



POPE FRANCIS HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION of the Bishops of Canada to visit the Church in Canada in the context of a pilgrimage of healing and reconciliation with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. The statement of the Holy Father was published on the Vatican News [website](#). While no date has been established for the visit, it will build on three years of constructive dialogue between the Canadian Bishops, the Holy See, and Indigenous Peoples who have generously shared their experiences and stories about the sufferings and challenges that continue to this day. The delegation of Indigenous Peoples and Bishops to the Vatican in December will allow the Pope to hear directly from Indigenous people on the historic and ongoing legacy of Residential Schools, and discuss with them their hopes for the visit in service of ongoing reconciliation.

THE DIOCESAN COMMITTEE FOR SYNOD 2023 has prepared the information package for distribution throughout the Diocese. It will be sent out to our Parishes, Catholic School Boards, Catholic social agencies, and other organizations, next Tuesday. It will also be available on our Diocesan website for those who prefer to respond to the questions individually. After a six-week consultation, the responses will be processed and a Diocesan report will be submitted to the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. *“I’m going to share my voice. Will you share yours?”*

THE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE 2021-2022 Campaign Theme is *People and Planet First*. The campaign focuses on those in the global south who risk their lives to defend our Common Home from environmental and human rights abuses carried out in the name of greed and corporate profit. Animators are leading workshops to educate people and encourage action. Learn more about the campaign [here](#).

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COATS FOR KIDS PROGRAM is underway again this year. The Knights give thousands of winter coats to children through Catholic schools across Ontario. It is an enormously popular program and children are delighted to be warm and safe throughout the cold winter months! Thanks to the Knights of Columbus, two boxes of new winter coats arrived this week at our Office for Refugees. Erin Pease and Rita Balla are happy to ensure that young newcomers to Canada will be ready for the coming winter!

FATHER TOBY COLLINS, CR, arranged for a visit to the *Anishnabeg Outreach Centre* in Kitchener earlier this week. We were welcomed by Mr. Stephen Jackson, founder of the Centre which is focused on reconciliation through healing and education. Impressive new programs and other initiatives promoting understanding of and appreciation for cultural skills and endeavours are taught to Indigenous children, youth and adults. The Centre is an important and valuable undertaking in the Kitchener-Waterloo region and fosters reconciliation in workable ways.

THE OFFICE FOR REFUGEES is waiting to receive confirmed flight itineraries for 7 refugee families currently living in asylum in Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Ethiopia, and India. They are working with sponsor teams across the Diocese to prepare quarantine plans for an additional 5 families. One of the sponsored families scheduled to fly to Canada on October 27th had their flight cancelled because one of the sons tested positive for COVID-19. We pray for his quick recovery so a new flight can be secured.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI