

# the Common Good

Secular Franciscan JPIC Monthly Newsletter  
from Franciscan Voice Canada



Issue No 48, July 2021

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## National Crime: Indian Residential Schools & Unmarked Graves



Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, director of the  
Indian Residential School History and  
Dialogue Centre at the University of British

Columbia in Vancouver, BC, explained some of the difficulty in identifying the children and the cause of death. She said there is ample evidence of inadequate records. For example, some children were recorded with no first or last names, such as "Indian Girl No. 237."

How ironic & deplorable that Davin [Nicholas Davin who is considered one of the architects of the Canadian Indian Residential School system.] has such a grave marker (left) in sharp contrast to most First Nations children who died in the schools & lie either in unmarked graves or like the one in the photo on the right...

**How could this have happened?** One explanation: Government, police, church and news media collaborated; Story by Story, Canada's News Media Built Indigenous Oppression How relentlessly racist framing helped 'write' the Indian Act — and persists

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Author [Katljà \(Catherine\) Lafferty](#) wrote: "On July 6, 1885, Sir John A. Macdonald rose in Parliament to reaffirm the by then well-established colonial portrait of Indigenous peoples as a danger to society and spreaders of illness. "I have not hesitated to tell this House, again and again, that we could not always hope to maintain peace with the Indians; that the savage was still a savage, and that until he ceased to be savage, we were always in danger of a collision, in danger of war, in danger of an outbreak," he said.

[Learn more at Andrew's July Blog](#)

## Did Canadians not know, care or understand?

After Canada passed the Indian Act in 1876, Nicholas Davin, MP was tasked with finding a means to educate the country's Indigenous peoples. The Indian Act authorized the Canadian government to regulate and administer the affairs of Indigenous peoples.

Davin visited the Carlisle (Pennsylvania) Indian Industrial School in 1879 and was impressed with U.S. Army Lt. Richard Pratt, the school's founder, and his use of boarding school education as a means to force assimilation onto Native people with a mission to "kill the Indian" to "save the Man." This became the model for Canadian Indian Residential Schools and to "kill the Indian in the child." Today we recognise this forced assimilation as imperialism, colonialism and cultural genocide...

"We call upon Canada, and all of those who call yourselves Canadians, to witness and recognize the truth of our collective history," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, [in a statement](#).

**Such recognition is exactly why I write this.**

**To refuse to become painfully aware is to wilfully turn a blind eye to injustice and silence is complicity.**

[Learn more at Andrew's July Blog](#)

## Laudato Si' Plus

*Laudato si'* (19): "Let us review, however cursorily, those questions which are troubling us today and which we can no longer sweep under the carpet. Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it." (emphasis added).

*Fratelli Tutti* (244 & 249) is particularly vocal on justice for the poor and marginalized. "When conflicts are not resolved but kept hidden or buried in the past, silence can lead to complicity in grave misdeeds and sins," and, "Nowadays, it is easy to be tempted to turn the page, to say that all these things happened long ago and we should look to the future.

## Laudato Si Action Platform

**We need a bold embrace of the Laudato Si Action Platform!  
Many think it has been lacking!**

[Learn more at Andrew's July Blog](#)

Without it, we are irrelevant to the greatest existential threat to human civilisation. Why has the Canadian Catholic response from our Bishops to *Laudato Si'* not been commensurate with the urgency and gravity of the climate crisis? How can we prompt them to more deeply integrate *Laudato Si'* and its climate change teaching into the Canadian Church? **Cardinal Hollerich told us to write to our bishops.** Here's my letter to my bishop (feel free to write something similar to your bishop).

## From Gospel to Life

The **sacrament of creation** is summed up in the offertory prayer: 'Blessed are you Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.' 'Blessed are you Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.' To which we answer, 'Blessed be God for ever.'



[Kelly Sikkema](#)

Taken from *Eucharist Vision and the Spirituality of St Francis of Assisi* by Mark of Whitstable

## One last point: another reason to listen to Indigenous wisdom

The **Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address** acts as a traditional thanksgiving by acknowledging the Haudenosaunee people (Six Nations), the earth, the animals etc, etc, and the Creator. Through this process of thanksgiving, the Haudenosaunee worldview is expressed and defined, presenting interconnectedness and interdependence with nature, the earth and human beings.

[Learn more at Andrew's July Blog](#)

