

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE CHURCH: WALKING TOGETHER TOWARD HEALING & RECONCILIATION

Rome Delegation – March/April 2022

Update to Dioceses Re Rome Delegation (Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation)

Enclosed you will find information relating to the upcoming delegation to Rome, where Indigenous delegates will be meeting with the Holy Father, March 28 – April 1, 2022. This is a critically important moment in the healing and reconciliation journey.

Dioceses may choose to support the events in Rome in a number of ways. They include:

- a) **Prayer** – Prayers of the Faithful, Mass intentions and other prayerful moments in solidarity with those meeting with the Holy Father in Rome. For example, one diocese plans to offer adoration at a church identified as a prayer hub during the delegation. As previously communicated, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle has invited communities to participate in a Sacred Fire and Prayer Wave. More information on this initiative can be found [here](#).
- b) **Sharing of information** – social media posts, website updates, links, etc. to raise awareness. See the example of a delegate profile from the Archdiocese of Edmonton [here](#). The CCCB twitter account @CCCB_CECC will provide regular updates, with statements or other information posted to the CCCB [website](#). Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation will livestream media briefings as well as the final audience with the Holy Father on April 1, 2022 in addition to special programming - their website, www.slmedia.org will be a valuable resource throughout the delegation.
- c) **Communication from the local bishop** to the faithful (could be a message on the website, brief message to be shared with the faithful in parishes, etc.).
- d) **Media interviews** – your diocese may be contacted to offer insight/commentary regarding the Rome delegation from a local perspective. If you have individuals directly engaged in the healing and reconciliation journey, they may be valuable voices to speak in a more general way to the significance of the delegation. Messaging (enclosed) for bishops or diocesan communication staff on a variety of topics may also assist in responding as required. For journalists wishing to speak to any of the bishops participating in the Rome delegation, inquiries can be directed to communications@cccb.ca

Thank you for all that you continue to do at the diocesan level to support the healing and reconciliation journey. We pray that these days in Rome will bear much fruit and assist your pastoral efforts with Indigenous communities throughout Canada.

Highlights of Schedule for Delegation to Rome **(Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation)**

Many Canadian media networks will be covering the delegation to Rome. Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation will also be livestreaming a number of events through their website including daily briefings following meetings with the Holy Father and the final audience with Pope Francis on Friday, April 1, 2022. Dioceses may wish to provide a link to the Salt & Light website – www.slmedia.org so that parishioners can access resources throughout the week.

(note all times are local in Rome)

Saturday, March 26, 2022

Departure from Montreal to Rome (arrival Sunday morning)

Sunday, March 27, 2022

Arrival/Rest

Monday, March 28, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Métis delegates meet with Pope Francis (private meetings)

11:00 a.m. – 12 noon Inuit delegates meet with Pope Francis (private meetings)

3:00 p.m. Media Briefing – Métis, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops representatives
(livestream via Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation website – www.slmedia.org)

4:00 p.m. Media Briefing – Inuit, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops representatives
(livestream via Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation website – www.slmedia.org)

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Delegates will be involved in a number of private tours and other activities. Closed to the media.

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Delegates have been given the option of a day tour to Assisi. Others may choose to rest and/or have free time. Closed to the media.

Thursday, March 31, 2022

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. First Nations delegates meet with Pope Francis (private meetings)

3:00 p.m. Media Briefing – First Nations, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
representatives (livestream via Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation website –
www.slmedia.org)

Friday, April 1, 2022

12 noon – 1:00 p.m. Final Audience with Holy Father (livestream via Salt & Light Catholic
Media Foundation website – www.slmedia.org)

3:30 p.m. Media Briefing – Métis, Inuit, First Nations, CCCB Representatives
(livestream via Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation website –
www.slmedia.org)

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Return to Canada

Sample Website Announcement

Indigenous Peoples and the Church: Walking Together Toward Healing & Reconciliation

We invite you to pray for the delegation that will travel to Rome from March 26 – April 2, 2022 to meet with Pope Francis. Following ongoing dialogue with the Assembly of First Nations, the Métis National Council, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and other Indigenous leaders, a group of residential school survivors, Elders, knowledge keepers and young people will share their experiences directly with the Holy Father. The delegation, organized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, represents a significant moment in the ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation while also serving as an important foundation for the future visit of the Holy Father to Canada, announced in late October 2021. To access coverage of the visit throughout the week, visit Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation at: www.slmedia.org. For more information on the delegation and related activity, please visit: www.cccb.ca

Sample Prayer of the Faithful (Weekend of March 26/27, 2022)

As Indigenous delegates from across the country gather in Rome this week to meet with Pope Francis, we pray that these encounters will serve as fruitful, prayerful and productive moments in the ongoing journey to healing and reconciliation. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Sample Prayer of the Faithful (Weekend of April 2/3, 2022)

We give thanks for the delegation of Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers, residential school survivors and bishops who met with Pope Francis this past week. May the healing and reconciliation journey be strengthened by the dialogue and prayerful exchange with the Holy Father. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.