



Diocese of Kamloops
BISHOP'S OFFICE

September 17, 2021

Dear Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Diocese of Kamloops,

September 30th 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 commit to working for truth and reconciliation in the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. It is a day to recognize and affirm the dignity, love and respect of each other as we are called to live by Christ's example and commandment, to love one another as he has loved us. This opportunity leads us to renew and strengthen these relationships, by recognizing and affirming the individual and collective dignity of Indigenous Peoples.

In acknowledging the particular association that exists between our Catholic Church and the Indian Residential Schools, the Diocese of Kamloops will recognize this day, 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 Indigenous peoples of this land.

On September 29th, the Feast of Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, with all the clergy of our Diocese, I will celebrate a Mass of Reconciliation at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 8:30 am. On September 30th all Parishes are encouraged to celebrate a similar Mass of Reconciliation and have a Holy Hour to pray for truth, healing and reconciliation. May the Diocese of Kamloops unite together in prayer and effort for the healing and reconciliation.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Joseph Phuong Nguyen
Bishop of Kamloops