

## **Signpost**

**Kateri Circles Vol. 6 Issue 5**

## **May Signpost**



### **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:**

Spring

East

Yellow

Sin/ Apathy, Sloth

Fruits of the Holy Spirit/ Faith/ Goodness /Modesty

Gifts of the Holy Spirit/ Understanding/ Piety/

### **Topic:**

## **Human Trafficking and Missing and Murdered Women**

### **The MRS Three Planned Strategy**

The two offices of the USCCB, Migrant and Refugee Services and the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs has been collaborating on a three-point strategy to raise awareness on human trafficking and the related issue of missing and murdered women.

The largest obstacle is to develop awareness and programs in a culturally responsive way. Our first priority in this project is to reach out to the Elders and other stake holders in ways we can partner to move this project forward.

The first strategy is to engage Native Catholic schools. We have developed a working relationship with the American Catholic Indian Schools Network. We will begin with the eight schools in the Network, but also expand the program to include the 20 Native Catholic schools that are not in the Network. We will begin a series of webinars on this topic in the summer of 2024 and then, depending on funding, have a week of in-person talks in D.C. in the summer of 2025.

The second strategy is to engage Native Catholic parishes. We will begin with two or three pilot parishes with a series of dialogues to find a way to adapt the material into a culturally responsive way. When we develop a program with the Indigenous leaders, we will help implement it. It is hoped that when we help develop programs through these pilot parishes, we can take the structure to other Native communities.

The third strategy is to engage Native health care workers. Most of the contact of victims first comes through the health care system. We plan to work with the Indian Health Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help augment their programs and see where we can be of help, especially in the pastoral care of victims and victim's families.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) How can I get involved with any of these initiatives?
- 2) How is human trafficking related to missing and murdered Native women?
- 3) What are state and federal programs that I can transform to help my Native community?
- 4) In what ways can I reach out to the Native victims of human trafficking.

### **Discussion Questions for the Church and Indian Country Podcast: Catholic Native Education Part II**

[The Church & Indian Country Podcast- Episode 23 \(youtube.com\)](#)

- 1) What are the problems Catholic schools that work with the Native communities face?
- 2) Why is Native education important?
- 3) What are the issues and concerns that the American Indian Catholic Schools Network should address?
- 4) How can I support Catholic Native education?

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

Rev. Mike Carson