



## Archdiocese of Seattle Bishops Express Sorrow for Native Americans

Seattle, Wash., July 6, 2021 – Today we wish to address our Native American brothers and sisters. While we recognize that each individual tribe in our own archdiocese and across the continent has had a differing experience with the Catholic Church, we wish to acknowledge the real pain that our Native American brothers and sisters are feeling at this time.

The recent discovery of the unmarked children's graves in Canada is heartbreaking, not only for those nations but for all people. We wish to stand in solidarity with them as the story behind these graves comes to light.

In the Archdiocese of Seattle, we have had a long history with our Native American brothers and sisters. Our relationship with different tribes over time has been both positive, and sadly, potentially harmful at times. To better understand our own history and ensure continued openhearted relationships with all the tribes, we will be partnering with our Native American Advisory Board. This group of leaders from several regional tribes will help guide our efforts moving forward. We wish to thank them in advance for their partnership and their willingness to share their gifts of time and talent.

We are all children of God, connected to each other and the world around us. We ask everyone to pray for the healing and strength of our Native American brothers and sisters - and for each other. We continue to pray for you as we stand in solidarity with everyone who has been harmed by the Church.

Most Rev. Daniel H. Mueggenborg  
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL  
Archbishop of Seattle

Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle