



**Lakota Victory Christ**

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*Few forms of prayer have more beauty or deeper biblical roots than the Rosary. These three wonderful Rosary Booklets are a great gift to Catholic Native American life, and a valuable tool for reflecting on and deepening our faith. It's a pleasure to warmly endorse them. Read them, use them, pray with them and share them with others.* Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Denver; Potawatomi Tribe

*Using the images of the continent's original peoples in icons is a way of celebrating the spiritual gifts they have given the world. That the Native Americans were caretakers rather than exploiters of the land is wonderfully consonant with the best of Christian thought and tradition.* Fr. John Giuliani

*I believe that Christianity and modern civilization are opposed and irreconcilable, and that the spirit of Christianity and of our ancient religion is essentially the same.* Ohiyesa

*The Rosary is a gift from our spiritual mother, a prayer for all native peoples, for all of God's people. These booklets introduce one to this prayer, to Mother Mary, and to the teachings of her Son. Our Native Peoples are loved by God. God wishes to speak to them, respecting but building upon their ancient traditions and beliefs, toward a fullness of truth. Mother Mary is the bridge. She is the Mother of Unity for all of God's people. We are all her children. She will mend our broken hearts and unite us to the Lord of all Hearts, her Son Jesus. We can only be one as a holy people when we are one in the truth. Listening to her and her Son, we will all walk the trail of a true human being.* The Author

**Booklet Credits/Abbreviations:**

Biblical citations quoted are taken from the NAB, except where noted.

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**Principle References/Bibliography:**

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# The Rosary

## A Prayer For All Native Peoples



### Foundational Edition

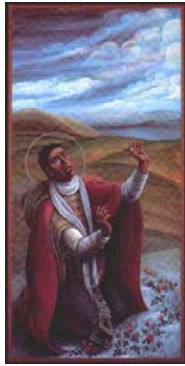
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## God Visits the Native Peoples through His Mother

***“I will suffer with you!”***

### The Story of Guadalupe

In Mexico, during 1531, Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared as a beautiful Aztec woman four times to the Aztec Juan Diego. She revealed herself as the *“the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, the Mother of the one true God for whom everything lives, the Lord of all things who is Master of Heaven and earth.”* It was a message of a Mother’s heart: *“Hear and put this into your heart. Let nothing*



*discourage you. Let nothing depress you. Let neither your face or your heart be worried. Do not fear any illness, affliction, anxiety, or pain. Am I not here, I who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life, the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the folding of my arms? Is there anything else that you need?* She recognized the suffering of the native peoples. *“I am your merciful Mother. I will suffer with you, I will be an instrument and balm for your wounds, I will hear your weeping and your sorrows, I will alleviate your sufferings, necessities, and misfortunes, I will be a mother of compassion, your mother of mercy.”*



She then left Juan a beautiful image of herself on his tilma (cloak), made of cactus fiber, as a sign, which has remained in perfect condition to this very day. But she also asked Juan to go to the bishop and ask that a church be built so her Son Jesus can be honored and worshipped. Many native peoples today travel to Guadalupe, in Mexico, to visit this holy ground and to go to Mass at the church.

Mary is the Mother of Jesus, who is the Son of God, the Word of God made flesh. Because Mary is the Mother of Jesus, she is the spiritual Mother of *all* peoples; she is our universal Mother! And so she comes -- and she has continued to come ever since: to Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal) and many other places and peoples, whenever her children are in need, whenever we have strayed from the teachings of her Son, Jesus. And when Mary appeared to Juan, she appeared to him with child, which symbolically reveals that Christ is to be born among the peoples of the Americas. So the message of the image at Guadalupe is just as relevant today as during the lifetime of Juan Diego, 500 years ago. Pope John Paul II declared Juan Diego a saint of the Catholic Church: *“Blessed Juan Diego, a good, Christian Indian, whom the native peoples have always considered a saint.”* And so, as we learn the Rosary, the prayer of Jesus’ mother, let us pray to Juan for his help.

***“Oh Great Spirit, help me always to speak the truth quietly, to listen with an open mind when others speak, and to remember the peace that may be found in silence”*** (Cherokee).



***Let us ask the spirit of Kateri Tekakwitha for her prayers that we may overcome all our hardships and draw closer to God***

Kateri, declared “blessed” by the Catholic Church, was the daughter of a great Mohawk warrior. She was born in the Mohawk fortress of Ossernenon (in New York). At age 4, when smallpox swept through the area, it left her orphaned, with ugly scars and impaired eyesight. After the fort was burned down, Tekakwitha was adopted by her uncle, who was the chief of the Turtle-clan. While living here, Tekakwitha turned to Christ and was baptized, taking the name “Kateri” (Mohawk for “Catherine”). Her Mother was a devout Catholic. Her extraordinary sanctity impressed her people. Her mortifications were extreme, and attained the most perfect union with God in prayer. Her life was dedicated to prayer, penitential practices, and care for the sick and aged. She took a vow of chastity and practiced her religion with great courage in the face of much opposition and persecution. She died at the age of 24. About 15 minutes after death, her disfigured face suddenly changed and became beautiful with no scars! She has been called the Lily of the Mohawks. Her spirit lives among our peoples.



