



April 21, 2021

The Board of Directors would like to announce that the legal name of Mary Centre of the Archdiocese of Toronto has been changed to Mary Centre.

Mary Centre of the Archdiocese of Toronto, customarily referred to as “Mary Centre”, was incorporated in January 1988 as a result of a consultative process involving the Archdiocese of Toronto, MCSS, parents of children with a developmental disability and Sister Mary Hamilton (an educator with the Metropolitan Toronto School Board).

Prior to the 1980’s people with a developmental disability that could not live in their own home primarily resided in institutions. In 2003 it was decided that that people living in institutions would be better served if they were reintegrated into society. A policy change led to the eventual closure of these institutions.

One of the vehicles of reintegration was the expansion of agencies such as Mary Centre whose objective would be the acquisition and management of group homes to be used as residences for people with a developmental disability.

The framework of Mary Centre of the Archdiocese of Toronto was created by a steering committee organized by Catholic Charities. The committee was also tasked with creating a name. The members of the committee felt strongly that the name should include ‘Mary’ because in their opinion “Mary identified with mother” in the Catholic faith. The committee decided that Mary Centre of the Archdiocese of Toronto was the most appropriate name because the agency was to also provide services for persons with a developmental disability outside the Catholic community.

In keeping with the times while honouring the history and process of its inception the Board of Directors felt that legal name of the agency should reflect the name by which it is customarily referred - Mary Centre.

Feel free to reach out either to me or our Executive Director Don Walker with any questions.

Frank Pegolo
President of the Board
Mary Centre