



Archdiocese of Vancouver  
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

August 29, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On September 24, a Walk for Reconciliation will take place in Vancouver, aimed at building better relationships between Indigenous peoples and all Canadians. I strongly support this event and encourage the participation of as many of the faithful as possible.

As you know, the Catholic Church played a role in the residential school tragedy. We were part of the implementation of the Canadian government's policy of forcibly separating children from their parents and families and placing them in residential schools.

Five residential schools existed within the boundaries of the Archdiocese. We failed to live up to safe-guarding the children and young people under our care. A century of cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse took place at our doorsteps, while a policy of suppressing Aboriginal cultures and languages was perpetuated. This deeply flawed policy has led to enormous pain and suffering through succeeding generations.

In 2013, I issued an Expression of Apology and Hope on behalf of the Archdiocese of Vancouver before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We are firmly committed to ongoing initiatives and programs, as well as working for justice, healing and education.

The Walk for Reconciliation is a praiseworthy initiative, and I ask all Catholics in the Archdiocese to pray for its success and to support it any way they can. I must attend the annual plenary meeting of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops at the time of the walk. I assure you that the Bishops will be praying for the success of the event and for all who participate.

With cordial greetings and the assurance of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ J. Michael Miller CSB*

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Archbishop of Vancouver