*We honor our ancestors with her:*

***Blessed Kateri, who loved God above all things, pray for us. Be close to us in time of need, in our daily sorrows and cares. Keep our hearts free from hatred and the evils that surround us and tempt us. May we follow your example in the care for the sick and aged. Help us to follow the wisdom of our people, but foremost the teachings of God’s Son, Jesus, and the Church that He founded. Help us to respect the earth and lands of our ancestors, but forgive all who have taken these lands from our peoples – for if we can forgive those who have injured us, then we know our merciful God will forgive all our transgressions. We ask this in Christ’s name. Amen.***

### Concluding Prayer:

***Almighty God, you have sent your only Son to be nailed to a cross to free us from our sins. Forgive now all who have persecuted our people out of greed and selfishness, hatred and bigotry, and those in the name of religion, have violated your true teachings of love and compassion. May all of our people and creation now live in harmony and peace. Through the power of the Rosary, may people of all faiths and religions recognize Mary, your Mother, as our true spiritual mother, trust in her intercession, and respond to her call to conversion. Amen.***



## Prayers and Devotions

### Let us honor the Mother of God, the Mother of Jesus, Our Spiritual Mother in Heaven

#### God Takes His Mother to Heaven

**If you were God, what would you do for your Mother?** If you had the possibility to have your mother bodily assumed, wouldn't you do it? Yes! No one obeys the 4th commandment better than Jesus. It is fitting and right we give great honor to our Mother. It is the logic of love. Death and corruption of the body is a consequence of sin (Gn 3:19). Yet, because Mary was the sinless and immaculate one, it is right that she does not have to suffer the corruption of the grave. As with Jesus, God will "not allow [His] servant see the pit" (Ps. 16:10). She was preserved from the sin of Adam, because of who she was to be -- the Mother of God; and there is no sin around God. Holy is the Temple of God. Holy is the Ark of the Covenant! Holy is the womb of Mary!

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven gives us hope and confidence that some day we, too, will attain our eternal destiny. On the last day, our bodies, too, will also be united to our soul.

#### Mary is Our Spiritual Mother



**God spoke: "Let there be light!" God spoke and the world came into existence.** We receive our earthly food from "mother earth;" God created the earth, and all the life that comes forth from it. But our *spiritual food* is the Word of God, Jesus, the Word of God made flesh. Mary is the Mother of Jesus, and the spiritual mother of all whom Christ died to redeem, all who receive spiritual life through Jesus! So by giving birth to Jesus physically, she also gives birth to all of God's children spiritually. She truly is our Mother, and Mother of God's Church.

All native peoples are members of this spiritual family, God's covenant, and have a spiritual parenthood - with God the Father. And through His Son and our brother Jesus, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. What kind of family would it be without a mother?

So just as our earth is mother for our earthly goods, Mary is our Mother for our spiritual food! She is a true mother, bringing us forth to a life of grace -- a river of God's grace -- which is God's life within us!

So let us respond to her call. Let us resolve to have recourse to our Mother in Heaven, for her help, spiritual influence, her guidance and wisdom. Let

her instill into our receptive souls the love of God and our brotherhood with all creation. Let us allow her to nourish us with the fruits of God's redemptive graces, to lead us to her Son.



## What is the Rosary?

#### The Rosary is a story

Our people tell stories. Jesus, too, told stories (parables) to help us know the truth. Contained within the Rosary is the story of Jesus Christ, the Son of God the Father, and His message of salvation — recalling the major events in His life—His birth, His childhood, His dying for all peoples, His rising from the dead, and His glorification by our Father in Heaven.

#### The Rosary is a way of life...

... so we can walk the trail of a true human being. It is a model to follow, because the Rosary is a living meditation on the life of our shepherd, Lord Jesus. As we pray it daily, we begin to live His Gospel message that it portrays, to live the life of Jesus Christ.

#### The Rosary is a weapon...

... because the Rosary is a meditation on the Word of God. We can be great warriors in defense of the truth because the Word of God is the "Sword of the Spirit" (Eph 6:17).

#### Why this booklet?

*"While the Christian faith began in a specific time and place, all peoples can nevertheless claim ownership of it ... a single mystery can be approached through diverse cultures"* (Fr. Giuliani). The Rosary is a prayer that can unify all peoples and bring us all closer to God. As we meditate on Jesus' life, we can see the face of Christ through the loving eyes of His mother!

#### Why the beads, why the "mysteries"?

As our ancestors have practiced in song, ritual and prayer, in line with authentic Christian spirituality, we are body-soul creatures. So, it's right and true that we pray and worship with the body and soul, with mind and spirit. The body expresses the whole person, but is disposed to the soul for our self-mastery. So, the beads are there for the body, the body is there for the soul, and the soul is there for the mystery we are meditating on. *The mystery is there to make us holy!*

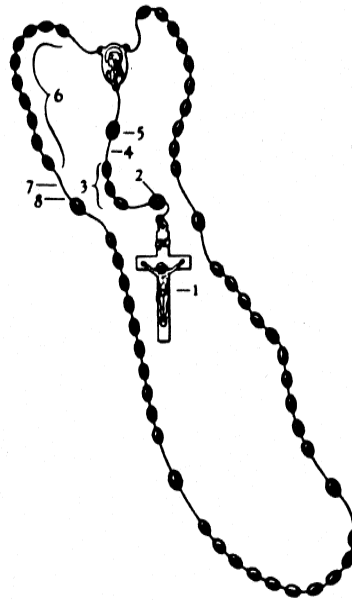
Mysteries? Not all revealed by God can be explained by reason alone; we must rely on our faith in God's Word. For this reason they are called "mysteries."

#### Why the Virgin Mary?

Mary is the Mother of Jesus and therefore our spiritual Mother. Her prayers are most powerful. She is the Seat of Wisdom, for: *"... the honor of a woman's house is in her hands ... we can never overcome the woman, for in her lap lies the child"* (Ohiyesa). *"Blessed are you daughter, God the Most High, above all women on earth ... You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel. You are the splendid boast of our people!"* (Judith 13:18, 15:9).