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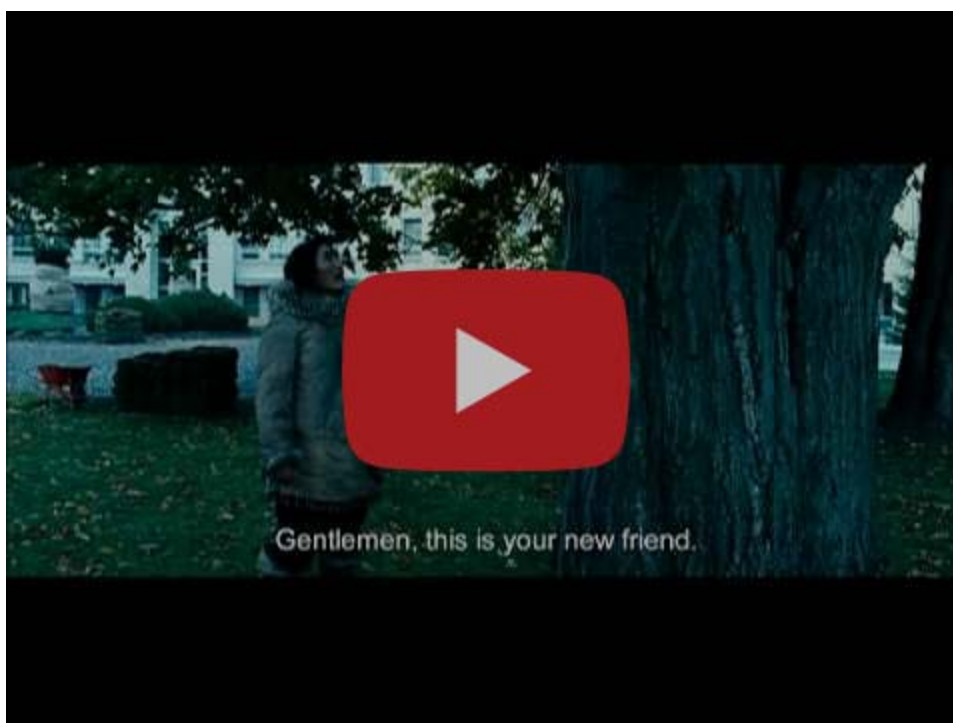
Does the Thanksgiving Address remind you of the [Canticle of the Creatures](#)? (4:18)

## Greta Thunberg speech at 2021 Austrian World Summit



## Film of the Month

### Ce Qu' Il Faut Pour Vivre (The Necessities of Life)



During these difficult times for Indigenous peoples we should look for ways of reaching out. We can begin by learning more of their history which we failed to receive in school. Here is a film recommended by the St Francis of Assisi Fraternity, PEI. ([See the Trailer here](#))

The film uses the 1950s-era tuberculosis epidemic in the Far North as its starting point. The spread of the disease forced many Inuit to go to various Canadian cities for treatment. Tivii (NatarUngalaaq, ATANARJUAT: THE FAST RUNNER) is taken to a sanatorium in Quebec City. Uprooted, far from his loved ones and faced with a completely alien world, he finds himself unable to communicate with anyone. When his nurse, Carole (ÉvelineGélinas) realizes that Tivii's illness is not the most serious threat to his well-being, she arranges to have a young orphan, Kaki, transferred to the institution. The boy is also sick, but has experience of both worlds and speaks both languages. By sharing his culture with Kaki and opening it up to others, Tivii rediscovers his pride and energy. Ultimately he also rediscovers hope through a plan to adopt Kaki, bring him home and make him part of his family. © Corporation de développement

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obliged to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their [Indigenous] brothers and sisters.



## Pope's Prayer Intention for July

### Social friendship

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.



Friendship is one of the great gifts that life gives us. Being able to count on friends, during good times as well as bad, is a gift from God. Wouldn't it be stupendous if we could "go beyond (our) groups of friends and build social friendship, which is so necessary for living together well," as Francis tells us? [Read more...](#)

### Reflection:

In the heart of summer, these are long and lazy days for many of us. There's time for rest, vacation, swimming, and barbecues with family and friends. In these sunny days and starry nights, our backyards and front porches can feel like the safest and best places to be.

[Read more...](#)

## Urgent Action: Chiapas towns threatened by criminal invaders.

In recent days there have been armed clashes on the

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leaders have taken the decision to resist, making the case criminal organizations must not be allowed to establish roots in their communities.



Andrés Manuel  
López Obrador

**"Protect  
Indigenous  
Communities in  
Chiapas, Mexico"**

**Please take a moment to write to Mexico President, Andres Manuel López Obrador and demand the Federal Government take action to protect innocent lives and civilians.** [Learn more](#)

## Prayer

Triune God, help our movements, NGOs, communication centres, the OFS, and all groups that work for the common good, to develop a spirituality of global solidarity which flows from the mystery of who you are, an interconnected community of love.

**With the voice of an angel she shared her story ... and her joy.** [Learn more at Aleteia](#)



Nightbirde's deep faith shines in her viral performance on America's Got Talent

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- + July 17 - [World Day of International Justice](#)
- + August 9 - [UN International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples](#)
- + August 23 - [International Day of the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition](#)

## Other Recent Postings on *Franciscan Voice Canada*

- [Take Action: Letter to President of Mexico re Chiapas 2021](#)
- [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) - Action
- [We Matter July Newsletter](#) - Action
- [Myths & Facts about the First Nations, Métis and Inuit](#) - Action
- [Good News! Bill C-15 Becomes Law](#)
- [\\$1.9B a year to address natural disasters in Canada](#)
- [July 1st, 2021: Turning grief into action for Residential Schools](#)
- [Canada's Moment to Act on Slavery in Global Supply Chains](#)
- [JPIC | OFM - call for new UN Special Rapporteur](#) - Action
- [Call to Canadians: Help us find every burial site.](#)

### Earlier Posts you may want to check:

- [A moving statement from the BC Opposition](#) - 9 min video
- [Kamloops Indian Residential School](#) - Call for Urgent Action

*Note the calls for "Action" in some of the postings*

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