

**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



**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 into this circle.

## Topic:

### Adapting the USCCB Pastoral Framework to the Local Tribal Community

In June 2024, the bishops in the United States will formally adopt the Pastoral Framework: *Keeping Christ Sacred Promises; A Pastoral Framework for Native Americans and Alaska Natives*. This Pastoral Framework was designed to be a general statement of the concerns and hopes of Catholic Native ministry. It is also designed to be a tool to be used for Tribal communities to develop their own Catholic Pastoral Plan to further develop and expand their ministries.

For those who are interested in developing a Pastoral Plan for your Tribe and/or communities the following is set out as suggestions:

#### Step One:

Know the traditions, Native narrative and customs of your local community, especially when it comes to the expressions of the divine. Also know the relationship between your community and the Catholic Church, for good and for bad.

#### Step Two:

Do the research necessary to develop the background of what a Pastoral Plan may look like. Also know the concerns of the Catholic Church in your community and how to address these concerns.

#### Step Three:

Be able to listen to the community, especially the Native Catholic leaders and Elders. The object of the Pastoral Plan is to listen to, correspond with, and carry out the wishes of the local Native Catholic community.

#### Step Four:

Recruit not only those that will work in this process, but also the stake holders that will be affected by the document. It is important to look for specific skills such as leadership, organization and a knowledge based on the history of the community.

#### Step Five:

Develop allies and resources for the project. Not only within the community but also what can help outside the community.

#### Step Six:

Organize your plan in terms of SMART goals or some other format that works for your local Native community. The purpose of the local Pastoral Plans are to advance Catholic Native ministry in very specific ways.

### Step Seven:

With your group work out the logistics. Decide on who is doing what. Organize the tasks that work not only in the Native culture but also what works best within your working group.

### Step Eight:

Write the document. In this writing stage make sure you go back to the Catholic Native community to make sure nothing is lost from what was said. In your writing process, also make sure you have reviewers that are aware of and have worked within not only Native experience but also are aware of Catholic doctrine, traditions and thought.

### Step Nine:

Bring the document back to the stakeholders. There needs to be a way to evaluate your progress and update the changes if and when needed. Any Pastoral document needs to be a living document that accompanies the future years in advancing all aspects of Catholic Native ministry.

### **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

