

NEWS OF THE BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS

Sentinel

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80th Annual Tekakwitha Conference



LISTENING SESSIONS
2019

SPIRITUAL FITNESS
PRAYING THE ROSARY

FATHER SANDS
TRAVEL UPDATE

SAINT OF THE MONTH
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Sentinel

News of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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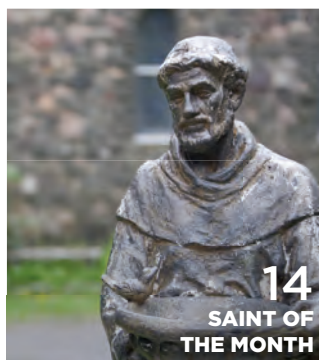
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



**FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am writing this article during the warm and sunny month of August. I am coming to the end of an extended period of making trips to various Native American Catholic communities and schools. It is a great blessing and joy to have the opportunity to visit with my Native American Catholic brothers and sisters in so many different places, and for me, it is one of the best parts of serving as the Executive Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. This spring, I had the special privilege of being able to visit the De LaSalle Blackfeet Indian School in Browning, Montana, and St. Michael's Indian School on the Navajo Nation in Arizona. I want you to know that our beloved Native young people at both schools are doing well academically and spiritually, and that they are being taught and cared for by teachers and other school administrators and staff members who are faith-filled, talented, dedicated and hard working.

In this issue of the *Sentinel*, we are pleased to highlight the 80th Tekakwitha Conference, which was held in Sharonville, Ohio, on July 17-20, 2019. The Local Conference Planning Committee for this year's conference was composed of people from different regions of the country. They were very capably led by the two Co-chairs, Ms. Gina Shontz and Ms. Lisa Franqui. All of the committee members worked very hard over a period of many months to make this year's conference an inspiring, delightful and unforgettable one. I also wish to offer words of thanks and commendation to Mr. Robert Barbry, Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference, who proved himself to be a calm leader who coordinated many people and many activities and details in a very respectful and orderly fashion.

In closing, I thank all of you for your many prayers, financial offerings and other forms of encouragement and support that you so generously offer in support of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. I pray that Our Lord Jesus Christ will abundantly pour out his love and many blessings and graces upon all of you. 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,

Father Henry Sands

80th Annual Tekakwitha Conference

Introduction

In July 2019, the Tekakwitha Conference held in Sharonville, Ohio, celebrated its 80th year of uniting Native American Catholics around the devotion to St. Kateri Tekakwitha. The conference, which is an experience of faith and culture, includes daily Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation and various workshops. This multicultural, multi-tribal gathering provides Native American Catholics with the opportunity to pray and worship together, learn from one another and unite around the Catholic faith.

Inspired by the life of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the conference seeks to help participants, both Native and non-Native, renew their faith and their commitment to live a virtuous and holy life through modeling the life of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. This year's conference included awareness about Native American Catholics who led holy lives and whose causes for sainthood are currently being explored, including the Martyrs of La Florida and Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk. ✚











Listening Session

THE BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS HELD THE FIRST LISTENING SESSION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS in Phoenix, Arizona, hosted by the Diocese of Phoenix. In attendance were nine bishops, six of whom are members of the USCCB Subcommittee on Native American Affairs. It was a minor miracle to be able to get all the bishops together on

such short notice. Also in attendance were 13 presenters representing Native American communities across the country. There were also several observers.

The goal of the session was to invite Native American Catholic leadership from around the country to meet with the bishops and give voice to their experiences and ideas. The

**FEATURE
STORY**

2019



bishops listened to the people, heard their perspective and gained from their wisdom and knowledge, which, in the long run, will help the bishops serve Native Americans better.

The session was very productive and the conversations were documented in a transcript that will be used by the USCCB Subcommittee on Native American Affairs. 🙏





Father Sands *Travel Updates*

St. Michael Indian School,
ST. MICHAELS , AZ , MAY 2019



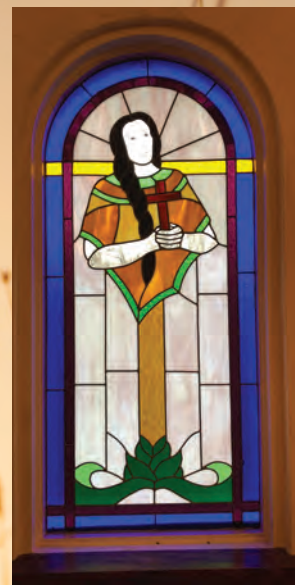
Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention,
MINNEAPOLIS, MN, AUGUST 2019



Diocese of Gallup,
ACOMITA, NM AND GALLUP, NM, AUGUST 2019



De La Salle Blackfeet School,
BROWNING, MT, APRIL 2019



St. Francis of Assisi

Born into a life of privilege in the 12th century, Francis spent his youth pursuing leisure. But then, one day, something changed. Some say it was because of a serious illness. Others say it was the experience of being imprisoned for a year as part of a military expedition. But change he did.

