

March Signpost

for the GOOD RED ROAD



St. Tekakwitha

Opening prayer:

God of all nations and peoples. You have filled Your Creation with Your mighty presence. Through Your handiwork You speak to our heard words that satisfy our every desire.

You called Your servant the Mohawk maiden Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to embrace the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ to do Your will and to serve others with the gifts You gave her.

May she who held tight to the cross of Your Son through her short life marred by sickness suffering and persecution, be our intercessor during our own trials. May her embrace of the Catholic faith and her openness to sharing Jesus with others inspire us to be new evangelizers to all cultures and peoples. May she who sought out Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament lead us

Direction

Spring

East

Yellow

Sin/ Apathy, Sloth

**Fruits of the Holy Spirit/
Faith/ Goodness /Modesty**

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit/
Understanding/ Piety**



Who do we need to bring in the circle?

Who do we need to pray for:

Family members who are sick.

Family members who have died.

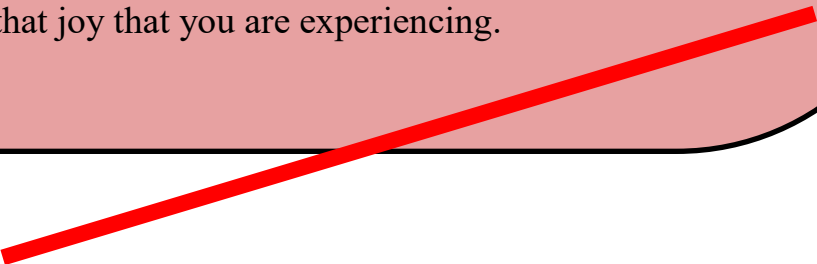
Struggles that we are facing?


Let us bring our joys and sufferings
onto this circle.



Discussion Item

Evangelization

1. One of the principle concerns of the Catholic Church is to reach out, to proclaim in words and actions the Good News of Christ. But how do we go about sharing the Good News?
 2. Evangelization might conjure up people knocking on doors, or trying to talk to you at airports. There is a difference between evangelization and proselytizing. Proselytizing is obnoxious behavior that detracts from the Kingdom of God.
 3. When we talk about evangelization, we share faith by word and example to others in our life. This sharing is both experiential and relational. Experiential because we are open to what others are going through and relational because we are open to help others, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.
 4. We all go through bad times. No one should go through bad times without faith. We have been placed in people's lives to help them get through their hard times by being Christ in their lives. Suggesting to pray with people who have not prayed in a long time could be the first step in their journey of faith. These opportunities are at the core of evangelization.
 5. Evangelization is an attitude that we are open to Christ and are willing to share that openness. The old adage that if being a Catholic was made illegal, would the case against you need to be dropped by a lack of evidence!
 6. How do we share our relationship with Christ? The first step is to have a relationship with Christ. If Christ is not at the very center of your being, there is very little to share. If people see that you are full of love, and that love has a center, and that center is Christ, they will naturally want to be part of that joy that you are experiencing.
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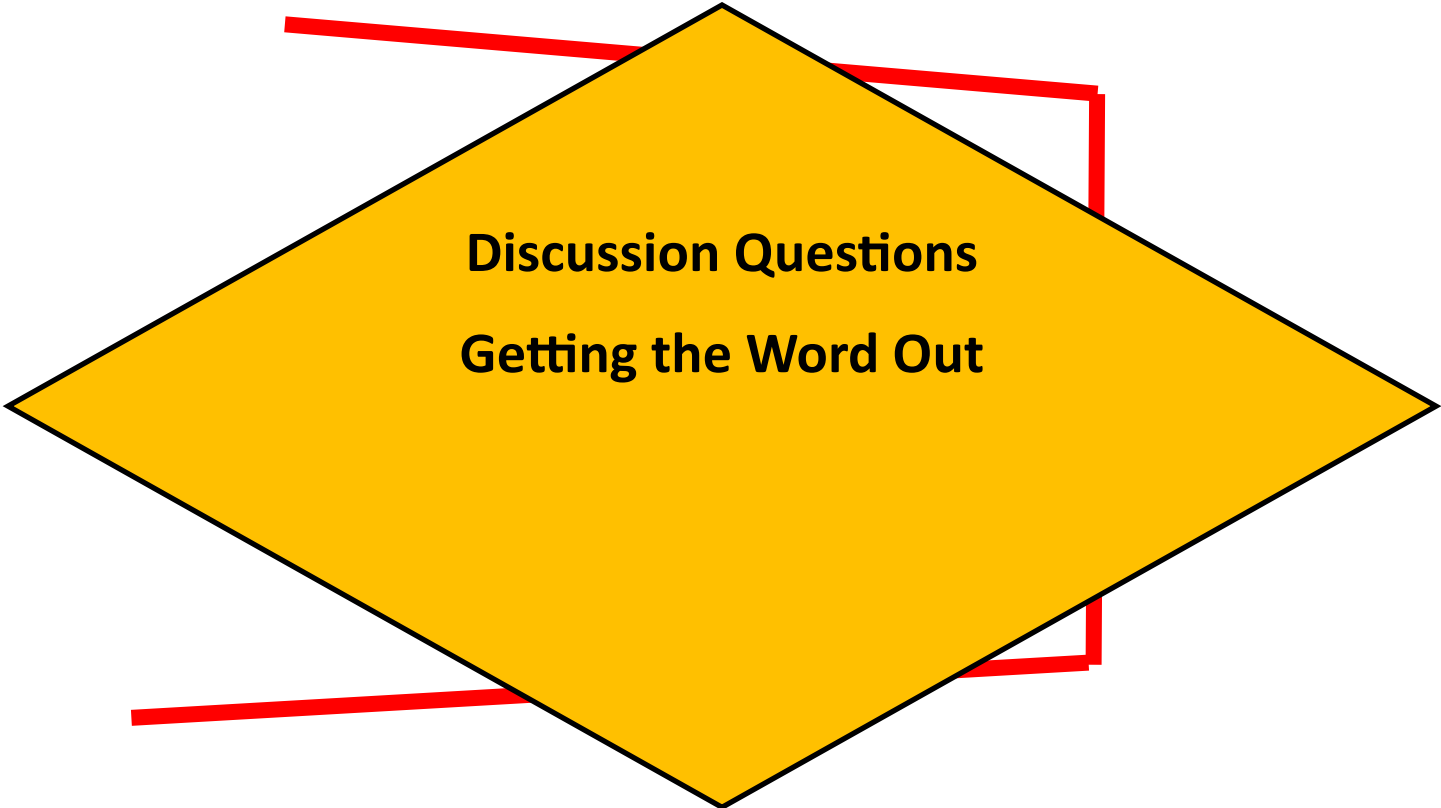


