

**Signpost**

**Kateri Circles Vol. 8 Issue 1**

**January**



**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:**

**Winter**

**North**

**Black**

**Sin- Hopelessness/ Despair**

**Fruits of the Holy Spirit- Joy/Gentleness/ Redemptive suffering**

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit- Fortitude/ Fear of the Lord**

**Topic:**

**Pastoral Framework**

*Racism*

*Racism is an intergenerational scourge that continues to affect Native Peoples — a scourge that compounds so many other social ailments affecting them. As we wrote in our 2018 pastoral letter Open Wide Our Hearts, “the effects of this evil remain visible in the great difficulties experienced by Native American communities today. Poverty, unemployment, inadequate health care, poor schools, the exploitation of natural resources, and disputes over land ownership are all factors that cannot, and should not, be ignored.”*

*By promoting and developing intercultural competence, the Church can challenge negative stereotypes and emphasize the positive contributions of Indigenous Peoples in the Church and society.*

**Commentary:**

The Pastoral Framework focuses not just on the causes of Native racism, but to the damage that racism causes in Native communities.

- 1) Employment
- 2) Education
- A) Expectations
- 3) Self Identity
- A) Media response
- 4) Pessimistic outlook

**Discussion Questions for the Pastoral Framework:**

**Discussion Questions for the Church and Indian Country Podcast:**

**Closing prayer:**

From the Black and Indian Mission Office:

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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](mailto:mcarson@usccb.org) The Tekakwitha Conference holds the copyright.

Rev. Mike Carson

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