



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL BISHOP WELCOMES POPE'S DECISION TO VISIT CANADA

Bishop Thomas Dowd believes that a visit from Pope Francis will aid the process of reconciliation

SUDBURY, ON - Bishop Thomas Dowd of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie was thrilled at the news released from the Vatican early this morning that Pope Francis has indicated his willingness to visit Canada to meet with Indigenous peoples.

“This is welcome news from the Holy Father” said Bishop Dowd, “I was very happy to receive this news this morning.”

Dowd said the news was encouraging given that the Pope's presence in Canada “can be an important step in the process of reconciliation and healing.”

The official Vatican statement says that the Pope's intention to visit Canada comes as a response to an invitation from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the date of the visit is yet to be determined.

A planned delegation of Indigenous survivors, Elders and youth will be traveling to the Vatican to meet with Pope Francis from December 17-20, 2021.

Dowd hopes that the December meeting between the pope and the planned delegation will help guide Pope Francis for his visit to Canada.

Additional Information for Media:

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Supplied Photo: Bishop Thomas Dowd, Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.

