



NEWS RELEASE

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Day of prayer for reconciliation healing

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS), through the leadership of the Diocesan Council of Truth and Reconciliation, are conducting a Day of Prayer for Reconciliation and Healing on October 21, 2015.

Students and staff at all 45 division schools located in Saskatoon, Humboldt and Biggar, as well as division office staff, will join diocesan pastors and staff—who are gathering for previously arranged diocesan study days—in prayer for reconciliation and healing.

“The day of prayer complements our work and goals for First Nations and Métis initiatives and our kindergarten to Grade 8 treaty education,” said Gordon Martell, superintendent of learning services at GSCS. “The generation of students in our schools today will be the ones to characterize what reconciliation and healing looks like in the future. Having a prayerful focus gives hope.”

Bishop Donald Bolen, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and chairman of the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishop's justice and peace commission, said, “We have had several meetings to discuss our way to reconciliation and healing, and this is the best, most practical suggestion yet. It's beautiful! This is an initial step, and we will build from here.”

October 21 is the anniversary of the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first North American Indigenous woman to be declared a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

The Diocesan Council of Truth and Reconciliation is a sharing and consultative circle of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people providing guidance to the Diocese of Saskatoon. It arose from the promise made at the Saskatchewan Truth and Reconciliation Commission event held in Saskatoon during the summer of 2012.

With 45 schools and nearly 17,000 students, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools provides Catholic education from pre-kindergarten through Grade 12, rooting students in their faith, helping them grow in knowledge, and encouraging them to reach out and transform the world.

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