

Sentinel

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78th Annual Tekakwitha Conference



NATIONAL CONVOCATION:
THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

REMEMBERING
MONSIGNOR PAUL LENZ

SAINT OF THE MONTH
ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

Sentinel

News of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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*To further the interests of the
Catholic Indian Missions in
the United States*

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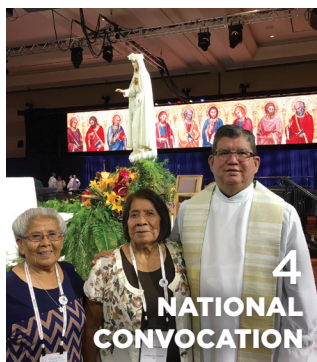
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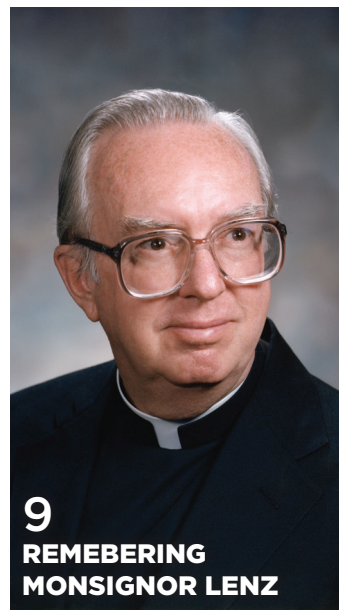
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REMEMBERING
MONSIGNOR LENZ**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am writing this article on a September afternoon that is very summer like. Fall is my favorite season, and I wish to offer special greetings to all of our students and education professionals and volunteers during this season in which you have embarked upon a new academic year. May the Lord abundantly bless you and pour out his grace upon you and grant you much success.

We are pleased to continue our tradition of highlighting the annual Tekakwitha Conference. This year's Conference was held in Rapid City, SD. The Lakota people, in collaboration with the local Conference Planning Committee, were very warm, generous and attentive hosts. A very special and unforgettable highlight of the Conference was the day trip that everyone made to the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills.

With gratitude, we remember Msgr. Paul Lenz, who ended his earthly journey at the age of 91 on May 14, 2017. Msgr. Lenz served as the Executive Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions from 1976 to 2007. The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions is one of three organizations that make up the Black and Indian Mission Office. I was blessed to know Msgr. Lenz as a close friend and mentor, and it was an honor to be a concelebrant at his Funeral Mass, which was celebrated on May 18, 2017, at his home parish of St. Demetrius Catholic Church in Gallitzin, PA. Msgr. Lenz' obituary is included in this issue.



We also remember Mrs. Anne Scheuermann, who ended her earthly journey at the age of 90 on June 14, 2017. Anne had a great love for St. Kateri Tekakwitha and for Native Americans. For many years, she generously served as the expert and indefatigable official photographer for the "Cross and Feathers" newsletter of the National Tekakwitha Conference. Anne's obituary is also included in this issue.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you for your prayers, financial offerings and other forms of assistance that you so generously and consistently offer in support of our mission. Commending you to the prayers and protection of our Blessed Mother Mary, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Katharine Drexel, and all of the saints, I am,

Yours in Christ Our Lord,

Fr. Henry Sands

“The Convocation of Catholic Leaders: THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN AMERICA”

“The Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America” was a four-day conference that took place in Orlando, FL this past July 1 through July 4. This special one-time event was convened by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to provide Catholic leaders from across the United States with a joyful experience that would set them on fire so that they could go forth as missionary disciples and proclaim Christ’s message of salvation to the people residing in their local dioceses and in the whole world.

The Convocation was attended by 160 bishops and more than 3,500 delegates from 155 dioceses and more than 200 Catholic organizations. Bishops, priests, men and women religious, and lay participants spent the four days of the Convocation participating in liturgies, prayer and devotional services, plenary sessions, and breakout sessions in which they heard panel presentations and participated in small group discussions.

