



Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Dear Catholic Native American/ Alaskan Native Communities,

Over these last few weeks we have become a closer community through our shared ability to adapt, to respond and to pray during this stressful time. We have prayed together for an end to this epidemic, for those who are sick, for those who have died and those who are morning.

During the past few weeks I have seen people working hard to support each other, to take care of the poor and elderly. Many have experienced the reawakening of faith in their lives and in the lives of their families. The power and strengths to survive epidemics has been well known in the Native American/Alaska Native communities.

Historically, the Native American/ Alaska Natives have long suffered plagues, disease, suffering and loss. In generations of loss, the Native American/Alaska Native has always come together to support each other, to take care of elders and to face the unknown with faith.

Our most revered saint, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha faced sickness, death and loss in her own family. She is an inspiration to all Catholics that we rely upon the love of Christ through illness and the unknown.

We pray especially to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to help us when we are afraid and feel isolated. Knowing the heartache that illness has caused in her own life, we pray that she might intercede for us to bring an end to suffering.

Rev. Michael Carson