

Signpost

Kateri Circles Vol. 7 Issue 11

November



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.

Amen

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 into this circle.

Direction:

Fall

West

Blue

Sin-Self Centeredness/ Greed/ Covertness

Fruits of the Holy Spirit- Charity/ Kindness/Chasity

Gifts of the Holy Spirit- Good Counsel

Topic:

Pastoral Framework

***3. EDUCATION**

The lack of access to a quality education for some Natives perpetuates a cycle of unemployment and underemployment. Catholic schools are a beacon of hope, but they only serve a small portion of Native American youth.

Resources need to be developed to address the scarcity of Indigenous teachers; these initiatives should include training, incentives to work with Native youth, and other ways to help educators. We encourage Catholic universities to respond to the needs of Indigenous teachers. An important recommendation from the 2019 anti-poverty summit was to develop a teacher recruitment program focusing on Native Americans by using stories and inspiration from Native teachers. Further, summit participants identified a need for a rigorous academic curriculum that is still culturally responsive and for a rigorous national standard curriculum that includes language and cultural elements, such as those currently being implemented by the American Indian Catholic Schools Network (AICSN). In California, for instance, the state-mandated curriculum for third and fourth grades requires instruction about Native People and the missions. In the wake of the canonization of St. Junípero Serra, the bishops of California made a commitment to Native California Indians to ensure that the history taught in Catholic schools and parishes and at the missions is factual, accurate, and complete. The bishops facilitated, together with historical experts, educators, and Native representatives, a revised curriculum for use by Catholic schools and institutions. These efforts will continue to be assessed in cooperation with Native communities.

Finally, local parishes may consider access to educational opportunities for local Native children.

Commentary:

In this section we look at one of the most important cause of poverty and that is the lack of educational opportunities. There are six reasons that many Native schools are not able to help bridge the gap of educational opportunity to job and career advancement.

For many teachers, the placement in a school that is located in remote rural areas are not eager to take this more difficult assignments. Also, because of the low tax base, many schools are underfunded and lack even the basics. Further, there are overlapping jurisdictions that make it hard for schools to work together. There are government schools, Tribal schools and religious schools. There is always the problem of some teachers lowering their expectations when they work with the Native communities. Last, there can be a lack of Tribal support including parent involvement in the educational system. These six reasons do not apply to all Native

communities, but they can act together to hamper the educational system and be a block to Native children going on to higher learning.

Discussion Questions for the Pastoral Framework:

- 1) Why are educational opportunities different from Native children?
- 2) What are the organizations that help Native children?
- 3) How can I help these organizations?
- 4) How does a Native school teach both culture and Native languages?

Discussion Questions for the Church and Indian Country Podcast:

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.

Notice:

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Rev. Mike Carson