

## **PRAYER IN MEMORY OF THE INDIGENOUS CHILDREN BURIED NEAR CANADIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**

**God our Father,**

**You wanted us, your children, to be one family before you, united with our Catholic Indigenous brothers and sisters.**

**We were shocked by the fate of all those children who were deprived of their families, their cultures and their languages, and whose bodies were buried near their schools, often without identification, and far from their ancestral lands.**

**We are ashamed of what has happened and we want to find in you the strength to encourage one another in the hope that, through the Spirit of Jesus who on the cross reconciled the whole world to you, Father, we - Indigenous and non-Indigenous - will be reconciled to one another.**

**As members of the Catholic community, we wish to undertake a long journey of listening, dialogue, compassion and justice under the protection of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a spiritual mother of our faith. We remember her as a person who reveals to us what it is to be a disciple of Jesus.**

**Through her intercession, may the Holy Spirit illuminate what is most noble, true and holy in our cultures. Her life of holiness as a truly Christian Mohawk woman is a gift to the whole Church in our country and throughout the world.**

**May we count on her intercession to help us undertake this long journey of justice and reconciliation in these events that are so painful for our Indigenous brothers and sisters, Catholic or not. May Saint Kateri guide us as patroness of all Canada.**

**AMEN**

*(Text by Richard Wallot from the Statement of the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in Initial Response to the Summary Report and Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, June 12, 2015)*