYONE combined to produce an amazing event that gave us much to celebrate and to be inspired by to live the Spirit of Ubuntu in our daily lives which was expressed so well in many different ways according to the cultures and spirituality of the presenters.

Shirley Tetreau, Focolare

Thank you for the very inspiring event. I really enjoyed it. Inspiring youth ...

*Sylvia Skrepichuk, Former Chair
Archdiocese of Toronto Council, Development & Peace*