

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

Before it is too late, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the people who helped me set up for the two weekends that we had our “drive-in” Mass and assisted in the liturgy. A million thanks to Kitin & Cypher Cayona, King & Karle Solomon, Alex & Ruziel Relatores, Christopher & Sarah Silva, Tiukuka family, Dado & Saling Bascuña, Jewel White, Maggie Wall, Rheall LeGall. My special thanks to Jerry Dykman for loaning us his outdoor sound system and setting it up before each Mass on both weekends..... Church capacity is still limited to 25 people. Kindly sign up at our parish website before coming for Sunday Mass. We are also back to the regular schedule of the weekday Mass. From Tuesday to Thursday, the Mass is after the Rosary @ 7 PM. On Friday the Mass is after the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy @ 10 AM. On Friday the Mass is followed by a short Adoration and Solemn Benediction. Those who want to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation may come on Saturday 4-5 PM and Sunday 6-7 PM A burning (literally and figuratively) issue which concerns the Church here in Canada is about the residential schools. As a non-Canadian, I have a lot of questions. For example: How could the Church of the recent past involved herself in such kind of injustice? As many of you are immigrants to this country, maybe you also share in my confusion. On the other hand, being immigrants might also put you in a better position to understand the issue objectively as your view may not be coloured by emotions that accompany such topics. Moreover, most of you came from countries that have also suffered much from gross injustices in the past due to colonization, and maybe there is something you can contribute towards healing and reconciliation that this situation calls for..... With regards to this issue on the involvement of the Church in the residential schools, my only appeal to all of you is: Do not let it lessen your love for the Church or your faith. As I have hinted above, you can be part of the solution. This could be your cross and challenge as modern disciples sent by Christ to this part of the world. So, strive to educate yourselves. Listen to what our indigenous brothers and sisters are saying. You may even listen

to politicians and mass media personalities who are not exactly friendly towards the Church. Moreover, give our shepherds a hearing. Listen to our bishops. Archbishop LeGatt has a series of videos at the archdiocesan website on the matter. Watch them. More importantly, try to discern (in prayer, if possible): What really happened? What has been done in the past as an act of reparation for the injustice? What more needs to be done?..... Personally though, as of now, I feel very much troubled by this issue. It is overwhelming. It is something beyond us to solve. I mean, how can we undo what was done in the past? Only God can do that. He who is eternal, who is not limited by time, is the only one who can do that. He can build from the ruins. He can make all things (even our sins!) work for the good if we allow him (cf. Rom 8:28). He can certainly undo the mistakes of the past. Let us pray hard that we can cooperate in it.