The Black and Indian Mission Office was one of the major sponsors of the Convocation, providing scholarships for many African American and Native American delegates who attended the Convocation as members of their respective diocesan delegations. Fr. Henry Sands, Executive Director of the Black and Indian Mission Office, was a panelist in two of the many breakout sessions offered at the Convocation. His participation in the “Reaching Out to All Cultural Families: Healing the Experience of Exclusion” breakout session provided him with the opportunity to speak about the negative impact of the difficult experiences of exclusion on Native American and African American Catholics and to also speak about his own experiences of God’s grace and healing in his life.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC PRAYER BREAKFAST

Since 2004, more than 1,000 people have gathered each year for the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast to pray for our country. The Black and Indian Mission Office participated in the 13th Annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, which began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Most Reverend Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, from the Archdiocese for the Military Services, was the keynote speaker for the breakfast. He spoke about how authentic virtues build up a nation and tomorrow is built from the wellspring of virtue. Vice President Michael R. Pence, as the special guest speaker, encouraged everyone to pray with confidence for our country because America matters as “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Mother Olga of Sacred Heart, founder of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, was the guest speaker. She sang a song of peace and prayed that the gathering be a renewed commitment to rekindle the spirit of cooperation in the nation.



78TH ANNUAL TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

THE 78TH ANNUAL TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA. "LOVING ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF ST. KATERI" WAS THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE. THE PARTICIPANTS RENEWED THEIR FAITH AND REINFORCED THEIR CATHOLIC IDENTITY. THE CONFERENCE HELPS NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES TO ADVOCATE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, BUILD A STRONGER CATECHESIS, PROMOTE HEALING THROUGH FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION, AFFIRM PRIDE IN INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND EMPOWER CATHOLIC INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.







REMEMBERING MONSIGNOR PAUL LENZ (1925-2017)

Reverend Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, a resident of Sacred Heart Home in Hyattsville, MD, formerly of Gallitzin, PA, died on May 14, 2017 at the home. He was 91. Born December 15, 1925, in Gallitzin, the son of the late Raymond M. and Aimee (Gillen) Lenz, he was preceded in death by brothers Francis, John and Glenn. He is survived by brothers Richard (Arlington, TX) and R. Raymond (Cresson, PA) and numerous nieces and nephews. Monsignor Lenz attended Altoona Catholic High, St. Vincent College and Seminary in Latrobe, PA, and graduate school at Penn State University. He studied a year at the *Instituto de Idomis* in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and served as a missionary for four years in Paraguay, South America. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown on April 2, 1949, by the Most Reverend Richard T. Guilfoyle and served in diocesan parishes at Newry, Johnstown, Coupon, Chest Springs, Loretto and Bellefonte.

Monsignor Lenz taught theology at St. Francis University and Mount Aloysius College. He was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity, by St. Vincent Seminary in 1983. He was a former member of the Board of Trustees of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and of Xavier



University of Louisiana; and served on the Board of Regents of Immaculate Conception. In April 2007, he retired after 31 years as the National Director of the Catholic Church's Black and Indian Mission Office, the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and the Catholic Negro-American Mission Board in Washington, D.C. When the Indian Mohawk Maiden, Kateri Tekakwitha, was beatified at the Vatican in Rome on June 20, 1980, Monsignor Lenz and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions were in charge of all the arrangements. In July

2005, he was appointed by the Vatican to be the Vice-Postulator for the canonization cause of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. In January of 2007, he was named "Prothonotary Apostolic" by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. He was a Fourth-Degree Knight of Columbus and a Knight Commander of the Holy Sepulchre. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Monsignor Lenz received the annual Patronal Medal of the Basilica and The Catholic University of America. His funeral Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak, JCD. The homilist was Father Edwin Dill, ST.



ANNE SCHEUERMANN (1927-2017)

“
**Kateri was
declared a saint
at the Vatican in
Rome in
Oct. 21, 2012,
where Anne
was an official
photographer
for the
publication
Cross and
Feathers.**
”

Anne M. (Rapavi) Scheuermann, died on June 14, 2017, after a long illness. She was 90. Born in Brantingham, NY, on May 22, 1927, she was a daily communicant of St. Louis Catholic Church in Pittsford, NY, as well as other churches. She also prayed the holy rosary daily for the consecration of Russia and world peace.

Anne earned her bachelor's degree from Cortland State Teachers College and her master's degree from the University of Rochester in New York. Anne earned a PhD and served on the faculty of Monroe Community College (MCC) in Rochester. She was a professor at MCC in the Department of Physical Education from 1962 through 1994.

In 1995, when she was retired, Anne joined the U.S. Peace Corps, serving for the customary two years. Her job was to teach English in Moldova to the former Russian people. She endured hardship while on duty. Anne realized her life's work in her lifetime with the canonization of the first American Indian saint, Kateri Tekakwitha.

