

Catholic Bishops Welcome Announcement of Program for Papal Visit to Canada – July 24 – 29, 2022

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Canada's Catholic Bishops welcome today's announcement from the Holy See providing further details of the itinerary of Pope Francis' historic visit to Canada, July 24 – 29, 2022. This will be the fourth papal visit to Canada and the first since Saint John Paul II's journey in 2002. The Holy Father's pilgrimage will focus on Indigenous healing and reconciliation while also providing the shepherd of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics an opportunity to encounter the faithful in Canada. Due to his advanced age and limitations, it is expected that participation by Pope Francis at public events will be limited to approximately one hour. General Co-ordinator of the Papal Visit to Canada, Archbishop Richard Smith, remarked on the release of the program: "We know that the Holy Father was deeply moved by his encounter with Indigenous Peoples in Rome earlier this year, and that he hopes to build on the important dialogue that took place. We pray this pilgrimage will serve as another meaningful step in the long journey of healing, reconciliation and hope." The visit, drawing on the theme of "Walking Together", will include a combination of public and private events, with an emphasis on Indigenous participation throughout the visit. Ticketing (free) for public events will be announced in the coming days. A volunteer portal can be accessed at papalvisit.ca or visitepapale.ca for those wishing to share their time and talents as part of the historic visit. The papal visit planning team will work closely with Indigenous partners as well as federal, provincial and municipal levels of government to dialogue and coordinate the significant logistical challenges associated with a visit of this scope and magnitude. Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops President, Bishop Raymond Poisson, commented on the efforts: "So many people are working diligently to organize this very busy schedule for the Holy Father and participants. We pray for the health of Pope Francis and also that his pastoral visit to Canada will bring reconciliation and hope to all those who will accompany our shepherd on this historic journey."