

# APOLOGY BY POPE FRANCIS



"I feel shame – sorrow and shame – for the role that a number of Catholics, particularly those with educational responsibilities, have had in all these things that wounded you, in the abuses you suffered and in the lack of respect shown for your identity, your culture and even your spiritual values."

Pope Francis

Apology for Residential School Abuse in Canada

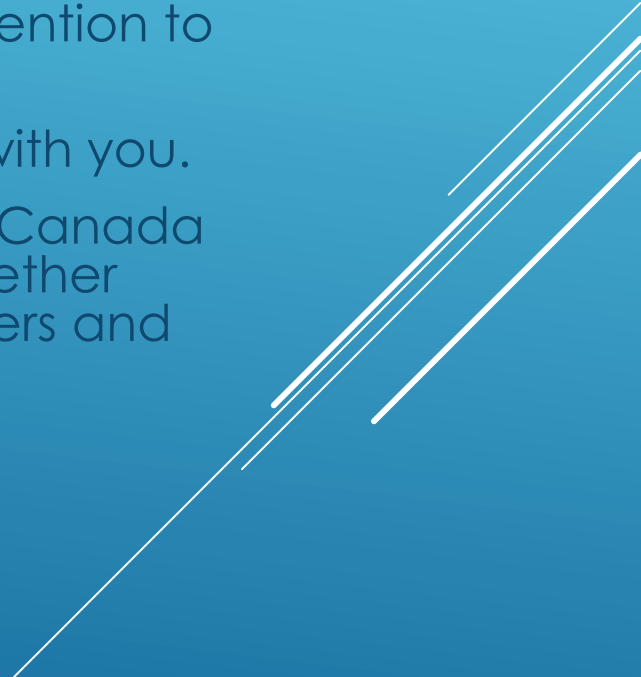
# ELEMENTS OF THE APOLOGY

- ▶ “Traditional wisdom. A way of viewing life: “In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation.”
- ▶ “You compared yourselves to the branches of a tree. Like those branches, you have spread in different directions, you have experienced various times and seasons, and you have been buffeted by powerful winds. Yet you have remained solidly anchored to your roots...”
- ▶ Relationship with, care for .... the land.
- ▶ The tragedy of being uprooted.
- ▶ Imposition by outside forces, cultures, “colonization.”
- ▶ “Ideological Colonialization.”
- ▶ “...deeply grieved by the stories of the suffering, hardship, discrimination and various forms of abuse that some of you experienced, particularly in the residential schools.”

# ELEMENTS OF THE APOLOGY

- ▶ “Without real indignation, without historical memory and without a commitment to learning from past mistakes, problems remain unresolved and keep coming back.”
- ▶ “Where is your brother?” (Genesis 4:9). Where are you? Where is your brother? These are questions we should never stop asking. ...we are here on this earth as guardians of the sacredness of life, and thus guardians of our brothers and sisters, and of all brother peoples.”
- ▶ “...gratitude of all those good and decent believers who, in the name of the faith, and with respect, love and kindness, have enriched your history with the Gospel. I think with joy, for example, of the great veneration that many of you have for Saint Anne, the grandmother of Jesus.
- ▶ “...re-establish the covenant between grandparents and grandchildren, between the elderly and the young, for this is a fundamental prerequisite for the growth of unity in our human family.

# ELEMENTS OF THE APOLOGY

- ▶ “...steps towards the transparent search for truth and to foster healing and reconciliation.
    - ▶ These steps are part of a journey that can favour the rediscovery and revitalization of your culture.
    - ▶ While helping the Church to grow in love, respect and specific attention to your authentic traditions.
    - ▶ The Church stands beside you and wants to continue journeying with you.
    - ▶ Dialogue is the key to knowledge and sharing, and the Bishops of Canada have clearly stated their commitment to continue advancing together with you on a renewed, constructive, fruitful path, where encounters and shared projects will be of great help.”
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# ELEMENTS OF THE APOLOGY

- ▶ “I don’t want to end without saying a word to you, my brother Bishops:  
Thank you! Thank you for your courage.”

*“The Spirit of the Lord is revealed in humility. Before stories like the one we heard, the humiliation of the Church is fruitfulness.”*