

Signpost

for the GOOD RED ROAD



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. May she who sought out Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament lead us to similar reverence of the Eucharist so that, like Saint Kateri, our last word may be "Jesus, I love You."

DIRECTON

WINTER

NORTH

BLACK

Virtue/ Perseverance

Sin/ Despair



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 onto this circle.

Discussion Item

Who is Christ?

Three sources of what we know about Christ.

The first way we know Christ is scripture, or the bible.

Not all scripture interpretation is good scripture interpretation. As stated in a previous lesson, the Bible has been used to justify dumb and evil things. The most important part of understanding the bible in terms of Christ is to be consistent with believe and faith. Christ is here to love us, and forgive us, not to condemn, (John 3:17), so if we follow Jesus we have to be constant in our lives also.

The second way we know Christ is the traditions of our Church,

Unlike some Christian religions we do not only rely on the bible. Jesus left us his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is power of God in our lives. It is the Holy Spirit that works throughout human history. It is this Holy Spirit that we can seek and learn from. We believe that the Holy Spirit is alive in our lives and alive in the Church. It is the Holy Spirit working and interacting with God's people that make up tradition. Because we are a Church that relies on tradition we are slow to change, but we also try to be Christ's witness to the world.

The third way we know Christ is by personal experience, encountering Christ.

The best way to understanding who Christ is, is through our lived experience. Our everyday live lived in a Christ like way brings us new understandings and a deeper faith. It is like a house that is well built. Our experiences are our foundation of faith.

Christ the person.

Christ lived at a particular time, a particular place and a particular culture. When we understand what the culture of Christ was at the time, it helps us understand Christ's message for us today. .

The three ways Christ impacts our life the most. In John 14, Christ says that he is the way, the truth and the life.

Way:

If we believe that Jesus is God, then what is written about him in the bible becomes the way that we must live out our lives. If we believe wrongly that Jesus was a nice guy, but like Gandhi, Muhammad or any other guy we can believe in him or not. The fact that Jesus is God means that the life he has developed for us comes from God.

The Truth:

All true knowledge is Christ knowledge. Christ gives us a brain to discover knowledge that is already part of Christ. In fact all truth comes from Christ. If it is not truthful then it is not of Christ.

The Life:

Christ has already worked out a plan for our lives. The only happiness and joy that we can obtain is to follow that plan. We use our knowledge and experiences to find out what that plan is. Once we have found out what our plan is, it becomes our responsibility to live it out.

Jesus as Priest. Prophet and King:

In the Old Testament there are three themes ways that God calls people to work with him. They are prophet , priest and king. A prophet is someone who calls people to the Covenant, that is, to carry out their responsibilities to God. A king is someone who rules over the people, guiding them and protecting them. A priest acts as a perfect bridge that connects the Divine realm with the Earthly one.



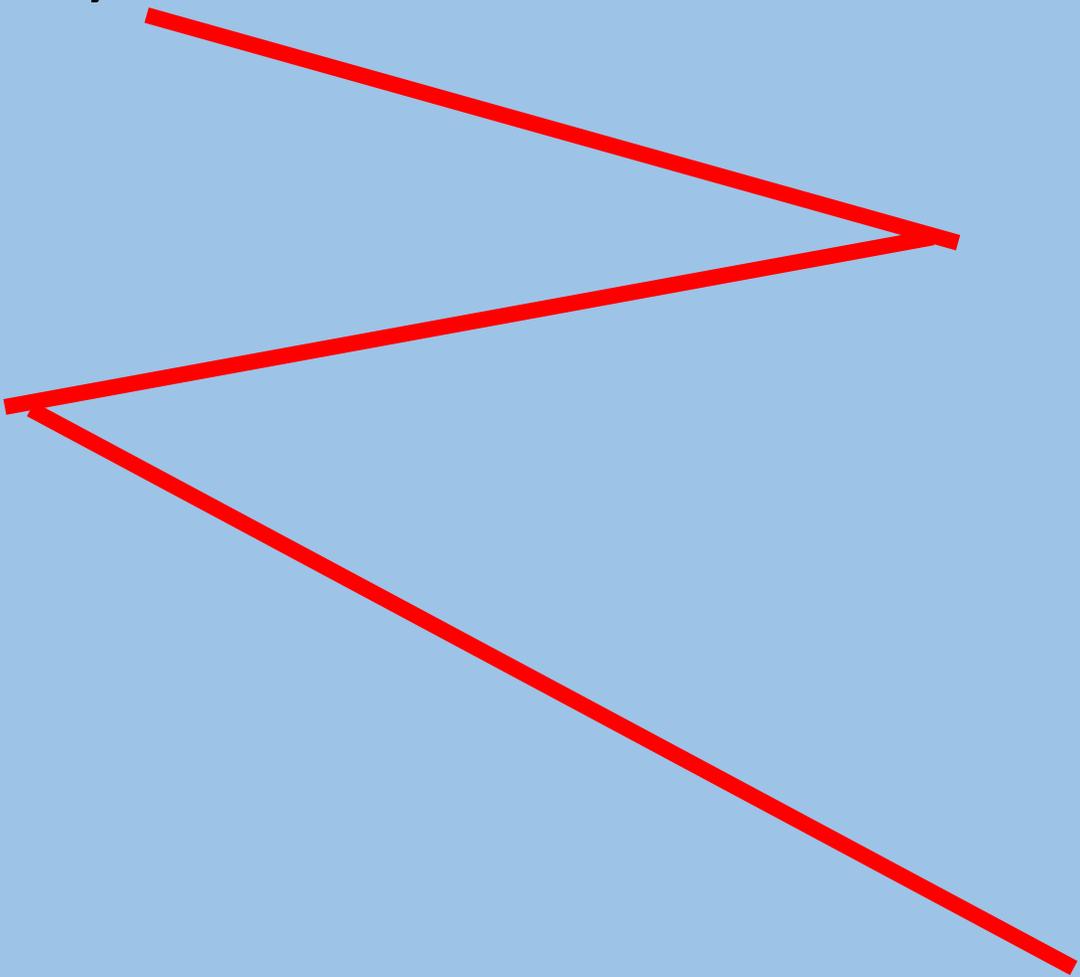
Discussion Questions:

1) Who is Christ for you?