During this period of rebirth, Francis was praying in front of a crucifix at the abandoned San Damiano chapel near Assisi. There, he had a vision in which God said, "Francis, repair my house, which is falling into ruin." He listened, looked around at the crumbling chapel and then sold some of his possessions in order to help rebuild it.

Did Francis sense that God was referring to more than that crumbling chapel in Assisi when he asked Francis to rebuild his Church? Perhaps. The wider Church in the 12th century was wealthy and often corrupt. So when Francis sold everything he owned and embraced a life of humble poverty and preaching, it was counter-cultural, to the extreme. Francis' goal was to bring the Church back to its roots of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to ordinary people.

And people listened. And the number of his followers began to grow. The simple rule of the brotherhood of followers was: "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps." Soon, the message spread far and wide. Francis' followers numbered in the thousands. Eventually, St. Francis traveled to Rome and was given approval for the Franciscan Order.

Before his death at the age of 44, St. Francis had founded three religious orders and spent his life in poverty preaching and caring for the sick and poor. He was canonized in 1228, only two years after his death. The world was reminded of this humble saint's legacy when, in 2013, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the newly elected pope, chose the name Francis, saying, "How I would love a Church that is poor and for the poor." 🇺🇸

Praying

SPIRITUAL FITNESS

Since Oct. 7 is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, I want to devote my column this month to offering a way of praying the Rosary that can be very fruitful.

The Rosary prayer, inspired by Mary, has 20 decades. Usually when we say we pray the Rosary, we pray five of those decades each day — not all 20. However, you can, if you wish. There are five decades devoted to the joyful mysteries: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the birth of our Lord, the presentation of the Lord in the Temple, the finding of the child Jesus in the Temple. The five sorrowful mysteries are the agony in the garden, the scourging at the pillar, the crowning with thorns, the carrying of the cross and the crucifixion and death of the Lord. The glorious mysteries are: the resurrection of the Lord, the Ascension of the Lord into heaven, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption of Mary into heaven and the crowning of Mary as queen of heaven. Finally, there are the luminous mysteries given to us by St. John Paul II in October 2002: the baptism of Jesus by John, the wedding feast at Cana, the proclamation of the Gospel, the Transfiguration, the mystery of the Eucharist. These five are called luminous because they shed particular light on the divinity of Christ and the gifts he has bestowed on us.

In this article, I want to devote some time to the joyful mysteries and, by developing them a little, give you a model for prayer of the Rosary.

The Joyful Mysteries:

THE ANNUNCIATION (Lk 1:26-36): Read this before you pray the first decade. This is the mystery describing the angel's appearance to Mary, asking her to become the mother of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of the Father. Startled, she asks the appropriate question, but

GETTY IMAGES/TERRYFIC3D

the Rosary

having heard the answer, she consents without hesitation. Before you pray this decade, reflect on Mary's willingness and obedience. I ask for God's grace, as I pray this decade, that I would be more and more willing to do God's will and I pray the same grace for those I love.

by
Sister
Anne Shields

◦ **THE VISITATION** (Lk 1:39-56): Mary has just learned something that turns her life upside down and inside out. Everything is changed — her present and her future. She needed to trust God. Then, on top of all the startling personal news, she is asked to go and visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who would be in need of womanly support and encouragement. Mary not only




THE VISITATION

ALBERTINELLI, MARIOTTO / VISITATION 1503

went; she went "with haste." I want to be like Mary, desiring to do the Father's will even when something doesn't make sense or seems less important than my own personal need. Pray this decade for that intention and for those you love.

THE BIRTH OF THE LORD (Lk 2:1-20): How hard that must have been for Mary — to give birth away from family and friends, away from the help of other women; to give birth in such conditions of poverty and having experienced many refusals. How do I deal with trials and unexpected circumstances? Mary trusted God first and then what Joseph could provide. Do I trust God when circumstances are unexpected or difficult? Ask God to increase your faith and trust in him and in those for whom you pray.

◦ The fourth and fifth joyful mysteries are the **PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE** (LK 2:22-40) and the **FINDING OF THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE** (LK 2:41-52). 

◦ I believe if you pray the Rosary, or at least a part of a Rosary, each day, you will find the peace, the wisdom and the strength that God wants you to have as his disciples. If you are not accustomed to praying the Rosary, then begin by saying one a week. Remember it is not the multiplicity of words, of prayers — God looks for the intention of the heart.

CARPACCIO, VITTORE / PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE 1510



THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS
IN THE TEMPLE

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81st Annual

**TEKAKWITHA
CONFERENCE**



*The conference will be held on July 15-19, 2020, in Raleigh, North Carolina.
Please visit the Tekakwitha Conference website for more information!*

<http://www.tekconf.org>