



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP



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June 17, 2022

Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese of Regina,

As you know, Pope Francis is coming to Canada to meet with Residential School Survivors. The Papal Visit is scheduled for July 25-29, just a few weeks away. At this time, he will visit 3 hub locations across Canada to meet with as many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit People as possible. The nearest location to us is Edmonton, along with a First Nation community which was a residential school site.

The journey towards Truth and Reconciliation is one we must take together. As I mentioned to the clergy when I spoke with them at the end of our annual retreat, I am asking for your support as we take the next critical step.

The Papal Visit is cause for great hope. Although we are disappointed that the Pope will not visit Saskatchewan, the Archdiocese of Regina is working to ensure survivors of Catholic-run residential schools can engage with this event in any way that may offer them peace and healing.

Your prayerful support is needed during this time.

For survivors who will travel to witness the Pope's apology in Alberta, we are providing travel, accommodations, and meals. We will partner with a First Nation and Métis community who prefer to make their own travel arrangements, offering assistance in any way that we can. We will also create spaces for survivors who would prefer to watch a live stream from Regina, or who wish to gather with their First Nation or Métis community at a location of their choosing.

We need your help to ensure the ultimate comfort and care are available for Indigenous Brothers and Sisters during the Papal Visit. If you are looking to be involved, there are several opportunities:

*For \$500, you can sponsor a survivor's journey to meet the Pope.*

This includes the cost of buses, hotel, and food for a survivor or for a support person who will be with them on this difficult but hopeful journey.

*For \$5,000, you can sponsor a bus that would bring survivors to the meeting with Pope Francis.*

For communities who wish to arrange their own travel, your support would extend our partnership to cover some of their cost of bus transportation.

*You may also pledge any amount that will directly help survivors during this time.*

Whether this be funding some portion of travel to meet the Pope, or supporting those survivors who will participate without travelling, absolutely any amount would make a meaningful difference.

*You may also consider other ways to contribute your time, talent, and treasure.*

From preparing care packages, to volunteering, I encourage you to prayerfully consider the ways in which you and your local parish could offer to walk with survivors during the Papal Visit.

*If you wish to be involved, or have any questions about the work of truth and reconciliation within the Archdiocese of Regina, please contact Sr. ReAnne Letourneau (srletourneau@hotmail.com). If you have specific questions relating to finance and how to donate, please contact James Lipoth (JLipoth@archregina.sk.ca) or visit archregina.sk.ca/giving to make a donation today.*

As I'm sure you can appreciate, with this event so near in the future, it would be incredibly helpful to hear if and how you may wish to offer support. While we would be accepting of any financial support after the fact, if your group intends on supporting this cause, it would be very helpful if you could let us know by the end of June.

The Papal Visit, and subsequent apology, are incredibly important steps in healing this relationship – a relationship marred with deep hurt and countless wounds. Though as survivors have expressed over and over again, this does not end with the Pope's visit and apology. Our collective journey of healing is just beginning.

Thank you for your support for this very important step along the way.

Yours in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald J. Bolen". The signature is stylized and cursive.

✠Donald J. Bolen  
Archbishop of Regina