

## 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.

**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.



## **Missionary Disciple**

In the last few years, it seems like missionaries have revived a lot of ad press. But being missionary has had a long history in our Church. In fact. The Church has elevated many of the Missionaries to Saints. Natives themselves have often been the greatest evangelizers of faith.

To be a good Missionary Disciple is to put Christ first. What is Christ and what is only human custom is one of the lessons Christ preached. It is also very important when it comes to bringing the Good News to others. One of the greatest aspect of reflection and discernment is thinking about both the content and the way the content is expressed.

### **Taking nothing with you**

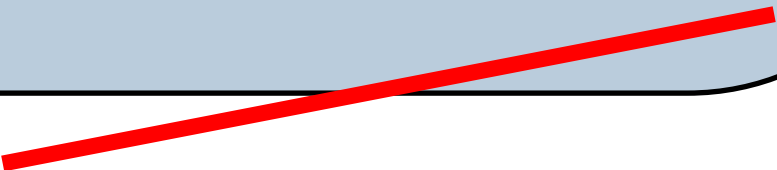
Jesus reminds us that in order to go forth to evangelize, we are to take nothing with you. He does not only speak of physical objects, but ideas, concepts and customs that we hold on to that we mistakenly think of as part of our mission. Our mission is only Christ. Removing all ones mental constructs that are not Christ requires being valuable. It is a in depth examination of what is from your place of origin and what is from Christ. The devastation of some missionaries has been caused by a failure to do so. They have preached divine doctrine that come from mere human origins.

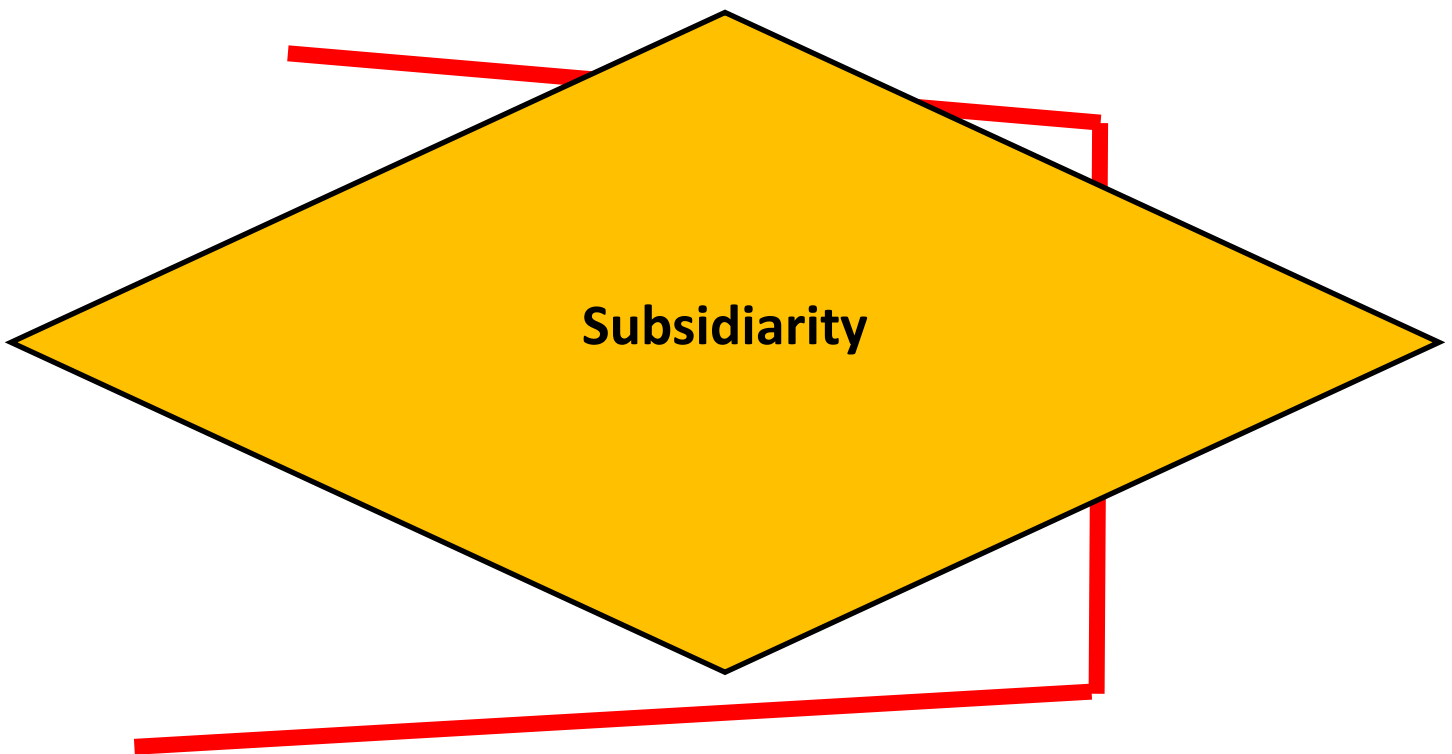
### **Taking only what is necessary.**

In any journey, what you leave behind is not as important as what you take with you. That is important in your spiritual journey of being a Missionary Disciple. The compassion, love and commitment as you bring the Good News forward is as important as the message itself. Living the Gospel is the same as proclaiming it.

