



July 26, 2021

Ministering in the Americas, the Sisters of Charity Halifax strive to show forth the compassionate love of God. We believe in a Spirit that carries our best selves through the winds of time and reminds us of our sacred trust to Mother Earth and to each other.

The recovery of the unmarked graves at former Canadian residential schools is a stark reminder of the most vulnerable and enslaved in our nations. We hear the cries of hidden children, women, and men. Our breath is laboured as we begin to understand the harm inflicted on the innocent.

The recovery of these remains is heart-breaking and shameful. As human beings and as members of a religious congregation that served at two of these schools, we weep. We are ashamed of the cruelty some people can inflict on others. We apologize that the actions of our Sisters, our ancestors, contributed to a system where children were separated from their families. We cannot stand by in the face of injustice.

When we break a sacred trust, we must apologize. We speak in our Constitutions about righting in great ways or small the injustices we see around us. We apologize for the wrongs we caused our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

We join in prayer with people who are systematically and historically robbed of their very identities. We acknowledge and take in the pain of our brothers and sisters. May our collective heart brokenness in turn motivate us to continue positive actions in a stance of humility.

We work with our Indigenous brothers and sisters in various projects. These collaborative projects put actions with our words. We ask our Indigenous brothers and sisters to continue to teach us so that we can work together to create a better future.

*Margaret Mary Fitzgerald, SC Jean Butler, SC Joan S Dawber, SC Mary Lynn Flett, SC Mary Anne Foster, SC*

Congregational Leadership Team

Note: The Sisters of Charity Halifax participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Hearings across the country, providing archival material, assisting with pastoral support and speaking at public events as requested.

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