

## NOVENA TO THE MARTYRS FOR THOSE HURT BY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS DAY 5

*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: Love endures all things**

**We meet Saint Charles Garnier**

Despite much opposition from his family, filled with zeal to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Indigenous people of New France, Charles arrived in Québec. In a letter to his brother he wrote, "If for me Canada is a holy and sacred temple, which God made for me in this world, the Huron country is its holy of holies...let us, therefore leap for joy in this land of blessing." He was totally committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people

and was very sad if a baby died without baptism. When his village was attacked, he urged the people to flee. He remained with the elderly and the wounded. He was hit with a bullet in the chest. However, he got up and went to help a dying Huron, and then fell three times before dying. He loved his people.

**Let's listen to a student's experience:**

**Shannen Koostachin**

Shannen is from the Attawapiskat First Nation. Shannen knew from experience

how difficult it was to learn in an under-resourced school on a reserve. The only elementary school in Attawapiskat had to be closed because thousands of gallons of diesel fuel had contaminated the ground under the school. Portable trailers were put on the playground to form a "temporary school".

Shannen never went to class in a proper school and the portables became more run down over time. The heat would often go off, and the doors were warped letting freezing air into the classrooms. When Shannen was in Grade 8 her class decided to cancel the customary Grade 8 trip. They gave up going to Canada's Wonderland and Niagara Falls, in order to go to Ottawa and demand a new school for their younger brothers and sisters. On May 28, 2008 Shannen spoke at a Press Conference on Parliament Hill. She said, "As young people, we have been told to stand up for our promises, but our own government cannot keep a promise that they have made three times. Minister Chuck Strahl needs to keep his word. How can he tell us that we don't have a right to a new school? All students in Canada deserve a learning

environment that they are proud to attend. That gives them hope. We want the same hope as every other Canadian student." A meeting was arranged for the next day with Minister Strahl. Shannen and her delegation were ushered into a large, plush room with rich cornice mouldings. To break the ice, Minister Strahl asked, "What do you think of my office?" Shannen said later, "I told him that I wished I had a classroom that was as nice as his office that he met in every day." Then Minister Strahl said matter of factly that the school would not be built. It simply wasn't on the government's list of priorities. Shannen was furious. Then, when he said that the meeting was over because he had to attend to other issues, Shannen stepped forward to shake his hand. She later described that moment, I looked at him straight in the eyes and said, "Oh, we're not going to quit, we're not going to give up! We will not quit until every First Nation child has a school they are proud of and can call their own."

**The First Letter to the Corinthians**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (1 Cor 13.1-8)

**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 enacted the Indian Act, and who appointed Indian agents to take children away from their parents and put them into residential schools which our government did not properly fund.**

*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,

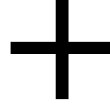
*“Father, we have sinned against heaven and before you. We are no longer worthy to be called your sons and daughters; treat us like your hired hands.”*

**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.