



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release – October 21, 2016

Day of prayer for reconciliation healing

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, 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, 2016.

Students and staff at all 44 division schools located in Saskatoon, Humboldt and Biggar, as well as division office staff, will join diocesan pastors and staff in prayer for reconciliation and healing.

At the school board office, the reconciliation flag was raised to publicly represent the division's commitment to reconciliation and healing. A shot video clip can be found at <https://youtu.be/DrrvogrWyoA>

"Our Board of Education, staff and students are deeply invested in answering the calls to action," said Gordon Martell, superintendent of learning services at GSCS. "The day of prayer is an opportunity to demonstrate our support for residential school survivors and their descendants, celebrate our strengths and seek guidance for the work yet to come. Responding to the calls to action happens everyday. The day of prayer is a special celebration that punctuates our year and reminds us of the importance of balance and supporting the mental, physical spiritual and emotional development of children and youth."

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 Indigenous and non-Indigenous 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 44 schools and over 17,000 students, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is Saskatchewan's largest Catholic school division, providing Catholic education from pre-kindergarten through Grade 12 in Saskatoon and area, Biggar, Humboldt, Martensville and Warman. We are rooted in faith, growing in knowledge and reaching out to transform the world.

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