Kateri was beatified as Catherine Tekakwitha on June 22, 1980, by St. John Paul II. Kateri was declared a saint at the Vatican in Rome in Oct. 21, 2012, where Anne was an official photographer for the publication “Cross and Feathers.” This was her crowning achievement. There were many more volunteer events for Indians, though, as she served for 40 years to the National Tekakwitha Conference Association under the direction of Sister Kateri Mitchell, S.S.A., a Mohawk Indian herself. Scheuermann was recognized in 2011 by that organization for her public service as official press event photographer. Her work is on display at the Marquette University Archives. Anne was a good lady. She was expressive, warm and forgiving, with talents for writing and wit. She was the daughter of John and Anna (Slyka) Rapavi. She married the late Raymond W. Scheuermann.

Anne was a proficient professional photographer and with her husband Ray, who worked for Eastman Kodak Co. as an engineer, gave their time, talent and treasure. She is survived by her four children (Marie Masson, of Pittsford; Christina Apeland of Rochester; Paul S. Scheuermann of Leawood, KS.; and Karl S. Scheuermann of Tallahassee, FL and many grandchildren.

Anne was from a large family. She predeceases her sisters Pauline Stemmer and Eva King. She was predeceased by her brothers George Rapavi, Mike Rapavi, Alec Rapavi, Andrew Rapavi, Andro “Peter” Rapavi; and her sister Mary Jayne Powers and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins.

Red Cloud Indian School

PINERIDGE, South Dakota

SCHOOL AND
PARISH UPDATES

The Red Cloud Indian School community gathered for the Annual Lakota Language Camp, whose theme was “Our Language Strengthens Us.” For four years in a row, the camp has brought together students, teachers, family and community members to advance language learning outside the classroom walls. It is one core part of Red Cloud’s Lakota Language Project – a comprehensive, youth-focused initiative working to nurture a new generation of Lakota speakers.

Carrie and Brianna Beard, both recent Red Cloud graduates, return to campus each year to serve as youth leaders during the Annual Lakhól’iya Wičhóthi, or Lakota Language Camp. They believe that learning to speak the Lakota language is about restoring the strength of their culture and community.

This year’s camp focused on giving the participants practical language skills that they can use at home. The youth leaders talked about regular things, such as how to use the verbs for coming and going, and daily activities like serving and eating food. The idea behind it was not forcing a generic or pre-planned conversation, but to really give the participants enough language proficiency, and the confidence they need, to converse in Lakota in any given situation.

Students also had a chance to learn directly from a group of Lakota elders, fluent speakers who learned Lakota early in life as their first language. Thanks to Red Cloud’s partnership with Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation’s Lakota Language Initiative, the group of five fluent first language coaches, who play a central role in supporting Thunder Valley’s language immersion programs, were on site to guide and inspire students, teachers and staff. They took part in learning activities and helped to answer questions. It was a unique experience for the students to be surrounded by these elders and to hear Lakota spoken fluently. Members of Thunder Valley’s Lakhótiya Škihčiyapi (Staying Active Through Lakota Language) Program, a group of high school juniors and seniors who mentor students in Red Cloud’s summer school program, visited each day to lead activities and games.

One night, sitting around the campfire, one of the youth mentors began an impromptu shadow puppet show for the students and told stories in Lakota. The students

answered back creating their own stories, all in the Lakota language. It wasn’t something planned, it just happened organically. The camp had achieved its goal, because the children were speaking the language on their own.



Sacred Heart Church

PINE RIDGE, South Dakota



The Pine Ridge Reservation has been blessed with a great team of Jesuit priests, religious sisters and Lakota pastoral ministers who serve more than 800 families on the reservation and provide critical services and support to all who come to the Church in need. At Sacred Heart Church, the hard work and dedication of Angie Stover, pastoral associate, and Charles McGaa, parish life coordinator, does not go unnoticed.

Angie, who began serving as pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Church in 2002, has taken on the important roles of spiritual counselor and manager of finances at Sacred Heart. This year, she began opening the doors of the church every Wednesday for mid-week prayers and was core member of the Planning Committee for the Tekakwitha Conference. Charles has always worked to build deep connections with parishioners and community members and connects with Lakota Catholics through a new local radio show.

