

Signpost

Kateri Circles Vol. 7 Issue 12

December

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

4. HEALTH CARE

Indigenous communities face several health disparities, including increased risks of chronic liver disease, diabetes mellitus, accidental injuries, assault and homicide, suicide, and chronic lower respiratory diseases. As a result, the life expectancy for Native Americans is five years shorter than that of non-Indigenous. To address these disparities, Catholic health providers across the country continue to partner with and support Native communities and develop programs to assist them. This work includes programs to improve cancer prevention, treatments, and cure rates for Indigenous Peoples in the Northern Plains; partnerships with the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board to provide health education; COVID-19 vaccination and treatment outreach programs; partnerships with the federal government's Indian Health Service to provide telehealth services on reservations; and the creation of the American Indian Health Initiative in South Dakota as a venue for listening and partnering with Tribal leaders. In addition, Catholic hospitals are working to improve maternal, infant, and pediatric care for Native Americans. Local Catholic communities can partner with the Catholic Health Association system and other entities to improve the health of Native Americans in their midst.

Commentary:

In this section on social concerns, the Framework briefly introduces the vast topic of medical care. Most of the medical care for Natives is through the Federal Government agency the Indian Health Service, (IHS). They are responsible for providing federal health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The IHS provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Their Mission is to provide the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives. They try to work with not only Native individuals, but Native communities and Tribes as well. Like many Government agencies they are constantly unfunded and short-staffed.

Medical care is one of the roles and responsibilities of the Federal Government. It is part of the group of responsibilities for taking the land of many Native Tribes. In this role, medical care is a right for the Native communities.

Discussion Questions for the Pastoral Framework:

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:

Although this was composed by Rev. Michael Carson, the USCCB and the Subcommittee on Native Americans is not responsible for the content. You may use any or all of the “Signpost” 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 The Tekakwitha Conference holds the copyright.

Rev. Mike Carson