

NOVENA TO THE MARTYRS FOR THOSE HURT BY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS DAY 7

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: They learned the language of the people

Meet Saint Noël Chabanel

Noël Chabanel was a scholar, mastering languages and teaching them in France. But try as he would, he was not able to learn the Huron language. The people laughed at him, and the children mocked him when he tried to speak. He was always in the shadow of the other Jesuits, who were so fluent and who were able to succeed in their ministry. He felt useless and was depressed. To counter this, he chose to make a solemn vow to remain in Huronia with the people he loved, for the rest of his life. He was killed in hatred for the faith.

Let's listen to survivors:

“Typically, as soon as Indigenous children arrived at residential schools their names were replaced, and they were assigned numbers.

Wilbur Abrahams attended a residential school in Alert Bay, B.C., and remembers how important it was for students to remember their numbers, as this is usually how staff referred to children. “They told us to remember our number; instead of calling my name, they’d call my number, and if you don’t remember your number, you, you know you get yelled at. And I, I think we did extra chores, so you had to really keep memorizing your number. Mine was 989.”

Lydia Ross, who attended Manitoba’s Cross Lake Indian Residential School, recalls the different numbers she was assigned throughout her residential school experience. “My name was Lydia, but in the school I was, I didn’t have a name, I had numbers. I had number 51, number 44, number 32, number 16, number 11, and then finally number one when I was just about coming to high school. So, I wasn’t, I didn’t have a name, I had numbers. You were called 32, that’s me, and all our clothes were, had 32 on them. All our clothes and footwear, they all had number 32, number 16, whatever number they gave me.”

Let's remember that first day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own language?” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”
(Acts 2:4-8, 11-13)

Let us pray in silence:

Let us 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, in order to control the lives of the Indigenous peoples, broke their spirit by making them dependent upon welfare and treaty money.**

We repent and with the Prodigal Son we say,

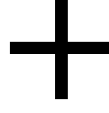
“Father, we have sinned against heaven and before you. We are no longer worthy to be called your sons and daughters; treat us like your hired hands.”

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.