2) How is Christ alive in your hearts?

3) How does your friends/neighbors/community understand God ?

4) How has my understanding of Christ changed over the years?





**Social Justice Thought for the Month:
Native American Human Trafficking.
The Blue Campaign (DHS)**

The Blue Campaign has developed a focus on Human Trafficking in the Native American Communities.

They have developed a number of resources to help Native Americans become aware of the destructive aspect of this enduring crime.

There are three reasons why Native Americans are victimized:

- 1) The false assumption that police in Reservations cannot legally act against Human Traffickers.**
- 2)The isolating of many Native American Communities**
- 3) Cultural and historical distrust of law enforcement.**

The Blue Campaign is all about putting Traffickers in jail and protecting the Native American Communities. The Blue Campaign is willing to send speakers out to your Parish and Circle. Acting together we can put an end to this devastating attack on Native Americans.



Closing payer

A Prayer to St. Katharine Drexel

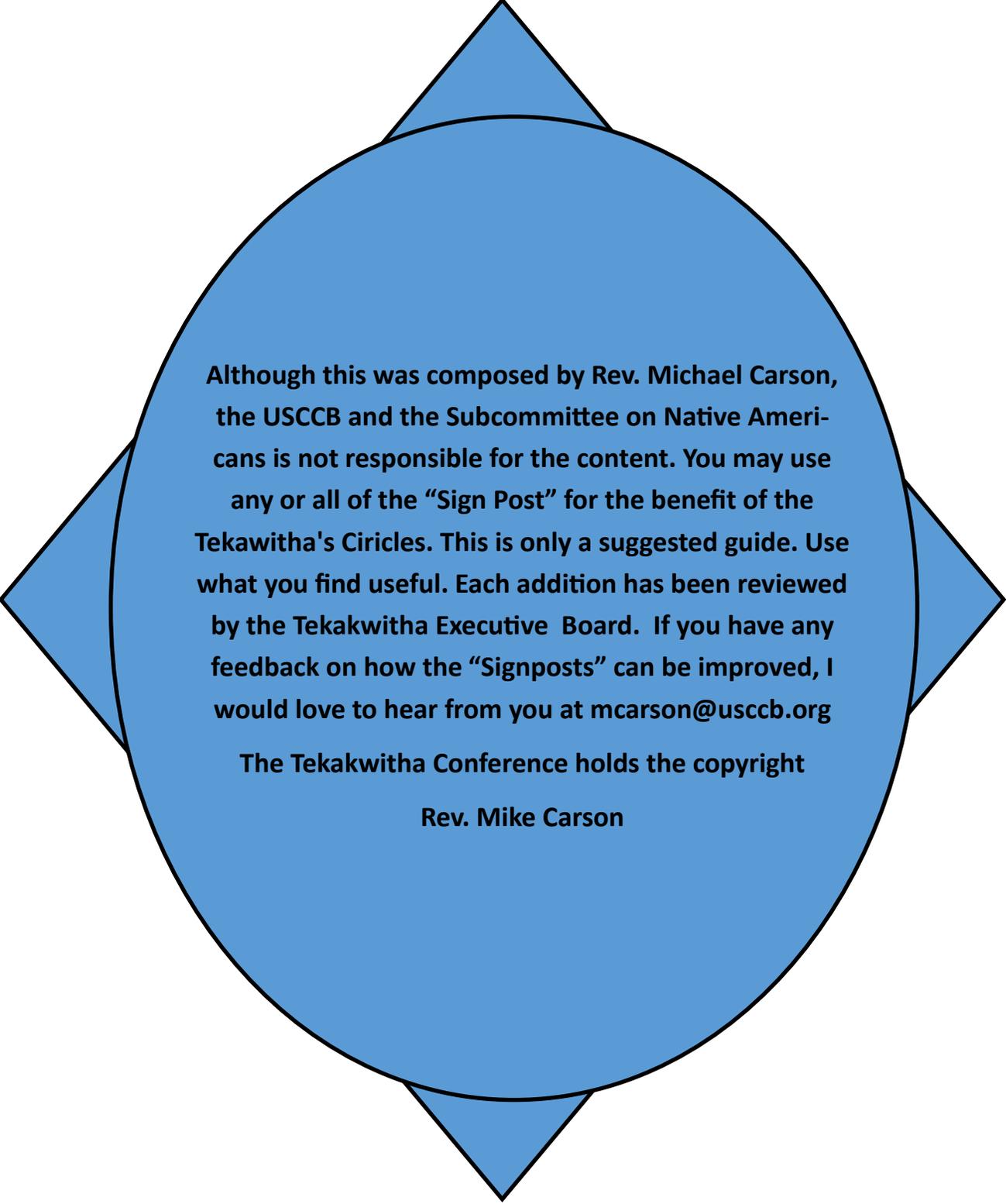
Ever loving God, you called Saint Katherine Drexel to teach the message of the Gospel and to bring the life of the Eucharist to the Black and Native American peoples/

By her prayers and example enable us to work for justice among the poor and oppressed.

Draw us all into the Eucharistic community of your Church, that we may be one in you.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen



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 “Sign Post” for the benefit of the Tekawitha's Ciricles. 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