

## January 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

**Winter**

North

Black

Sin/ Hopelessness- Despair

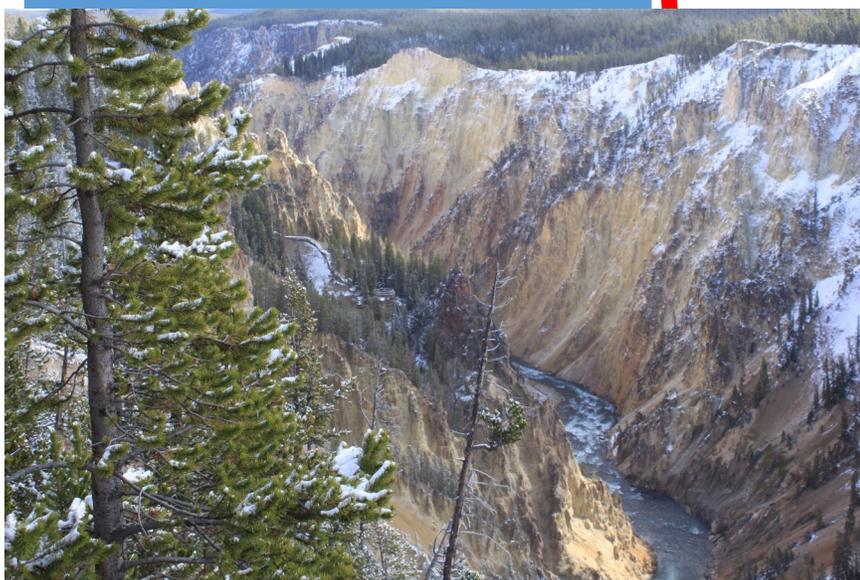
Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Joy/Gentleness/

Redemptive suffering

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Fortitude/ Fear of the Lord



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.



## International Catholic Indigenous Communities

One of the aspects of being part of an Indigenous community, is solidarity with other indigenous communities throughout the world. Although there are vast differences between Indigenous cultures, there are important concerns that most Native cultures share especially Catholic Indigenous.

One of the most important concerns for many Indigenous communities is the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families and raised in Catholic schools. Reconciliation with Indigenous communities transcends borders and is a focus of the Universal Church.

Worldwide Indigenous communities also share a concern about environmental degradation. From the clean water concerns in North America to the rain forests of Central and South America, Indigenous communities are at the forefront of environmental justice.

Indigenous communities share a common problem with racism and historical trauma caused by the sin of racism. The implication of racism includes poverty, mental health and poor education.



## Australia

### Indigenous Australians

Indigenous Australians consist of the Aboriginals and the Torres Strait Islander peoples.

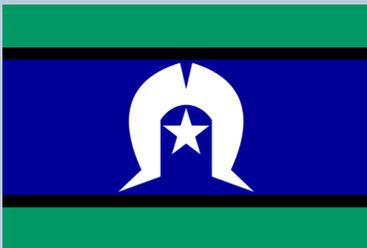
### Aboriginals



Aboriginals are related to the people of Papua New Guinea. They speak over 250 Native languages, however some of the Native languages are dying out. Aboriginal peoples have occupied the same territory continuously longer than most other Native communities. Aboriginals are 3.3% of Australian's population. Some concerns that Aboriginal communities face are the same concerns of other Native Communities throughout the world: a higher rate of suicide, historical trauma, poverty, education and health care. There is also a concern about youth being disconnected from Native culture. Aboriginal Catholics have more than doubled over the last three decades.

### Torres Strait Islanders

Torres Strait Islander peoples live on islands between Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. They are not related to the Aboriginals of Australia.



There are five distinct peoples within broader designation of Torres Strait Islander peoples, based partly on geographical and cultural divisions. There are two main Indigenous language groups. The chief industry is fishing.

## Canada

### First peoples

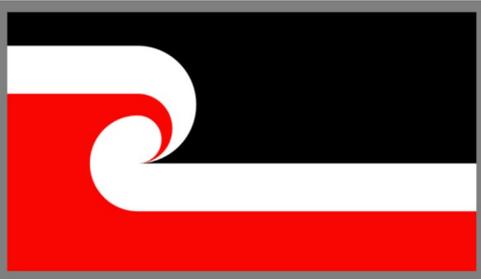


Canada's first people used at least 53 different languages. There are three broad categories of Natives: Together, these are the Intuits, the Metis, (Native and French ancestry) and the First Nations people.

