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**Archdiocese of St. Louis, Incarnate Word Foundation  
Pay off Medical Debt for over 13,000 Bi-State Residents**

St. Louis, Missouri – The Archdiocese of St. Louis and Incarnate Word Foundation have partnered to pay off medical debt for 13,117 people in need. Each organization committed a \$31,250 donation to the nonprofit RIP Medical Debt.

In a report provided by RIP Medical Debt, the combined \$62,500 from Incarnate Word Foundation and the Archdiocese funded over \$11 and a half million in purchased debt for families and individuals living in 99 Missouri counties and 13 Illinois counties who earn less than four times the federal poverty level or whose medical debts total more than five percent of their annual income. The current federal poverty level for an individual is \$13,590; for a family of four, \$27,750.

“We are called by Christ and His Church to support human life at all stages,” said the Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis. “This is one small way of answering that call, by offering relief to neighbors who are struggling to address insurmountable medical debt.”

“The Incarnate Word Foundation welcomed this opportunity to partner with the archdiocese,” said Bridget Flood. “Relieving the persistent anxiety caused by the burden of debt can not only changes someone’s financial situation but also improves mental health and offers hope for a better future.”

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*[The Incarnate Word Foundation](#), St. Louis, Mo., exists to incarnate the presence of God by supporting social justice through philanthropic efforts and creating opportunity for collaboration and community engagement. The Incarnate Word Foundation is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas.*

*[The Archdiocese of St. Louis](#) was established in 1826 and has grown to currently serve more than 491,000 Catholics in 11 Missouri counties. As Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we strive to fulfill our Baptismal calling by prayer and worship, teaching and sharing our faith, serving others, and fostering unity in diversity.*