On behalf of the Manítoba Métís Federatíon, Presídent Davíd Chartrand would líke to present the Holy Father with several meaningful gifts to mark the hístoríc occasíon of our Apríl 21, 2022 encounter.

The Red Ríver Métís are known for many things, but perhaps one of our most distinct cultural identifiers is our floral beadwork. Early 19th-century European and Euro-North American observers and travellers also made constant reference to the decorative beadwork on Red River Métis clothing.

The Dakota and the Cree called the Red Ríver Métís as the "Flower Beadwork People" because of our beadwork that incorporates the natural beauty and flowers of our Prairie Homeland.

Throughout our history of over 200 years, our people told stories through this art. Our beadwork is so distinct that, in some cases, it was possible to identify the creator's family or community of origin.

Líttle Cross By: Jenníne Krauchí, master beadwork artíst

The Little Cross is made by Red River Métis master beadwork artist Jennine Krauchi. She creates clothing and does replica work stemming from the 1800s, including customized jackets for Prime Ministers, Presidents, Ambassadors, and other dignitaries as well as works for the Manitoba Museum, Parks Canada, the Canadian Museum of History, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and other institutions in Scotland, France and the US.

The red background represents the Red River Métis. The colours of the beads used represent the colours of our sash. The centre has our five-petal flower. The leaves spreading like wings or arms is welcoming God into our lives. It includes the white infinity symbol along with prairie flowers and berries, backed with our Métis sash.

Large Cross By: Praíríe Owl Beads

Julie, Danielle, Gabrielle and Roxane Desrochers are four sisters who are passionate about beadwork, it's history and importance to who we are as a People. Together, their mission is to ensure the continuation of the creativity and resilience of the Red River Métis and our culture through our traditional art form.

The Large Cross incorporates floral patterns historically found in Métis beadwork pieces, such as the five and six-petal flowers. The other flowers are found in Manitoban landscapes and prairies, including the wild rose, tulips, and wildflower buds. The colours in this piece, such as the pinks, oranges, and greens, are inspired from colours historically found in Métis beadwork.

The white vines joining all of the flowers have what are called "mouse tracks" (the little ticks along the vines) that represent mouse tracks in the snow, which is another element that is historically found in Métis beadwork. Centered in the cross is the wild rose, with the blue and white infinity symbol, representing the Métis Nation.

Beaded slíppers By: Amy McPherson

Amy McPherson is a Red River Métis artist and designer living in Winnipeg, Manitoba - the heart of the Metis homeland. Amy credits her beginnings to the mentorship she received from Red River Métis master beadwork artist Jennine Krauchi.

For the past 20 years, Amy has been creating and designing fashion inspired by the many traditional forms of art from the local Indigenous people of the Canadian prairies. Amy has created her own fashion line 'Fashion Ikwe Designs' and had recently completed a fashion residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. These slippers were designed with an eye to using symbolism from Catholicism and our culture, to signify our relationship with the Church.

Along with our beadwork, the sash included in this design is widely recognized throughout Canada for its close association with the Red River Métis. Today, along with flower-beaded vests, jackets, hats and pins, the sash is worn by our people at ceremonies and official functions. It is a symbol of our pride in our identity.

Slippers and shoes also have meaning within our culture. They are considered a symbol of an individual's personal determination to head in a particular direction. When they are given as a gift, they are linked to a desire to put a lot of effort into achieving something quickly.

These slippers are not only decorative — they are intended to be worn. It is a gift of comfort as the Catholic Church and the Red River Métis continue on our journey forward, walking side by side.

## Louís Ríel coín

This silver collector coin honours Red River Métis leader, President Louis Riel. Louis Riel led the Red River Métis, also known as the Manitoba Métis, to take a stand to protect our lands and way of life. Subsequently, the Red River Métis became the Founders of the province of Manitoba and Partners in Canadian Confederation.

Louis Riel, along with his Red River Métis government, created the Bill of Rights, and appointed and gave direction to Catholic priest and negotiator Father Ritchot, leading to the Manitoba Act 1870. The Act gave protections to Catholic Schools, French language and education, as well as the commitment of lands for the benefit of the Red River Métis children and their families — a head start in the face of the influx of settlers from Canada. These protections were insufficient, and the promises were not met. Riel and his people were treated like traitors and often lived on the margins of Canadian society.

The coin, designed by Métis artist David Garneau, was officially launched at a special celebration in Winnipeg on October 22nd, 2019, the 175th anniversary of Louis Riel's birth. Led by President Chartrand, the Manitoba Metis Federation partnered with the Royal Canadian Mint to review and provide community guidance for the coin's artwork. The coin recognizes Louis Riel's accomplishments, celebrates his life, and ensures his legacy lives on for future generations.