

NOVENA TO THE MARTYRS FOR THOSE HURT BY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS DAY 3

We remember the Jesuit Martyrs' ardent love for the Indigenous people.

But in contrast, the survivors of Indian Residential Schools tell us how they were badly hurt by government, by missionaries, and by lay helpers some 300 years later. Why and how did this happen?

We gather to ask the Jesuit Martyrs to help us to acknowledge truth, to take steps toward reconciliation, and to move forward in hope.

Theme:

Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters

We meet Saint Anthony Daniel

After having been delayed for a number of years, Fr Daniel finally got his wish and arrived in Huronia where he preached to the Hurons and cared for their sick. One day his village was attacked by the Iroquois who were at war with the Hurons. He had just finished saying Mass in the church and was caring for the sick and the dying when the attackers came. He blocked the way of the attackers, gaining time for the

Hurons to escape through another door of the church. He told his Huron parishioners, "We shall see one another in heaven." He refused to escape with them saying, "I must await death here as long as there is here any soul that can be sent to Heaven." As he cared for the elderly, who were too feeble to escape, he was wounded with a gunshot and was pierced with arrows. He died trying to save his people. See how much he loved them!

Let's listen to a survivor's experience: Theodore Fontaine:

In his book Broken Circle: The Dark Legacy of Indian Residential Schools, Ted Fontaine recalls physical, sexual and mental abuse at school. He wrote: "For years I suffered in silence. I wondered if other children had to lose their families at age seven or even younger just to attend school. I came to believe that it was natural to be wrenched from your family at this age. I lived with the daily reminder that we were not like the predominant white race. The pounding into our minds that we were less than our keepers took its toll; more than two thirds of my schoolmates died early, mostly from lives lived trying to forget".

Let's read from the First Letter of John

"We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for others... We have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen."
(1Jn 3.16, 4.16-21)

We pray in silence:

We repent:

We acknowledge that we have benefited and continue to benefit from what was done to the Indigenous Peoples of this land. We acknowledge that **we belong to the group of settlers who ignored the treaty obligations to respect the hunting and fishing rights of the Indigenous peoples and who took their timber and stripped their land of its minerals and resources.**

We have benefited and continue to benefit from what was done to the Indigenous Peoples of this land.

We repent and with the Prodigal Son we say,

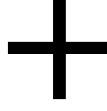
“Father, we have sinned against heaven and before you. We are no longer worthy to be called your sons and daughters; treat us like your hired hands.”

We Pray for Reconciliation:

We know that Reconciliation must go beyond verbal apologies to a just action, to respectful relationships, and when possible, to friendship. We ask St. Jean de Brébeuf and Companions to help us by their prayers to God for us and for the Indigenous people for whom they gave their lives.

Let us pray:

Father you consecrated the first beginning of the faith in North America by the preaching and martyrdom of Saints John and Isaac and their companions. By the help of their prayers may the Christian Faith continue to grow throughout the world. We ask this in Jesus' name.



Divine Praises

Blessed be God,
Blessed be His Holy Name,
Blessed be Jesus Christ,
true God, and true man,
Blessed be the name of Jesus,
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart,
Blessed be his most Precious Blood,
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar,
Blessed be the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy,
Blessed be Saint Joseph, patron of the Martyrs,
Blessed be Saint Jean de Brébeuf,
Blessed be Saint Isaac Jogues,
Blessed be Saint Gabriel Lalemant,
Blessed be Saint Antoine Daniel,
Blessed be Saint Charles Garnier,
Blessed be Saint Noël Chabanel,
Blessed be Saint René Goupil,
Blessed be Saint Jean de Lalande,
Blessed be Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,
Blessed be holy man
Joseph Chiwatenhwa,
Blessed be God in His angels and his saints.