## How to Pray the Rosary

1. Make the Sign of the Cross; pray the Apostles Creed.
2. Pray the Our Father prayer.
3. Pray three Hail Marys while meditating on the virtues of faith, hope and charity.
4. Pray the Glory Be to the Father prayer.
5. Begin the first Mystery on page 8:  
First pick and read one of the three meditations.  
Then, on this bead, pray the "Our Father."
6. Pray ten Hail Marys while continuing to meditate on your selected meditation.
7. Pray the Glory Be to the Father prayer.
8. Announce the second Mystery.
9. Again pick and read one of the meditations.
10. Again pray the Our Father, ten Hail Marys and Glory Be to the Father prayers on these next set of beads.
11. Continue with the third, fourth, and fifth Mysteries in same way.
12. Pray a closing prayer on this joining point of the beads after all five sets of prayers are done. End with the Sign of the Cross.



## The Prayers of the Rosary

### THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

***In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

In this ancient prayer, we recognize that the one true God, our Father in Heaven, also has a Son, Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, and a Holy Spirit that guides us, and guides the Church that Jesus founded. So while God is One, He has three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the Eternal and Great Mystery. This is the Trinity. We prepare and present ourselves before God, in silence, love and reverence.

### Meditation 2

Just as in the natural world we receive nourishment for life from our mother earth, it is through the Church we receive *spiritual food and life* from the sacraments. They use as signs the things of the earth (bread, water) but these are blessed for God; they become *real signs* of God touching us with life-giving grace. God is *truly* acting in our midst through the ministry of His Church; the sacraments are channels of God's grace from Jesus. We pray for the faith to come to the sacraments knowing that God is present wishing to act in our lives through them. Let's come with our hearts clean and spirit pure so our human nature will be transfigured by sanctifying grace, our souls may shine with brilliance and light before all peoples!

### The Eucharist and the Mass

***Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you*** (Jn 6:53). The greatest event ever occurred at the Cross. It was the moment of our redemption! Here, Jesus gave up His life out of love for the sins of all. But the night before, He celebrated His last meal, the Last Supper. It was a *Passover meal*, which for ages celebrated God's saving action for the Israelite people, recalling how they escaped the slavery of Egypt, and were fed in the desert with bread that miraculously fell from Heaven. A lamb was sacrificed, and they washed in the lamb's blood to cleanse them of sin. But during this sacrificial meal, Jesus did a unique thing. He took the bread and said this bread is now me. *"This is my body which will be given for you"* (Lk 22:19). *He replaced the lamb with Himself.* Jesus was now to be the sacrifice for sin!

At this great moment, Jesus would have wanted us to be present -- present at the Last Supper and at the Cross. But we couldn't. So what does Jesus do? He does the next best thing. He brings it to us. How? He makes it perpetual! *"My name shall be great among the nations, for a spotless sacrifice will be offered in my name from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof... He will be a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek, offering a sacrifice of bread and wine"* (Gn 14:18; Ps 110; Mal 1:10-11). Christ's sacrifice is not limited to time or space, but spans the ages and is made present to us at the Mass! So when we are at Mass, we are at the Cross! And through the Eucharist, we still consume the lamb in a holy meal, but it's the *Lamb of God!* Here we renew our covenant bond with God but with His real flesh and blood, under the appearances of bread and wine. *"Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you"* (Jn 6:53); we then *"come to share in the divine nature"* (2 Pt 1:4) as true sons and daughters of the living God!



### Meditation 3

Just as the Passover meal had to be repeated over and over every year to renew the covenant between God and His people, so it is now in the "New Covenant," wherein the sacrifice of Jesus is *renewed and perpetuated for eternity, year after year, day after day at the Mass!* Christ's once for all sacrifice transcends time and is *re-presented* at the Mass. So what a great event is celebrated at the Mass! The gifts of the earth, bread and wine, made from wheat and grapes, are transformed by the Holy Spirit and become the Flesh and Blood of Jesus Christ! But we must prepare well, wear our finest garments, and cleanse our hearts and minds. We must prepare for the wedding feast! Let us now pray for a greater reverence and respect for the Mass and come to the feast of the Lord. Let us be nourished and fed with the Bread of Life; and on every Sunday because "On the seventh day, God rested" (Gn 2:2). It is the day God made a covenant with His creation! Let us give thanks to God for all he has made!

***Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Glory Be to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit***



## V Becoming A Holy People



### Doing God's Will Through Prayer

What is the sacred path of life? It is doing God's will at all times, in all places, even when the trail is hard and difficult! But, how do we know God's will? *Through prayer!* Many people today say they believe, but they do not pray. Prayer is communication -- if we love someone, we want to communicate with this person; we want to share our inner most thoughts and needs. So, pray not so much to make our needs known to God, but to make known our need for God. We pray not to change God's mind, but to change our mind to His. We pray not to move God to do our will, but to be moved to do God's will. Prayer also leads to faith. Faith is a gift from God, but it, too, has vanished in many people because they do not pray. Fasting and temperance in eating strengthens our faith too, because fasting is a form of prayer. It is a way to say "no" to the materialism of the world and to mortify our senses and desires, just as our peoples have always taught. And so, while many people try to know Jesus by studying Him, it does not matter how many college degrees you have, or how many books you have read; one cannot know Jesus unless one prays. Only then can we walk the sacred path.

#### **Meditation 1**

Let us ask for God's help in prayer so we will be a holy people, ready to do God's will and serve both God and all peoples. Even when it seems that God is not listening, we must not abandon the trail. We must persevere in prayer, just as in a vision quest -- to remain in the eternal presence of the

Holy Spirit Who is everywhere, living in the moment. We must remain in silence, to listen, to attain balance of mind, body and spirit so we can hear when God is speaking. So let us make more time for prayer and not be caught up in the distractions of the material world that surrounds us. Let us go to His Church and pray with others. But let us also go to the mountain, as Jesus did and pray in solitude. But let us always pray with the heart ... and to the Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit. *"Great Mystery, teach me how to trust my heart, my mind, my intuition, my inner knowing, the senses of my body, the blessings of my spirit. Teach me to trust these things so that I may enter my sacred space and love beyond my fear and thus walk in balance with the passing of each glorious sun"* (Lakota).

### The Sacraments

Jesus perfects the revealed religion through the 12 Tribes of Judaism with infused faith, hope and charity by nourishing us with the sacraments, and He gives us His mother to be our own. Catholicism is truly not only the fulfillment of revealed religion, it is the *perfect revealed religion*, perfected by the love of Christ. Jesus calls the Church His bride, His wife, His lover. And the Church calls Jesus her *bridegroom*, her husband, her lover. Jesus and His Bride enter together into the bridegroom's chamber, He and His bride are intimate in their relations, and together they conceive and bring forth children unto God in nuptial bliss. Jesus is the husband, the Church His wife, and the baptismal font, the womb. When the baptized child comes up out of the baptism waters of the font, he or she is emerging from the womb and being born into the newness of Christian life. This is why the Catholic Church is referred to in the female form, as *Holy Mother Church*. *She is our mother!*

### THE APOSTLES' CREED (Adapted Version)

***I believe in God, our Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and all of our lands and peoples, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under the one called Pontius Pilate, was nailed to a cross, died for the sins of all, and was buried. He descended to free those who had died before. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, the seat of power, from here he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church that Jesus gave us, the communion of saints -- our union with the holy ones of God that have gone before us, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.***

The Apostles' Creed is a profession of faith summarizing the teachings of the first of Jesus' followers -- the Apostles. It is prayed in most Christian churches today and affirms what our native peoples too have always believed -- that there is but one God, a supreme power, Who made all that surrounds and embraces us. It also recalls the events of 2000 years ago, when the Father sent His only Son to *all* peoples, to reveal God's plan, so we can do God's will, love and serve Him in the fullness of truth. In the Hopi tradition we learn: *"Truth does not happen, it just is."* There can be but one truth. Therefore, while we can learn great wisdom and truths from nature, only our Father in Heaven can reveal His inner life, His divine and sacred plan for us. This is why Jesus came. In this prayer, we affirm these revealed truths. And, in the prayers of the Rosary we shall learn yet more about God's plan for all of His people.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER -- PRAYER TO OUR FATHER

*Our Father, who art in Heaven,*  
***Our Father, who dwells on High in Heaven,***  
*Hallowed be thy name.*  
***sacred and good for our hearts is your Name,***  
*Thy kingdom come.*  
***Rule over our land and our peoples.***  
*Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*  
***Your will be done in our country, as it is with you up above in Heaven.***  
*Give us this day our daily bread,*  
***Give us this day both our daily earthly food and spiritual food for our peoples,***  
*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*  
***and forgive us our sins, as we forgive all those who have sinned against us.***  
*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.*  
***Protect us from that which will lead us to sin, and throw far from us all sin and evil. Amen.***

This prayer was taught by Jesus Himself (non-bold print: see Lk 11:2-4, Mt 6:9-13). The prayer is addressed to God the Father and contains seven petitions: three are concerned with God's glory and four with our daily needs both materially (food) and spiritually. It's the most universally accepted Christian prayer (bold print is drawn from a Chinook version).

## THE HAIL MARY

***Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.***

***Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you*** (Lk 1:28).

Jesus had a Mother, the Virgin Mary, who God chose from all women to bring forth Jesus. But, she conceived her child through the power of the Holy Spirit, not by a man. Therefore, it is truly God's Son! This prayer is important then, because it recalls this great event, one which we are all called to meditate upon: the coming of Jesus! All the prophecies of the Old Testament Bible were then fulfilled. The Word of God was now made flesh (Jn 1:14), and dwells among us, to bring us the fullness of truth and wisdom, to save us from sin. God has truly visited His people!

***Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus*** (Lk 1:42).

Mary then visited her cousin Elizabeth, who is "filled with the Holy Spirit," and calls Mary blessed among women: "*Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled*" (Lk 1:45). Because of Mary's faith, her obedience, her humility, God has honored Mary. For this, "All generations shall call her blessed" (Lk 1:48). But, how infinitely more blessed was the "fruit of her womb," the source and cause of Mary's blessedness! Jesus is the "Way, the Truth and the Life," the Redeemer of the world, who came down from Heaven. He is the source of all holiness!

***Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.***

Mary is the Mother of God because she is the mother of Jesus, God's Son, a divine Person, both of human flesh and of a divine nature. We also know from our native beliefs that the soul is eternal, and so it is true and right to pray to our friends and family, those with disembodied spirits. The Bible, too, tells us that we are to pray for one another (Rom 15:30), and this includes those souls departed. Those that have died in Christ remain united to God and us, and their prayers are placed at God's feet (Rev. 5:8, 8:3). Our God is the God of the living, not the dead (Mt 22:32). Love is the binding force; we are never separated from Jesus, even in death! We continue in one communion, the "Communion of Saints." And, who better to pray to for help than the Mother of Jesus! Will not the Son listen to the prayers of His Mother?

## GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

This very old prayer, which concludes each decade of the Rosary, is in praise of the three Persons of the Trinity, similar to the sign of the Cross discussed above. It also expresses the truth that God is eternal.

## The Holy Spirit Guides us

***"I've seen that in any great undertaking, it's not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself"***  
(Isna la wica, Teton Sioux).

When Jesus announced: "*I am going to leave you now.*" What would have been your response? Perhaps, "No! Mistake! Don't do it! Don't leave! A lot of people need to be healed! Many need to hear your teachings!" Jesus responds by saying (Jn 14), that if he does not go, the apostles will not receive the Holy Spirit: "*The holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name – he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.*" What was His plan? The Holy Spirit was to do the same thing *through the Church and the Apostles and their successors* that the Holy Spirit had done through Him; healing, teaching, and forgiving people of their sins. So while on earth, Jesus' presence was limited to one place at a time, in Heaven, He can still be with us through the Holy Spirit, working through the Church and the Apostle's successors. The Church will now do what Jesus did, by His authority -- to touch, teach, and heal us!

### Meditation 2

By the power of the Spirit, we as God's children can bear much fruit. He who has grafted us onto the true vine will make us bear the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, self-control. The more we live by the Spirit, the more we will renounce ourselves and "walk by the Spirit" (Gal 5:22, 25; Mt 16:24). Have loving and docile conversation with the Holy Spirit! Let's pray for the light of the Spirit, to speak the truth with sincerity, and pray for an indwelling of the Spirit in our lives.

## God's Spirit Acts in a Special Way through Jesus' Church

*"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God ... you shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength."* This was Moses' cry when God formed the 12 Tribes of Israel into one nation. It's also the prayer Jews recited at every sunrise and sunset. What's happened? For the first time since creation, God is founding a religion *beyond* natural revelation, one based on *Divine Revelation*. He's establishing a *revealed religion*, now telling us exactly how God is to be worshipped, how He is to be followed and understood, how He is to be pleased, and what value He places on all of creation, and on the dignity of the human person, all now revealed from above to us through Moses. He even desires a place where all can worship -- a temple, and tells Moses how it is to be built, what days are sacred and when we should worship. Nothing in the Jewish religion came from the human intellect, or nature alone, but instead from above, from the mind and will of God. And, with the coming of Jesus, the fulfillment of all revelation, the Church of God is perfected. Jesus promises to be with His Church and its leaders that His Spirit chooses, guiding and leading us as a family, so all people can know the mind of God in all earthly matters, guiding us to all truth, so we can walk the trail of a true human being, in truth and love.

### Meditation 3

In this mystery, let us pray for a unity of Christian churches through the unifying presence of the Holy Spirit, so we can all see with the eyes of Jesus, so we are but one tribe, one flock, under the one Shepherd and Chief. *True Christianity is not a religion of the book alone.* It is a religion of the *living* presence of Christ in His Church, guiding, leading, healing, forgiving, interpreting His words in Scripture, through those He has designated as His representatives -- through a living authority, a living Tradition (2 Th 2:15). Only then is there is unity and clarity. Only then we can know the mind of Christ. For this we pray.

***Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Glory Be to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit***





## IV God's Spirit is with us Always

*"We are taught to believe that the Great Spirit sees and hears everything, and that he never forgets: that hereafter he will give every man a spirit-home according to his deserts ... This I believe, and all my people believe the same"* (Chief Joseph - Nez Perce).

*"The Great Spirit does right. He knows what is best for his children. We are satisfied"* (Chief Red Jacket).

*When the day of the Holy Spirit came ... "suddenly a sound came from heaven, like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them." And they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to "speak in other tongues" as the Spirit prompted them to speak* (Acts 2:1-4).



### The Descent of the Holy Spirit

The Apostles prayed with the women and Mary in the upper room (Acts 1:13, 14). Tongues of fire descended from the heavens to summon all peoples to unity. They were then strengthened to go out and teach the truth! Similarly today, as a youth matures, at age 7 or 8, he or she will reach an epoch in life, the age of responsibility and reason, when one becomes conscious of the divine, taking on the responsibilities of the Christian life. One must become familiar with the Holy Spirit, the giver of life. The Spirit increases our faith, communicates the grace of Christ to us, and makes the sacraments fruitful in us by moving our heart, mind, and soul. This is the spiritual life: *a life in the Spirit*, a communion with God, which is the true vocation and destiny of every Christian. We receive the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. We must prepare well for this event -- to be purified from sin by sacramental confession. As in the early Church, the imposition of hands and our anointing with oil signifies the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This one-time indelible mark or "seal" of the Holy Spirit marks our total belonging to Christ, our enrollment in His service and His Church for ever, and a promise of divine protection and increases of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us. *"Recall ... you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts"* (St. Ambrose).

#### **Meditation 1**

Through the Holy Spirit, who is present everywhere, Christ lives on earth, but also in a special way in His new Body -- the Church -- *through us!* Are we ready to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit that will help us to teach and defend the truth, to strengthen us and to inspire us to be great warriors -- to fight on the "battlefields" where sin and error prevail? Are we ready to stand hand and hand with Mary, the Mother of the Church, to work side by side with her for truth, ready to endure whatever pain it brings, even unto death, for the glory and praise of the Lord? Praise God! What a privilege. Come Holy Spirit, come! We pray now for an open heart, so that we too may receive the gifts of the great Holy Spirit.

