



March 18, 2022

Prayers for the Indigenous Delegation to the Holy See

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From March 28 – April 1, 2022, the long-awaited Indigenous Delegation to the Holy See will be meeting in Rome. During the five days of the Delegation, we have been asked to locally support this important meeting between Pope Francis and representatives from the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. Accordingly, I invite everyone to pray for God's blessing on this encounter and that it be another concrete step on the path to healing.

To help facilitate this request, each Diocese in Canada has received a letter with links to two resources from Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle. The first resource is a prayer card. The Diocese will be sending packages of these prayer cards to each parish next week. If you need more cards than what has been allocated for you, a user-friendly pdf version has been created for you to use at your parish. The second resource is an invitation for prayer during the week of the Delegation. It also includes links to further information from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. These are all attached.

In response, and in solidarity with the Indigenous Fire Keepers, our Diocese will begin the week with a prayer time at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Monday, March 28, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. This is the time that those in the province have been asked to keep the fire of prayer going. A more detailed schedule of the event will be provided next week. All are welcome to attend.

To continue the week in prayer, from Tuesday, March 29 – Thursday, March 31, we ask parishes or parish clusters to dedicate at least one hour to prayer in support of the Indigenous Delegation and reconciliation. The following are suggestions to aid you in your planning:

- Liturgy of the Word (Ecumenical Service)
- Adoration
- Eucharistic Celebration (suggested Scripture Reading attached)
- Seven Directions Prayer Service (attached)
- Storytelling or Presentation from someone local followed by a brief prayer service

Whatever outline or form of celebration you choose, readings and music should have a theme of reconciliation and a commitment to act or work for healing. I trust that you will find these resources helpful. No matter how you chose to celebrate this hour of prayer, please pray for the Delegation and the path to reconciliation within our own Diocese.

I kindly ask you to forward the information about your celebrations to Heidi Epp at the Diocesan Liturgy Office, liturgy@padiocese.ca, and we will advertise them on our website.

To conclude this week of prayer on Friday, April 1, I will preside at the noon Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Mass will be live-streamed. Thank you in advance for keeping the flame of prayer lit during these important days.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Stephen A. Hero

✠ Most. Rev. Stephen A. Hero
Bishop of Prince Albert