



Diocese of Kamloops  
BISHOP'S OFFICE

September 21, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

September 30<sup>th</sup> is the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation which provides an opportunity for all Canadians to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools, and continue our commitment of working for truth and reconciliation in the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in our Country.

We are thankful for Pope Francis' historic visit to our country in July, which represents a significant milestone on the path of healing and reconciliation. As a Church, we have consistently implemented the core principles of Catholic Social Doctrine: Human Dignity, Solidarity, Subsidiarity and practices into greater conformity with the Gospel.

With that in mind, our Diocese of Kamloops recognizes September 30<sup>th</sup>, not only as a statutory holiday, but as a day to encourage our whole Catholic community to take up the work of prayer and reflection, of learning and listening, of reaching out and reaching forward toward a new relationship of healing and reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of this land.

Reconciliation is a journey, one that involves all of us, and the Holy Father's presence in our Country has been a source of hope and inspiration for Canadians across the country on this journey. On September 30<sup>th</sup> all Parishes in our Diocese are invited to celebrate a Mass of Reconciliation to pray for truth, healing and reconciliation and are encouraged to reflect and study on our mission of Solidarity and Subsidiarity as this is our opportunity to demonstrate in a very practical way our response to the legacy of Residential Schools in solidarity with all dioceses in our country.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph, and St. John Vianney continue to inspire and guide us through this journey.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ Joseph Phuong Nguyen  
Bishop of Kamloops