7. In our long tradition of the Church, we have many who have been called to be Apologists for the Church. Apologists are not what we usually think of when we hear the term. Apologists of the Church are those who are not afraid to talk about their faith. They know not only their individual faith, but are also informed about the knowledge, history and documents of the Church. They are not afraid to speak up when they hear something that contradicts the truth about the faith. Many of these Apologists are Saints in our Church.

8. What does it take to be an Apologist? The most important aspect of being an Apologist is to know the faith. There is a lot of misinformation out there about the Faith. There are a lot of rumors, falsehoods and weird stuff that people say all the time that are far from the truth. I have often heard it said that it must be the truthful because my grandmother said it! There is a lot of correct information from your (Arch) Diocese and from the USCCB that will make sure you have a correct path to what the Church teaches and believes. Make sure you are not fooled and help others not to be fooled.

9. Remember the three rules about lies:

- A) Lies said for a long time are still lies!
- B) Lies that everyone believes in are still lies!
- C) Lies said with a lot of enthusiasm are still lies!



Discussion Questions

Getting the Word Out

- 1) In what ways do I practice the attitude of evangelization in my own community/ Tribe?
- 2) How do I make my Native Faith more visible in the wider community? And in the wider Roman Catholic Church?
- 3) What questions do I have about my faith? Where can I go to get those questions answered?
- 4) What have I heard from others about the Catholic Church that I know is wrong?
- 5) How do I live out my life in a profound relationship with Christ so others may see the joy in my heart?

