

# NOVENA TO THE MARTYRS FOR THOSE HURT BY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS DAY 6

*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:** *You do not realize that you are blind*

## **Meet Saint Jean de Lalande**

Jean de Lalande was not a Jesuit. He was a *donné*, or lay volunteer. Fr. Paul Ragueneau wrote in the Jesuit Relations "The *donnés* assisted the Jesuits by their labour and industry, with a courage, a faithfulness and a holiness that assuredly are not of earth and look to God alone for their reward, deeming themselves only too happy to pour forth not only their sweat, but, if need be, all their blood to contribute

as much as they can toward the conversion of the Indians." Jean de Lalande was killed accompanying Isaac Jogues on a peace mission.

## **Let's listen to survivors:**

"A sister, a nun started talking to me in English and French, and yelling at me. I did not speak English, and didn't understand what she, what she was asking. She got very upset, and started hitting me all over my body, hands, legs and back. I began to cry, yell, and became very scared, and this infuriated her more. She got a black strap and hit me some more." (Marcel Guiboche)

"The only way I got by was my friend Sally taught me words, 'this is how you say, say words.' She taught me what to do so I wouldn't get into trouble, and we weren't allowed to cry. If we cried, we got spanked." (Emily Kematch, who grew up speaking Cree in northern Manitoba)

## **Let's remember Revelations**

The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation: "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to

spit you out of my mouth. For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore, I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and a salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. (Revelations 3.15-20)

**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 deprived Indigenous children of the opportunity to learn their native languages, culture and spiritual practices.

*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,

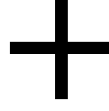
*“Father, we have sinned against heaven and before you. We are no longer worthy to be called your sons and daughters; treat us like your hired hands.”*

**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.