As spiritual and civic leaders, they continue to live out the message of hope and healing. They rejoice in the fact that they are indigenous and that God gave them this beautiful culture to express their joy in creation.

St. Leo the Great SAN ANTONIO, Texas

A beautiful eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly flitted and flew over the heads of the St. Leo the Great School students as they waited for their parents at dismissal time on the first day of school following Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Its coloring looked as if it wanted to enroll at the “pride of the south side of San Antonio” elementary school, with the school colors of black, gold and silver. It hovered over the small school garden before flying away.

Despite the hurricane rains, the gardens at St. Leo the Great have bright and beautiful colored flowers and uniquely shaped vegetable that reflect the contribution of many dedicated people. Mrs. Ann Caldwell purchased flowers that appeal to butterflies and that can withstand Texas heat. Deacon Bob Caldwell constructed the flower beds,

demonstrating to the use of tools to the schoolchildren. Parent volunteers guided the students in the initial planting and watering.

The older students were involved in the planting and care of the tomatoes, squash and watermelons. Teachers taught the children about the parts of plants and the life cycle of butterflies, as well as how the plants and vegetables in the gardens have been grown and eaten by Native Americans for hundreds of years.

The garden was dedicated to Mary, Mother of God during a ceremony. A beautiful new statue of Mary was crowned with a



circle of flowers, as the children prayed and sang. The garden has been kept alive by so many who faithfully water and tend to it. Visits to the garden remind the children and staff of the beauty of God’s creation and the value of patience and hard work. The St. Leo the Great School community offers praise and thanks to God for the splendor of the earth, the generosity and dedication of his servants and the hope of his children.

St. Augustine Indian Mission WINNEBAGO, Nebraska



St. Augustine Indian Mission, located in Winnebago, NE, was founded in 1909 by St. Katharine Drexel and is the only Catholic institution in the state directly founded by a canonized saint. Don Blackbird was ordained a deacon by Most Reverend George J. Lucas, the Archbishop of Omaha.

Reverend Mr. Don Blackbird is the second Omaha Nation Native American ordained a deacon to serve the St. Augustine Indian Mission. He is also the first Native American to become principal of the 108-year-old St. Augustine Indian Mission School, a position he has held for the past 10 years.

As an alumnus of St. Augustine Indian Mission Elementary School, the University of Nebraska and Creighton University, he provides vision to St. Augustine Indian Mission. Having been a part of the parish most of his life and being a member of Omaha Nation, Deacon Don Blackbird’s ordination is a big blessing for the community and a reminder that the Church is for all people — Native American people, too. Deacon Don is a true servant and St. Augustine Indian Mission is proud of his leadership.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS' DAY

Prayers for the Dead



Eternal Father, I offer you the most precious blood of your divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my own family. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her (them), O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him/her (them). May he/she (they) rest in peace. Amen,

The first day of November is always celebrated as the feast of All Saints. This is a day to rejoice in thanksgiving that so many people, over the centuries, have given their lives so fully to God that they radiate his presence through their thoughts and words and actions. We are impressed by their courage and fortitude and perseverance. Oftentimes, however, we think that sanctity is only for special people and that “I” could never qualify. Brothers and sisters, let me tell you straight out: This is a lie and comes straight from the pit of hell! You are God’s son or daughter by baptism. If you have strayed from the Lord, you CAN RETURN. We start by repenting from our sin, going to confession and literally begin again; we start over — each day.

God gave us his Holy Spirit — he gave us himself to lead us safely to the arms of a loving Father. You can begin the path to sanctity today. One major step in growing in sanctity is to allow God to have first place in your thoughts, your words and your actions. It takes effort, but God will give you grace to begin the journey, if you tell him you want to begin. (He never violates your free will.) The source of help is in him; the grace (power) is willingly given when we ask. We all have certain sinful patterns in our thoughts and conversations. Ask God to show you what causes you to forget him in your daily life. Perhaps you can begin to change these patterns by stopping each hour, in your mind, and again offering yourself to God, asking to be more and more like him in thought and word and deed. Honestly, it is not complicated! When God sees that you are serious about it, he will reveal himself through wisdom for your days, hope for your burdens and love in your loneliness. And, slowly but steadily, your outlook on life and on people will begin to reflect how God sees your situations and those men and women who share your life on earth — family, friends, co-workers.

