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POPE IN CANADA

Indigenous people, evangelization and us

By Andrea Tornielli

¬ he heart of Pope Francis' 'penitential pilgrimage" to Canada has focused on his personal closeness to Indigenous peoples and his request for forgiveness for the disasters wrought by the colonial mentality that sought to eradicate traditional cultures, including through the dramatic experiment of residential schools desired by the government and run by Christian churches.

Encounters with Indigenous peoples marked every stage of the trip and were quite moving. The understandable focus on the suffering endured by Indigenous people and the journey of reconciliation undertaken have overshadowed some valuable insights scattered throughout Pope Francis' speeches, which offer useful paths for evangelization today in every corner on

After saying he felt ashamed of what happened when believers "became worldly, and rather than fostering reconciliation, they imposed their own cultural models," the Pope went on to emphasize that "this attitude dies hard, also from the religious standpoint." He thus

Francis to visit Kazakhstan in September

Accepting the invitation of the civil and ecclesial authorities, Pope Francis will make the announced Apostolic Journey to Kazakhstan from 13 to 15 September this year, visiting the city of Nur-Sultan on the occasion of the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

Pope in Canada

Walking together

Andrea Monda

t the conclusion of Pope A Francis' long 'penitential pil-grimage' to Canada, the first words that where spoke publicly come to mind: "It is a great honour to welcome you among us. You have travelled a long way to be with us on our land, and to walk with us on the path of reconciliation". It is Chief Wilton Littlechild speaking, one of the elders of the Cree tribe. His name is Usow-Kihew, which means "Golden Eagle". He is a former student of the Ermineskin Residential School and a member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



They had already met in April at the Vatican, and it was he who, on 25 July, in Maskwacis, welcomed the Pope as he began his Apostolic Journey. Golden Eagle was there throughout the trip, until the final leg in Québec. At all the meetings and events, his presence was discreet and tenacious. A living icon of dignity combined with humility and simplicity, this is Littlechild, who, interviewed by Vatican News, im-