The Catholic Native Boarding School Accountability and Healing Project
and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, the Catholic Native Boarding School Accountability and Healing Project published a list of Catholic-operated US Native boarding schools that operated from the 1820s to the 1960s. Included on this list are two boarding schools where a few Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet from the St. Paul Province (CSJs St. Paul) served from 1883 to 1902.

The CSJ St. Paul Province joins in the Catholic Church’s growing awareness and concern of past wrongs in the Native Boarding School system. Information about Sisters from St. Paul Province who taught Native students in boarding and day schools is available through the CSJ St. Paul online digital archives. Requests for access to the CSJs St. Paul private archives can be directed to mhueg@csjstpaul.org and may be granted in accordance with archive policy.

Pope Francis statement
In July 2022, Pope Francis visited Canada and formally apologized for the Church’s legacy of residential boarding schools. We are grateful for Pope Francis’ acknowledgment of the Church’s part in this often sad history and echo his prayer for God's grace as we examine our part in this legacy.

“Yet, it is right to remember, because forgetfulness leads to indifference and, as has been said, "the opposite of love is not hatred, it's indifference and the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference" [from Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel]. To remember the devastating experiences that took place in the residential schools hurts, angers, causes pain, and yet it is necessary.”

“An important part of this process will be to conduct a serious investigation into the facts of what took place in the past and to assist the survivors of the residential schools to experience healing from the traumas they suffered.”

Additional resources
The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province are learning that our commitment to justice and right relationships is an ongoing process that requires continued exploration and a desire to consciously listen and hear. Here are a few resources informing our journey:
• Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report:  

• Catholic Native Boarding School Accountability and Healing Project and list:  
  https://ctah.archivistsacwr.org/

• Global Sisters Report article: Inside the effort to identify Catholic-run boarding schools for Indigenous children

Indigenous voices

• National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition
• Standing in the Tension Point (Beyond the Habit podcast)
• Q & A with Sr. Kateri Mitchell on 'a new day' for Indigenous Catholics
• Buried Secrets: America’s Indian Boarding Schools Part 1 (Reveal)

Theological insights

• Guilt, Responsibility, and Purgatory: How Traditional Catholic Teaching Can Help Us Think About Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations (Church Life Journal)
• Joint Statement of the Dicasteries for Culture and Education and for Promoting Integral Human Development on the “Doctrine of Discovery”, 30.03.2023 (The Vatican)

About the St. Paul Province:
The CSJs are the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who, with our lay Consociates, include women and men committed to “moving always toward the profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.”

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