



June 24, 2022  
Sacred Heart of Jesus

To All the Faithful of the Diocese of Prince Albert:

Joyful greetings on this Solemnity of the Sacred Heart which is the patronal feast of our Diocese! May the love of Christ always reign in our hearts!

As you may know, just yesterday the Holy See confirmed Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to Canada which is taking place this July 24 – 29. Details of the Holy Father's itinerary are available at <https://www.papalvisit.ca/schedule>. Due to Pope Francis' age and health issues, he is only able to visit a few locations in the vicinity of Edmonton, Quebec, and Iqaluit.

Pope Francis is responding to the request of the Indigenous Peoples of these lands and the Catholic Bishops of Canada to come and address in person the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools and the participation of Catholics in efforts of colonialization. We pray that the encounters of Pope Francis with Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Peoples may help us all to walk together in a new way and on the path to lasting healing.

Many of the events during the Holy Father's visit are geared to Indigenous persons and have limited seating, but there are several large events where many non-Indigenous persons can also participate (e.g. the Mass at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton on July 26 and the Mass at St. Anne de Beaupré, Québec on July 28).

The Diocese of Prince Albert is organizing an official delegation by motor coach to bring survivors of Residential Schools from across our Diocese to an event at Maskwacis First Nation on July 25. We anticipate that the Pope will issue an apology to IRS survivors on Treaty Six Land. Details of this delegation have been sent to pastors of Indigenous parishes with more information.

For people who wish to make their own plans to attend any of the events, they would need to register for each at [www.papalvisit.ca](http://www.papalvisit.ca). Please continue to check this link as it will be updated in the next few days.

We are also planning events in a few places in the Diocese where Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons who are not able to attend a papal event will be able to watch a live-stream of various events together and grow in friendship and mutual support. Further details will be released as soon as possible.

Please continue to pray for the good health of Pope Francis and for the special intentions of this Apostolic Journey to Canada.

Sincerely in the Heart of Christ,

*+ Stephen A. Hero*

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