### **Not easy**

Both the words missionary and disciple have with it the idea of a life full of sacrifice. All of the Disciples were martyred for their faith. Many of them were subject to not only hardship but indifference and setbacks as well. Missionaries have to go out side of what they know in order to take on the responsibility that Christ has given them. A Missionary Disciple is someone who accepts all of what it means to fulfill the Baptismal Call to proclaim Christ. We know it is not an easy vocation, but our motivation is the love we have for Christ and Christ's human creation.





**In the Catholic Social teaching there is a concept entitled “Subsidiarity”, but what does that mean? How does the importance of subsidiarity reflect on what is important in Native and Indigenous communities?**

**Simply put, subsidiarity is the idea that when ever possible, decisions should be made at the local level. Why? As we get further up in the levels of authority, individuals tend to loose both power and control over the decision making process. Further, the more one is removed from the conditions, concerns and lives of those subject to decisions, the more likely that they will not be taken into account in the decision making process.**

**The concept of Subsidiarity promotes tribal government authority over federal authority. Subsidiarity is at odds with the idea of a trusty relationship that tribes on reservations have. It also addresses the concerns of the local communities over the concerns from outside entities.**

**Because subsidiarity is part of the Roman Catholic social justice tradition, it comes into play especially when decisions are made that have a detrimental effect on Native and Indigenous lives.**

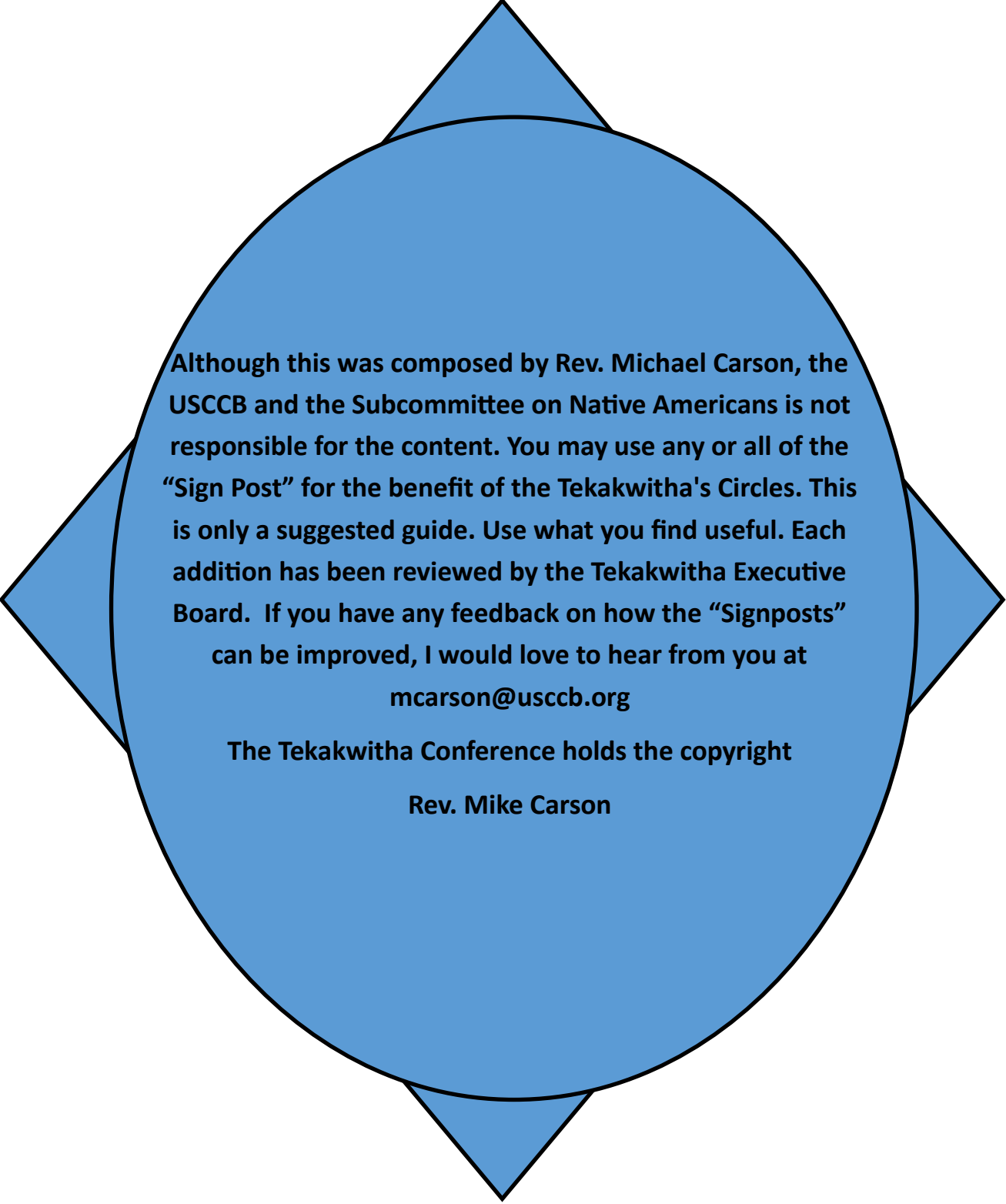


Closing prayer from the Black and Indian Mission Office:

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 Americans is 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**