### CLOSING PRAYERS AFTER THE ROSARY (select one)

#### HAIL, HOLY QUEEN

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

This traditional Christian prayer honors Mary, the Mother of Jesus and recognizes that she will hear our prayers and offer them to her Son. It is an appeal for her aid and guidance. Through her help, we can draw closer to Jesus and reach our Father in Heaven. Just as we receive life from mother earth that God created, we receive spiritual life from our spiritual mother, because she gave us Jesus, the Word of God, Who created all that surrounds us, the source of God's life-giving grace: our spiritual food, a grace that now passes through Mary's maternal hands. So God's life giving grace comes through the loving and nurturing care of a mother. And -- she gives us hope because we know her prayers are most powerful with her Son.

#### Traditional Christian Prayer

*O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has obtained for us the rewards of eternal life, grant we ask of you, that while meditating upon these mysteries of the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

#### Lakota Prayer

*Oh Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so I may see ever so clearly the ways you have to teach me. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and cloud. I seek your strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy...myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame. Amen.*

Chief Yellow Lark



## I The Mystery of Creation

**“God made me an Indian ... The earth has received the embrace of the sun and we shall see the results of that love ... I am here by the will of the Great Spirit, and by his will I am chief”** (Tatanka Yotanka).

**“There’s one God looking down on us all; we are all the children of one God”** (Geronimo).

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth. The Great Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. God said, “Let there be light” and there was light ... God called the light day, and the darkness night. God said,**

**“Let the earth bring forth living creatures, cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth.” Then God created man in God's own image, male and female. “Let them rule over the sea and over the birds of the sky and all the living things that move on the earth. And every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of the earth shall be food for you ”** (Gn 1:1-3, 24 - 29).

### There is One God, the Creator of All

Creation is the making of something out of nothing, out of no pre-existing substance. *God alone is Creator*, who gave a beginning to all that exists outside of Himself. And so, all of what exists depends upon the One who gives it being, the author of life. “In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God ... all things were made through him” (Jn 1:1-3). The eternal Word of God is His beloved Son, for in Him all things were created in Heaven and on earth (Col 1:16). And through the creative action of the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, the “giver of life,” the source of all good, all things come to be. So, the creative action of the Son and the Spirit is inseparably one with the Father. *Creation then is a cooperative, common work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity!* Man was made in God’s image, by a separate and distinct special act, by which God breathed on the face of man who became a living soul (Gn 1:8). As such, we all have the same nature and origin with an inherent goodness and dignity, and with a God given right to lead a life that is fully human. Our God then is not just the God of the white man, or the red man or any other color of skin; he is the God of *all peoples*, for he made us all. All who unjustly persecute, discriminate, or hold captive a peoples or their lands are accountable to their Creator.



Photo by Author

### Meditation 1

Meditating, we recognize that cruel offenses against human dignity such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment or degrading working conditions poison a civilization and debase the perpetrators more than the victims, and militate against the honor of the Creator. But, the teaching of Jesus demands we forgive our enemies, those who have injured us, and pray for those who have persecuted us (Mt 5:43-44). We pray: *O Wisdom, O holy God, ruler of life, desire of the Indian Nation, you govern all of creation with your strong and tender care, come show your people the way of salvation. Stretch out your mighty hand, O splendor of eternal light and true joy of every human heart, and shine on all captive peoples, on all nations. Come and save us your creatures fashioned from the dust of the earth.*

## Jesus rises from the Dead, then Ascends into Heaven

**“All the dead men will come to life again. Their spirits will come to their bodies”** (Wovoka, Paiute).

**“It is written that Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead on the third day”** (Lk 24:46).

Our souls will one day be united to our bodies and we will rise to new life. *“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me even if he dies will live.”* Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day” (Jn 11:25; 6:40). After the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the Apostles continuing to teach them and explain why all these events had to take place. *“I came from the Father ... I am leaving the world again, and going back to the Father.”* (Jn 16:28) Then, returning to the Father, he ascended into Heaven: *“He was lifted up before their eyes, and a cloud took him from their sight”* (Acts 1:9).

What's the significance of the Resurrection? The Resurrection was not just some great event, but it drove despair from the world and gave us hope! It also gave the Apostles courage - they had reasons for believing. Afterwards, they went out and boldly preached with great joy - even at the risk of death. And so should we.

### Meditation 2

Jesus didn't point the way to Heaven, He is *The Way* and our strength for our trail in life. And when we reach the end of this divine path, if we are faithful, we will find our reward, for *“Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, what God has prepared for those who love him”* (1 Cor 2:9). Our time on earth is short compared to eternity; for the number of grains of sand on earth do not total even a single day in eternity. We must use our time wisely. We're destined to die once, and after that to face judgment (Heb 9:27). So we decide our eternal destiny in a single lifetime. But we have always been taught not to fear death. Fear instead only that which will separate us from God (2 Cor 5:8; Mt 25:46). *“When it comes time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death ...Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home!”* (Mohican).



## Jesus Forgives all Peoples for their Sins

**“Thus it is written, that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all the nations”** (Lk 24:46).

When Jesus healed the paralytic (Mt 9:6), he told the crowds that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sin. After the Resurrection, he then passed on this authority to His Church: When Jesus appeared to the Apostles, He said: *“ ‘Peace be to you! As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them: ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you shall forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained’ ”* (Jn 20:21-23).

### Meditation 3

There are only 2 places in the Bible where God breathed on man: in Gn 2:7 when He created him, and here, when He passes on the authority to forgive sin to His Church. Why did He do this? Why not go to Jesus directly? Remember that sin not only hurts God, but also those around us. Therefore, it is through Jesus, and through the Church He founded that we can all receive full pardon and reconciliation; so we are reconciled to both God and the Church, His body on earth. In this mystery, let's pray for the grace to feel sorrow for sin, asking God's help to walk a straight path once again.

***Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Glory Be to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit***

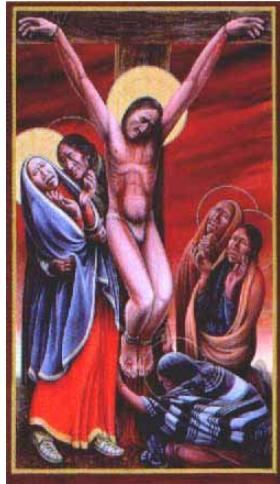


### III God's Son Dies for Us, and Then Rises

*“Our land is everything to us... I will tell you one of the things we remember on our land. We remember that our grandfathers paid for it - with their lives”* ( John Wooden Legs, Cheyenne).

*“The ground on which we stand is sacred ... It's the blood of our ancestors”*(Chief Plenty Coups, Crow).

*Jesus would say: I know your pain. I experienced your pain and suffering with you, but your pain is not wasted when joined to mine. Enter into my wounds. Let us renew the world. Let us forgive all those who have injured us, those who have taken our lands and food, and caused us great pain in the heart. I love you. My Mother loves you. My Love is all that matters.*



#### God's Son Jesus Dies for all Native Peoples

Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Man. He has both a divine and human nature, a man like us in all things except sin. And because He was incarnate, God in the flesh, He could make up for the infinite debt we've contracted from sin. So Jesus died for us. He freely suffered, making satisfaction for sins. But it was not the case of substitution, that is, of an innocent man who is punished for the sins of the guilty. This would be cruel and unjust, even if Jesus volunteered for such a fate. Neither was it the case of the Father expressing anger toward His Son, as if He had sinned. No! While He suffers that Jesus went through the material element, it is His *compassionate love* for us the guilty that is the principle that makes the material element of His sacrifice adequate and effective. *It was an obedient, but voluntary free will act!* So, except for Jesus' desire to please His Father and to save us, He would not have had to die. Christ loved us and handed Himself over to the executioners as a sacrificial offering to God for all. For *“no one has greater love than this,*

*to lay down one's life for one's friends”* (Jn 15:13). Thus God respected both justice and mercy, satisfying the requirement of God's justice, but through His mercy too. God's justice is serviced by God's mercy.

#### Meditation 1

Jesus, our savior from sin, offered us forgiveness, a new life, an *eternal* life, liberating us from the burdens and materialism of this world, giving us a reason for hope – *through the Cross*. Our hope is in the Cross. It's here where we can apply the teachings of our ancestors where we learned the importance of being loyal to our family and clan whose blood is in our veins, to free ourselves from selfishness, and to value friendship, a test of our character. In time we also gain a life and death brother-friend and we are willing to die for Him. This too is the lesson of the Cross: *“If anyone wishes to come after me he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it”* (Lk 9:23-24). Do we love pleasure and comfort, or flee from that which may cause suffering? Do we complain or blame? Without the cross in our life, we will not bear good fruit. The road to Heaven must be marked with the sign of the Cross. We, like Jesus, must also forgive our enemies, as Jesus did from the cross: *“Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”* (Lk 23:34). *“If you love only those who love you, what merit do you have? Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends his rain on the just and on the unjust”* (Lk 6:32; Mt 5:44-6). The cross teaches us that suffering is redemptive. Let us unite our daily sufferings with Jesus, enter into His wounds, and pray now for the grace to carry our cross!

### Stewardship and Respect for Life

*“ [The] words from the past tell us of the pain and loss the children of the earth feel in our hearts and express our concern for, not only our future, but the future of the world as we watch the land being raped in the name of progress”* (Santana, Kiowa Chief). *“The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth”* (Chief Seattle). *“We must protect the forest for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees”* (Qwatsinas, Nuxalk Nation).

God has given the power of freely sharing in His power by entrusting our peoples with the responsibility of subduing the earth, and having dominion over it (Gn 1:26-28). But we have always understood that this sovereignty is not arbitrary, or a destructive domination. All human beings are sacred, made in the image and likeness of their Creator who loves all that he created and exists. We are called to love all that God has given us -- to take on the responsibility for the world God has entrusted to us.

#### Meditation 2

Meditate on the sacredness of life from conception to natural death: *“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you”*(Jer 1:5). *“The one that matters most are the children; they are the true human beings”* (Lakota). *“Your children are not your own, but are lent to you by the Creator* (Mohawk). *Out of the Indian approach to life there came a great freedom, an intense and absorbing respect for life, enriching faith in a Supreme Power, and principle of truth, honesty, generosity, equity and brotherhood* (Luther Standing Bear, Ogala Sioux). Let us also follow the example of our ancestors and teach others to respect the plants and creatures of the land and sea. We must set the example! For *“only after the last tree has been cut down, only after the last river has been poisoned, only after the last fish has been caught, only then you will find that money cannot be eaten”* (Cree). Let's glorify God in every sunset, in every tree, and in every creature; our hearts soaring like an eagle -- we give thanks for all that God has given us.

### God Reveals Himself through Nature, the Prophets, and then Jesus

For ages, peoples have felt a desire to know and draw close to God, and have given expression to this desire in their religious beliefs, rituals and prayers. Ever since the creation, God's invisible nature, His eternal power and deity has clearly been perceived in the natural things that God has created around us. Our ancestors have known this, perhaps better than anyone. But, for us to be able to enter into real intimacy with God, God willed both to reveal Himself to us, and to give us the grace of being able to welcome this revelation in faith. We need to be enlightened by God's *supernatural* revelation, that which is *beyond* nature, especially religious and moral truths -- truths that are not beyond reason so they can be easily known by all, with firm certainty, and without error!