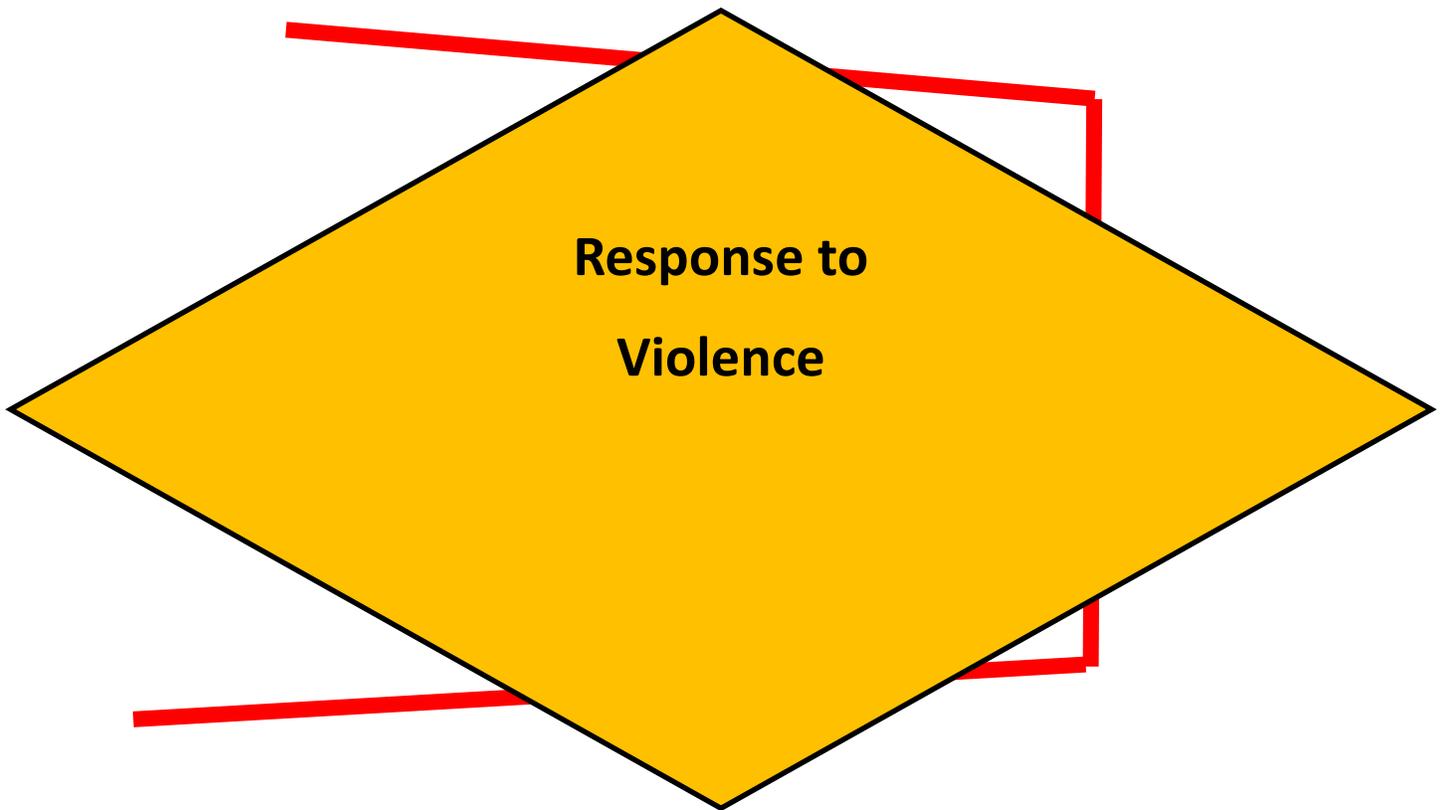
Some of the larger tribes are the Ojibway, Algonquin, Arapaho, Chippewa, Cree, Dakota, Crow, Huron, Iroquois, Nooksack, Onondaga, Ottawa, Passamaquoddy, and Sitka. Tribes have a certain amount of autonomy. The First Peoples of Canada also have a variety of industries, including fishing, farming, tourism and mining. The most important development in the relationship with Canadian First Peoples and the Canadian Government was the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This Commission set up listening sessions with Natives concerning the Boarding School Period. They made several recommendations not only for the Canadian Government but also for the Catholic Church. They are represented in the Catholic Church in Canada by the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council.

## New Zealand

### Māori



The Māori are originally descended from Polynesians, but have developed their own culture and language. They live in all areas of New Zealand, but primarily in the North. Like other Natives around the world, the Māori face significant economic and social obstacles. Over the years they have received more rights and autonomy from the New Zealand government.



## Response to Violence

This comes from a talk by Danielle Sered, Authority on Restorative Justice.

Restorative Justice is centered differently than criminal justice focused on violence.

Restorative justice is:

### **Survivor Centered**

Rather than being focused on punishing the perpetrator of violence, the focus is on the needs of the victims and survivors.

### **Accountability Based**

The work on restorative justice aims to change behavior for everyone involved.

### **Safety Driven**

With restorative justice, causes of violence take priority over punishment.

### **Racial Equitability**

Racism is seen as a major factor to overcome in order to heal communities touched by violence.

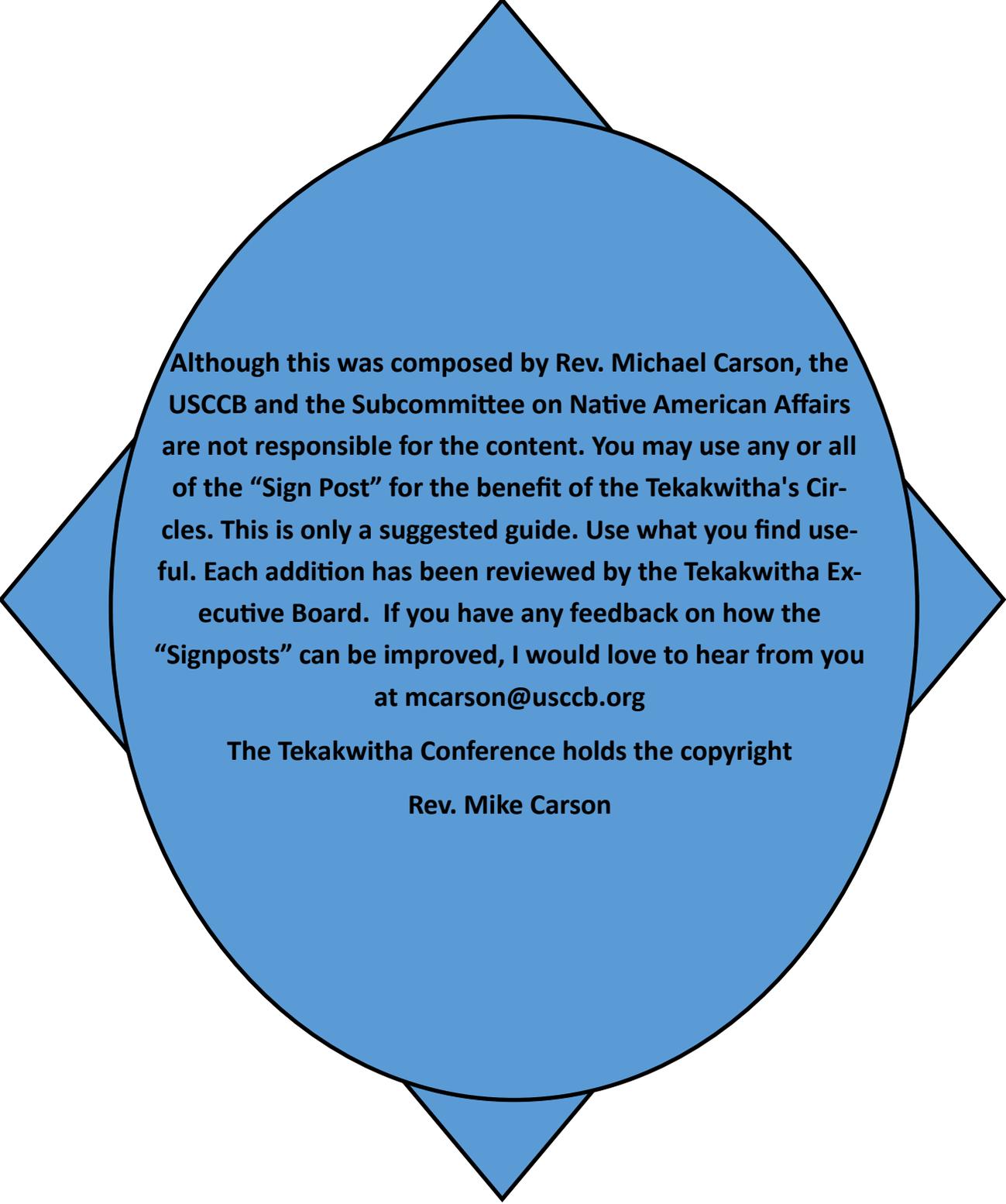


Closing prayer from the Black and Indian Mission Office:

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.



**Although this was composed by Rev. Michael Carson, the USCCB and the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs 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)**

**The Tekakwitha Conference holds the copyright**

**Rev. Mike Carson**