



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
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October 27, 2021

**POPE FRANCIS ACCEPTS
INVITATION TO COME TO CANADA**

**Dear Clergy, Religious, Lay Faithful – Sisters and Brothers of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon:**

I join with others across our diocese and our country who are rejoicing in the news that Pope Francis has accepted the invitation of the Catholic bishops of Canada to visit our country on a pilgrimage of healing and reconciliation. Details and timing have yet to be worked out, and will follow after the visit and discussion with the delegation of Indigenous leaders this coming December.

In recent years, both Catholic and Indigenous leaders have been working toward Call to Action #58, in which the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called for Pope Francis to visit Canada “to issue an apology to Survivors, their families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church’s role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools.”

I have heard from many residential school Survivors and their communities that a visit from Pope Francis on Canadian soil is an important step for many in the ongoing journey of truth and reconciliation. I am grateful for both the invitation and its acceptance, and I trust that the pastoral presence of the Holy Father will bring support and healing, as well as renewed awareness and zeal for the ongoing journey of truth and reconciliation.

Please join me in praying for all those who attended residential schools, for those who continue to suffer because of the legacy of the schools, for the delegation of Indigenous leaders from Canada that will meet with the Holy Father in Rome this December, and for Pope Francis and his planned journey to our land.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen