



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

123 Nelson Rd
Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1
www.rcdos.ca

Phone: 306-242-1500
Fax: 306-244-6010
Toll free: 877-661-5005



September 10, 2021

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Prayer
for Residential School Survivors – September 30, 2021**

Dear Clergy, Religious, Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I encourage all of our diocese to prepare to observe the Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Prayer for Residential School Survivors on Thursday, September 30, 2021. The past several months has been an occasion for all Canadians to grapple with the history of the residential school system and its effects. As we have experienced the grief, dismay and anger at further discoveries at cemeteries of former residential schools, Indigenous and non-Indigenous elders, leaders, and other citizens of our country are moved to greater expressions of empathy and solidarity to learn from this history, and to resolve to honour the grieving and healing process as we move towards true healing and reconciliation.


I encourage all of our parishes and Catholic communities in our diocese to observe this day with prayer and solemnity. Our clergy will be gathering on this “Day of Recollection” and we look forward to presentations from Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, to reflect and pray on the theme of this day.

A special Mass for the intention of the day will be celebrated at Holy Family Cathedral at 9 a.m. on September 30. I hope that other parishes will plan to celebrate Mass or other form of devotion or prayer service for the intention of this day.

I encourage our parishes, deaneries, and other Catholic communities to be creative about other ways to honour this day, either through education and/or service opportunities, or by joining with other larger civil ceremonies being planned by the City of Saskatoon and various townships, and with the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

For further information about event or other ideas, please contact Myron Rogal, Coordinator of our Service and Outreach Office at mrogal@rcdos.ca. You can also contact Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, and Fr. Graham Hill at ghill@rcdos.ca or Debbie Ledoux at diguadalupeparish@sasktel.net to express your prayer and support for our Indigenous Catholic Parish in our Diocese, and to inquire about other opportunities to observe this day.

I again pledge that I and our diocese will continue to walk a path of reconciliation and healing. The Gospel inspires us to walk in love and friendship as sisters and brothers

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.

of our One Creator, in His Son, Jesus Christ our common Saviour and Redeemer. I again ask us all to renew our ongoing commitment to building relationships of honour and respect, and to continue to take concrete steps on this journey of healing that must involve all of us.

I conclude with the following prayer that I shared previously in honour of Indigenous People's Day:

O God, Creator and Father of all, with humility we your children acknowledge the relationship of all living things.

For this we thank You, we praise You and we worship You.

We call on you, Great Mystery, the Word made Flesh – our Teacher, Prophet and Brother – to open our hearts to all our brothers and sisters, and with them to grow in the wisdom, honesty, courage and respectfulness shown in the Sacred Teachings.

Give us the vision and honesty to recognize that we are all brothers and sisters of one human family, created and sustained by the One Creator.

As we deal with many challenges, may we never give way to fear and anger, which can be the source of division and threat amongst peoples.

We look to how God always gives to us a remedy for sins of prejudice and intolerance.

We see in God the Creator of all things, One who always provides and is generous – even given the abuses we have heaped on one another and on the earth.

We see in the Son, Jesus Christ – the innocent Victim who pours His life blood out from the Cross for all peoples.

We see how the Holy Spirit is God's gift, alive in our world today – inspiring vision and hope that we can have the same mind and heart of God!

O Creator, show us the way to healing, forgiveness and reconciliation, and a renewed fellowship. +Amen

Yours in Christ



✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen



In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.