

## October 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.

**Direction**

**Autumn**

**Fall**

**West**

**Blue**

**Sin**

**Self centeredness/ greed/ covertness**

**Fruits of the Holy Spirit**

**Charity (or Love)/ Kindness/  
Chasity**



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.



## How do you see God?

How do you construct and maintain your image of God? If you picture God in your imagination, how is that image portrayed? Images of God are important because they help us develop a structure of belief. From this belief comes our behavior. Therefore, the image of God is very important to how we live out our lives. The difficulty comes in when we try to use words from this world to describe the divine that is not of this world. Therefore, our words are symbols that only can come close to the divine. It is important to not confuse the telescope pointing to the sun as the sun itself!

There are a lot of images of God throughout history, and throughout the world. Some of those images have led to some very destructive results. For instance, if one's image of God is a judging and punishing God, one's behavior might be one of retribution, anger and unforgiveness. However, if your image of God is loving, forgiving and compassionate, you will probably reflect the same virtues. Some individuals rely only on media, parents, or friends for their image of God. This approach can lead to both theology and behavior that could be very different than that of the Church.

### How do you develop a positive image of God?

Images based on Scripture and the Church can develop a foundation of faith. From that foundation, personal experiences of love and compassion become the cornerstone. Christ tells us that you cannot love what you do not see, if you do not love what you can see. Think of a person who loves you very much, not only in words but in actions. Think of what that relationship means not only to you but also to the one who loves you. That loving and compassionate relationship is the essence of the Divine and how we should see God.

In the Nicene Creed, we proclaim Christ is consubstantial with the Father. That means we do not have to go far to understand how God acts. Everything Jesus did in the Scriptures is what God does. We know exactly how God acts because we know how Christ acts.





**Analogies of God:**

**Not helpful:**

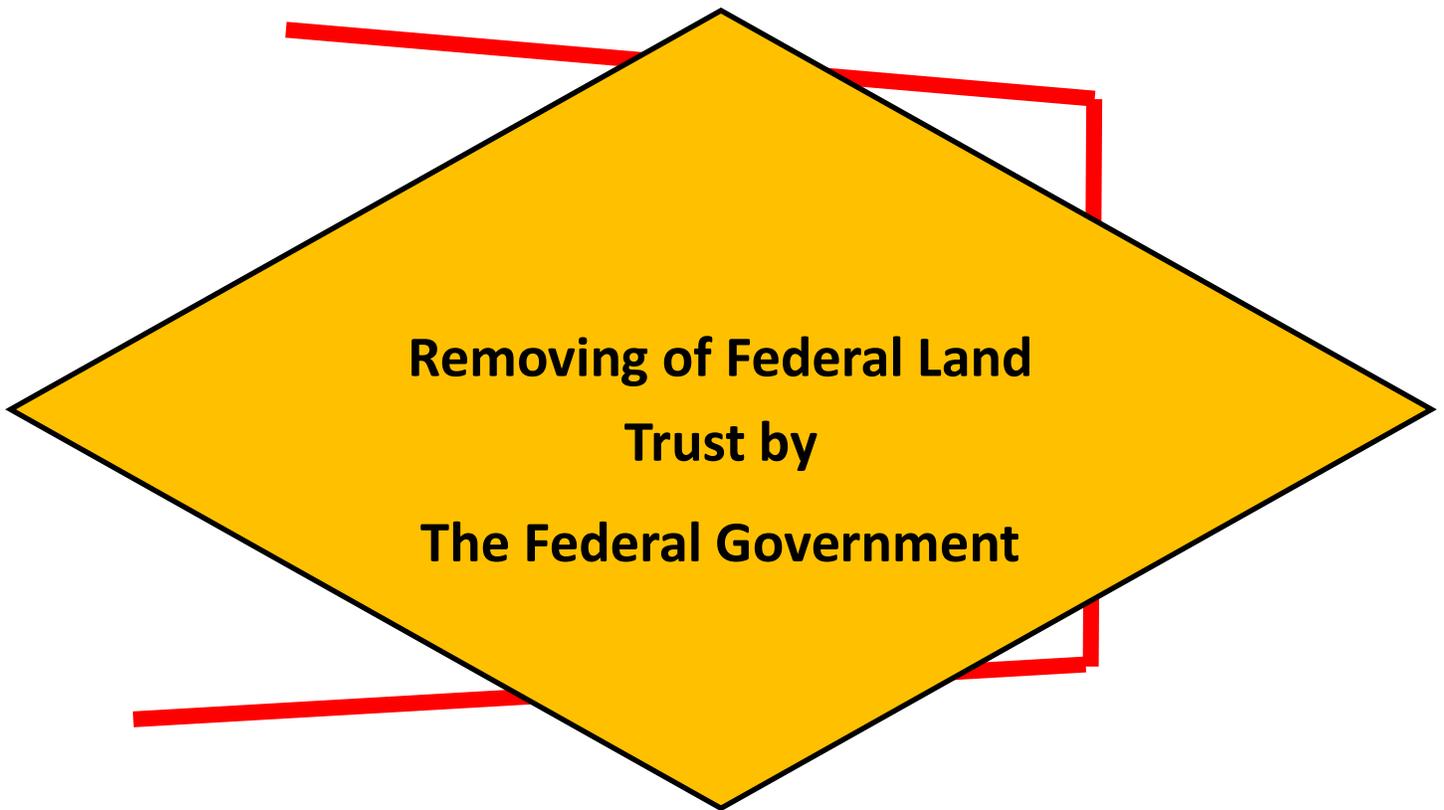
Imagine you are in an IRS Office. You are going through the last ten years of tax returns with an IRS agent. The audit is not going well. The IRS agent is adding up back taxes and penalties. It is coming to a large sum and possible prison time.