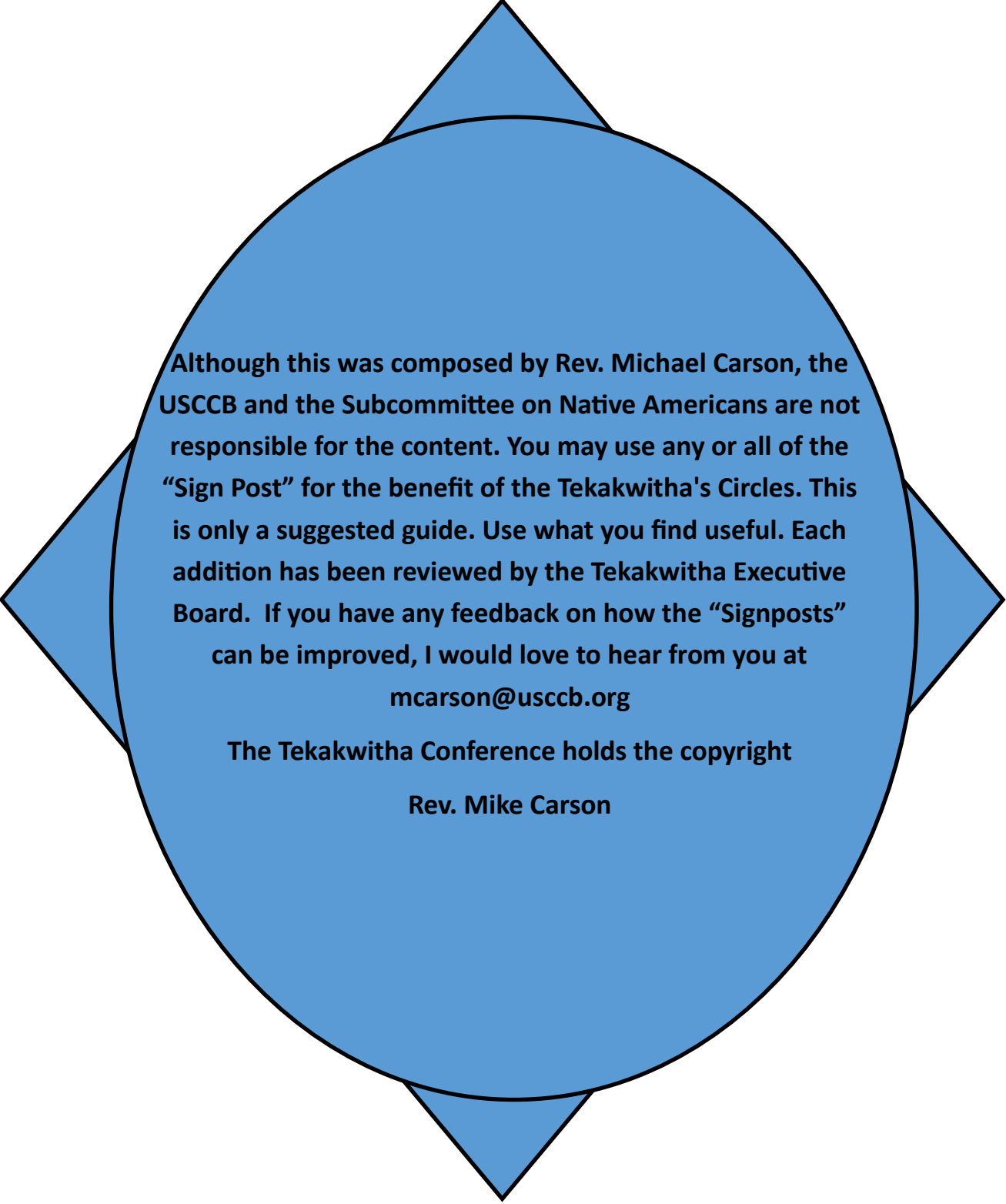


Closing prayer from the Black and Indian Mission Office:

God of all nations and peoples. You have filled your creation with Your mighty presence. Through Your handiwork You speak to our hearts words that satisfy our every desire.

You called Your servant, the Mohawk maiden Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to embrace the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ, to do Your will and to serve others with the gifts You gave her.

May she who held tight to the cross of Your Son throughout her short life marked by sickness, suffering, and persecution, be our intercessor during our own trials. May her embrace of the Catholic faith and her openness to sharing Jesus with others inspire us to be new evangelizers to all cultures and peoples. May she who sought our Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament lead up to similar reverences for the Eucharist so that, like Saint Kateri, our last words may be, "Jesus, I love You." Amen.



Although this was composed by Rev. Michael Carson, the USCCB and the Subcommittee on Native Americans are not responsible for the content. You may use any or all of the “Sign Post” for the benefit of the Tekakwitha's Circles. This is only a suggested guide. Use what you find useful. Each addition has been reviewed by the Tekakwitha Executive Board. If you have any feedback on how the “Signposts” can be improved, I would love to hear from you at mcarson@usccb.org

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Rev. Mike Carson