

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

### DAY 9

*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:** *The promise is for you and your children.*

### **We meet Joseph Chiwatenhwa**

Chiwatenhwa was deeply moved by the teachings of Brébeuf and the other Jesuits. When confronted with some of the new and challenging teachings of the Christian Gospel, he said that he and his wife were already living them. However,

Brébeuf was slow in offering him baptism. When he fell sick, after his recovery, he and his wife were baptized. He received the name Joseph, and his wife received the name Marie. Their marriage was blessed the same day, and theirs was the first Catholic wedding in Huronia. Joseph was also the first person to make the Spiritual Exercises retreat in what would eventually be called Canada. He was a great catechist among his own people. In a prayer he composed he marvelled at God saying, "I know how to build a canoe, but you made the Universe!" He also said, "Jesus you love us so deeply that all I can do in return is to offer myself to you. I choose you as my elder and chief. There is no one else." Joseph also drew on many of the spiritual and cultural teachings of his people. He is often depicted holding the crucifix in one hand and the feather in the other. He was martyred on August 2, 1640 at the age of 38. Before the Huronia Mission closed in 1650, seven thousand Hurons had been baptized, and they embraced the faith valiantly.

### **Let's listen to TRUTH & RECONCILIATION REPORT**

The TRC wrote, "The damage extended far beyond the numbers of children who attended these schools; families, communities, and cultures all suffered. Students were estranged from their families and communities; cultural, spiritual, and language transmission was disrupted; education did not prepare children for traditional lifestyles or emerging economic opportunities (which often were limited); parenting skills were lost; and patterns of abuse were developed that continue to have an impact on communities today."

### **Let's remember the call of Jesus**

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him. (Mark 1.16-20)

**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 have been guilty of prejudiced and racist attitudes and behaviours towards Indigenous peoples.**

We repent and with the Prodigal Son we say,

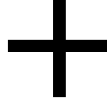
***“Father, we have sinned against heaven and before you. We are no longer worthy to be called your sons and daughters; treat us like your hired hands.”***

**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.