



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
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June 23, 2022 / Nativity of John the Baptist

***On the Occasion of the Announcement of Pope Francis's
Program during his Visit to Canada, July 24-29, 2022***

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Diocese of Saskatoon:

I join with all of you in expressing excitement that the Vatican has now confirmed the visit to Canada by Pope Francis in about one month – from July 24-29, 2022. There had been much concern and speculation about the Holy Father's health. However, I understand that fulfilling his commitment and plan to come to Canada – following the visit of the Indigenous delegation to the Vatican in the spring – was a very high priority for the Pope.

The Holy Father's pilgrimage to Canada will focus on Indigenous healing and reconciliation, and thus many of the venues will prioritize participation by Indigenous peoples, and especially residential school survivors. His visit to Canada is a unique event and will build on the apology that he gave to the Indigenous delegation on April 1, 2022.

In the near future you will hear an update from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish – our Indigenous Catholic Parish in Saskatoon – about plans for a bus trip to the Edmonton area to attend the Pope's visit to Maskwacis (home to the former Ermineskin Residential School) on July 25, and the Lac Ste. Anne pilgrimage site on July 26. This trip will prioritize participation by Residential School Survivors.

The Diocese is also planning a one-day event on Tuesday July 26, 2022 – the Feast of St. Anne – for those who will not be making the trip to Edmonton and would like to participate in a gathered event here in Saskatoon.


Further information about these plans and events will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, I join with you in praying for a blessed and Spirit-filled time of preparation for this pilgrimage called "Walking Together."

In the words of Archbishop Smith – the General Co-ordinator of the Papal Visit to Canada, "We pray this pilgrimage will serve as another meaningful step in the long journey of healing, reconciliation and hope."

Yours in our One God,

+ *Mark A. Hagemoen*

✠ Mark A. Hagemoen

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