**Helpful:**

Now image being at the beach with someone you have loved all of your life. It is a glorious day and you are rejoicing in this relationship. In the conversation with the one you love you are talking about your life, good times and bad. The person who you love is giving you some great advice and words of encouragement.

The Good News is that helpful image of God is that of the Catholic Church. We believe in a loving, forgiving and compassionate God and we carry out these virtues in our daily lives.





## **Removing of Federal Land Trust by The Federal Government**

The Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), 1934, authorized the US Secretary of the Interior to buy land and hold it in trust for purposes of providing land to Indians. It was enacted in order to remove Indian tribes from under the thumb of the federal government and to give the tribes the power to govern themselves.

Sometimes the Federal Government revokes this trust fund without consulting or regardless of opposition from the tribe. When this happens, the results are the end of housing aid, termination of other Federal Native programs, and loss of control over natural resources. These harm tribal cultures and languages. Removal of land trusts also destroy tribal infrastructure, such as tribal courts, police, and tribal schools.

Why does the Federal Government revoke tribal trusts? Revoking tribal trusts happens for a variety of political reasons. For example, it may make it easier for corporations to exploit natural resources, stop casinos, or other types of tribal independence.

The revoking of tribal trusts by the Federal Government violates both tribal sovereignty and the Catholic social justice concept of subsidiarity.

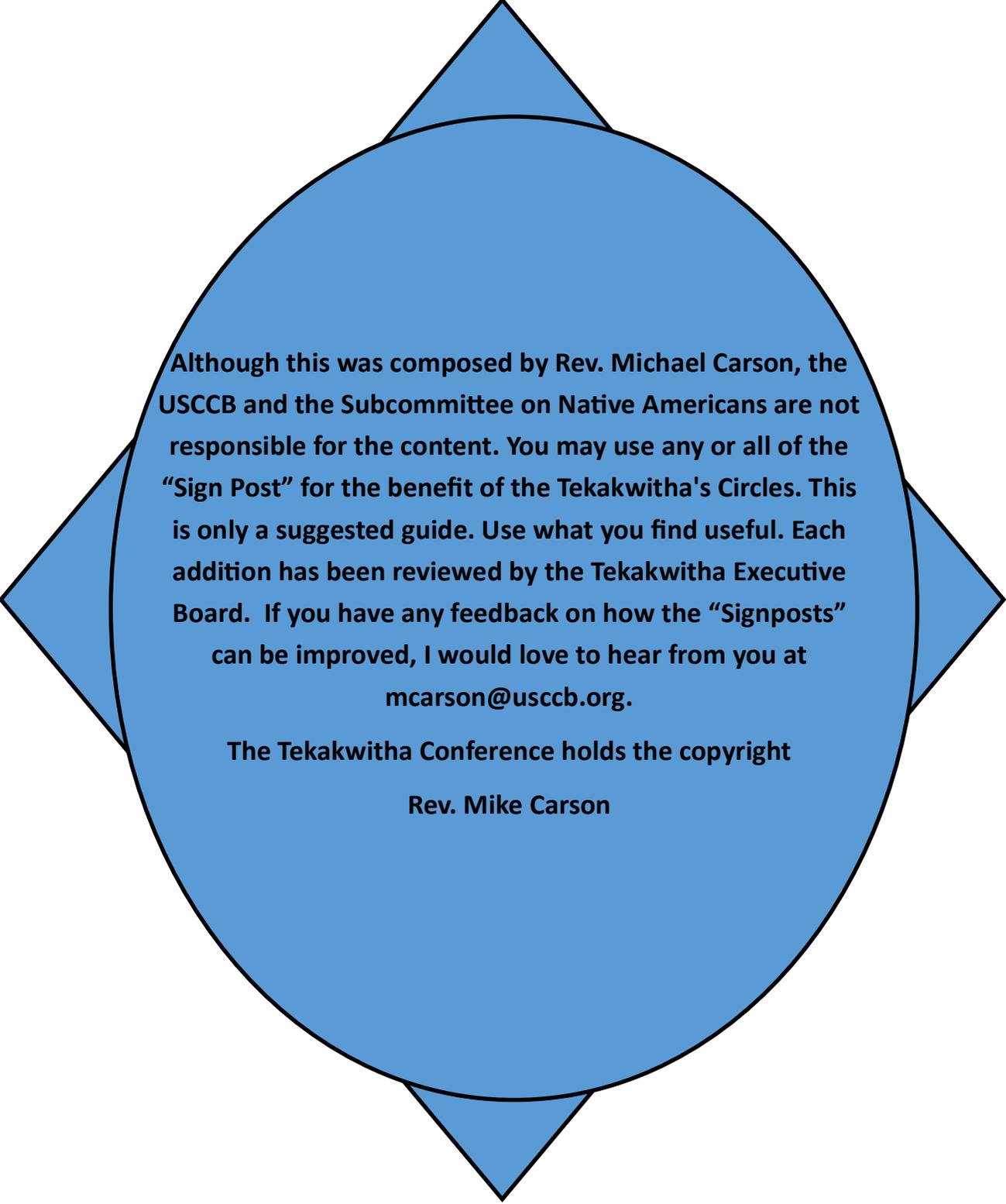


Closing prayer from the Black and Indian Mission Office:

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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.



**Although this was composed by Rev. Michael Carson, the USCCB and the Subcommittee on Native Americans are not responsible for the content. You may use any or all of the “Sign Post” 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).**

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**Rev. Mike Carson**