God will, in a sense, draw nearer. As he draws closer, you begin to reflect him; you begin to make his desires yours. Things turn upside down. Instead of focusing on yourself, you find yourself seeing life and people from his perspective. When we make choices, then, we have more and more of his priorities in mind because his

Spirit has room to “grow” in us. That’s the beginning of the path to sanctity. Sanctity is not just for certain special people. Sanctity is for everyone who will “follow him!” Let’s make this All Saints’ Day a memorable one! Let’s choose to become a closer follower of Christ by yielding to his grace, his direction in our daily lives.

The second day of November is devoted to prayer for all those who have gone before us. Somehow, in our generation, we have lost sight of the need to pray for the dead. We are certainly not passing it on to the next generation. Read what the *catechism* tells us:

“The Christian who unites his own death to that of Jesus views it as a step towards him and an entrance into everlasting life ... when the Church for the last time speaks words of pardon and absolution over the dying Christian, seals him for the last time with a strengthening anointing and gives him Christ in viaticum as nourishment for the journey, she speaks with gentle assurance:

“Go forth Christian soul, from this world in the name of God the Almighty Father, who created you, in the name of Jesus Christ the son of the living God who suffered for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon you. Go forth faithful Christian! May you live in peace this day, may your home be with God in Zion, with Mary the Virgin Mother of God, with Joseph and all the angels and saints.

“May you return to your Creator who formed you from the dust of the earth. May Holy Mary, the angels and all the saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life. May you see your Redeemer face to face.” (CCC 1020)

I share this part of the *catechism* to show you the light of faith shining through all our prayers which is/can be a comfort to those who are dying. We are actually going to see God face to face. There will be unparalleled joy; yet, at the same time, we will see, as we could never see on this earth, how our sins and failures have marred the face of Christ shining through us. If we are sorry for those times and have confessed them, they are gone. If not, we will spend some purifying time in purgatory.

For all these reasons, we need to pray for the dying and for those who have died. Sometimes, today, we too quickly “canonize” someone we love or someone who has done great things. It’s fine to rejoice in their good deeds, but don’t let it deter you from praying for the dying and those who have died. None of us is perfect. All of us need prayer to accompany us until we each fully see his face.

I want to encourage you to read sections 1020-1050 of the

Catechism of the Catholic Church. If you don’t have a copy, consider buying one. It’s a great resource and source of knowledge and inspiration. Use this month to think of and pray for those among your family and friends, especially those who are dying or have recently died. It will be an act of charity for which you will be eternally blessed. The prayers at the beginning of this column are just two of the traditional Catholic prayers for the dead — and are often said at gravesides.

May November be a blessing of growth in sanctity and in the great work of charity: to pray for others.



GETTY IMAGES

St. Martin de Porres



St. Martin de Porres (Dec. 9, 1579–Nov. 3, 1639) was a lay Dominican brother from Lima, Peru. He was known to have been given many miraculous gifts, such as levitation, bilocation, healing and even the ability to communicate with animals. However, his greatest witness remains his charity.

St. Martin was born Juan Martin de Porres. He was the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a former slave. This translated into a life of poverty and hardship for the young Martin. However, at 15, he was admitted to a Dominican convent as a servant boy. As his duties grew, he was led to join the order as a tertiary. Initially, his race prevented him from becoming a friar, but this restriction was later overturned as a result of his piety and miraculous cures. He was admitted fully into the order.

He was later placed in charge of the infirmary, where his care for the sick impressed his superiors. He also extended care to those outside the walls of the convent. From a glass of water to offering his own bed to an aged beggar covered with ulcers, St.

Martin sought to bring the Lord’s compassion to all who suffered from illness.

One story that demonstrates his unwavering commitment to those in distress concerns his encounter with a poor native. The native was bleeding from a dagger wound, so St. Martin took the man to his own room until he could be transported to the hospice he had set up at his sister’s house in the country. His superior was furious when he found out about the incident and reprimanded St. Martin for disobeying an earlier prohibition about lodging the sick at the convent. St. Martin only replied, “Forgive my error, and please instruct me, for I did not know that the precept of obedience took precedence over that of charity.” At that, the superior allowed him to continue his exercise of mercy uninterrupted.

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Don't miss the 79TH ANNUAL TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

The Conference will be held on July 18-22, 2018 in Tacoma, Washington



Please visit the Tekakwitha Conference website for more information! <http://www.tekconf.org>