#### Meditation 3

Over time, many have said: “I am from God, listen to me.” How would we know? Has God revealed Himself to us? One would expect that God's representative would be pre-announced and that he should have certain powers to work miracles, not so much to astound us, but as signs and proofs that he can do things that only God can do, beyond nature. Lastly, His teachings must never be contrary to reason -- above reason, yes, but not contrary to it, and that they follow the aspirations of the human heart. *Only one can meet this test, the person of Jesus Christ!* And God accomplishes this through the native tribes of Israel and their prophets; people chosen to bring forth the Savior for all peoples. Let's pray that God's revelation will reach all our native peoples, in our lands, and in lands far from us.

### Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Glory Be to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit

## II The Mystery of the Incarnation; God becomes Man

### *Be Joyful! God has visited His People!*



*“We give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way”* (Sacred Ritual Chant).

*“The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He said, ‘Hail full of grace, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women.’ She was greatly troubled ... The angel said, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High*

*... The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.’ Mary said, ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her”* (Lk 1:26-38 RSV).

### **Through an Angel, God announces He is sending His only Son!**

Mary has been chosen to be the Mother of God’s Son, as foretold: “A virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Is 7:14). But the angel does not leave until Mary gives her free will consent: *“Be it done to me as you say”* (Lk 1:38). God awaited His arrival on earth for the “yes” of the Virgin Mary, the one predestined and prepared to be the mother of Jesus. What a moment! All humanity was waiting, all of Heaven was standing by breathless! Would she say “yes” or would she say “no”? It hinged on her surrender. If she will abandon her will, her mind, her faculties, her body, her entire life, and place it at the bequest of the Holy Trinity, then salvation will come as God has decreed and designed. She did say “yes”! Now all things were possible for us because she, uninhibited by sin, untainted by anything evil, deprived Satan of a foothold within her. God now takes on human flesh; He becomes incarnate in the womb of Mary.

Holy is her womb. Holy is Mary, God’s mother. All generations will call her blessed! (Lk 1:48).

### **Meditation 1**

Why did God choose Mary? Mary knew she was a child of God, but she was also very humble, that is, acting on the truth about God and ourselves. She submitted herself to the Father’s will: *“Be it done to me according to your Word.”* The creative power of the Holy Spirit now has a willed providential dependency on Mary! Mary did something upon which God depended. How profound! And, we too can cooperate in the creative work of God. But for God to work through us, like Mary, we must be open to God’s will. We also learn of Mary’s role as our Mother. For just as the Holy Trinity decreed to come into humanity only through Mary, and only in response to her surrender, how do you think God wishes to be formed in each one of us spiritually? If humanly He would only come through Mary, then except through this same mother given to us by Jesus on the Cross: “This is your Mother!” (Jn 19:27), this is the way that God has decreed we should enter into divine life, the family of God, into Heaven itself. *Her Son’s work and her own are forever linked.* So let us now ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide us, to strengthen and console us; that we will submit ourselves to the will of the Holy Spirit, as Mary did, to accept all that will happen to us – for submission to the Spirit is the secret of walking the sacred path!

### **The Birth of Jesus**

Mary and Joseph searched for a refuge, but no one offered them shelter from the cold. So they were led to a place where animals were kept and fed. There Mary gave birth to God’s Son. An angel announced the birth to the shepherds: *“I proclaim to you good news of great joy ... a savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord ... Glory to God in the highest ... peace to those on whom his favor rests”* (Lk 2:10-11). God’s glory then shown forth in the sky: a star appeared, so bright, it could be seen both day and night, its rays of light over Bethlehem, leading others to travel great distances to worship in silence, love and reverence. But *why did Jesus come?* Sin is a serious matter! So great is sin an offense against God, humans cannot make up for these transgressions. Only God can, since we’ve offended someone of infinite dignity. Our debt is infinite; a debt we cannot make up for or trade for. So God sent His divine Son as a sin offering for all, to reconcile all peoples to God. God became man so we can be redeemed from without, but also from within, otherwise our salvation would have no relationship to human nature.

### **Meditation 2**

Let us pray for a rebirth of Christ in the hearts of all peoples so that those in sin may be made straight again, to once again walk the sacred trail of life. But also, as we pray, we share the joy Mary must have felt in giving birth to Jesus, forming Christ in her own body. Her joy now is to form Christ in our souls! If Christ be ours, all that He has is ours, so too then His Mother. So, let us now pray to become pregnant with Christ’s Spirit, giving Him new lips to speak of His Father, new hands to feed the poor, and a new heart with which He may love everyone, even our enemies!

### **The Ministry of Jesus**

*“We do not want riches, we want peace and love”* (Red Cloud).

**Jesus:** *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek for they shall possess the earth. Blessed are they who mourn for they will be comforted. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven”* (Mt 5:4, 6-12).

### **Meditation 3**

The poor treatment of our peoples were often from Christians who did not follow the 10 Commandments; they did not follow Jesus’ teachings. When Jesus came, He did not do away with God’s early law, He came to *fulfill* the law, to give us words to live by, to write the law *on our hearts*, not just on stone. Love of God, love of neighbor, to share the fruits of our labor with those less fortunate, free from pride, cupidity, or envy -- these too are the teachings of our peoples. Let us now pray that we may bring the love of Jesus to others, recognize the need of our neighbor, and pray for those who have persecuted us. *“For if you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you?”* (Lk 6:32). So: *“Love your life, perfect your life; beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people ... Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and bow to no one.”* (Tecumseh – Shawnee)

***Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Glory Be to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit***