

Sentinel

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Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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Mission

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

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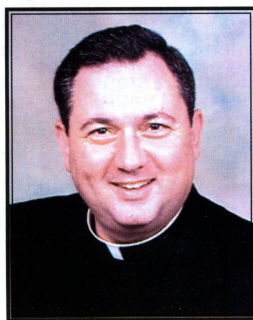
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Louis Aguirre

Office of the Vice-Postulator for the Cause of

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, PA

Random Acts of Kindness



Dear Mission Family,

The soil was in containers of peat moss, wrapped in plastic. The brightly colored directions read "Plant seeds and water as needed". The promise was for beautiful blooming flowers. As much as I love gardening, this could be as close as I could get to tilling the earth. Then in the spirit of the ancestors, I thought of a spiritual, symbolic approach. Here's what came to me.

After the Resurrection, Jesus enters the Upper Room and says to the disciples gathered there, "Peace be with you." Our lives today in urban communities and reservations are a never ending search for peace and happiness. Peace remains an illusion unless we are able to recognize that our hearts will remain restless until they rest in God. (St. Augustine)

For true happiness why not consider another kind of gardening? Plant seeds of love, small acts of kindness, compassion and understanding. Reach out to people who are helpless because of age or infirmity. Extend your charity to those who are not attractive to you or who have offended you in some way. And just as seeds are planted in the dark dirt, do good deeds that are hidden and without credit. Rediscover that virtue is its own reward. You will notice in the articles in this issue of The Sentinel, various evangelization efforts promoting the Peace of Christ.

Join me as I make a pastoral tour to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, meet our new managing editor, and welcome a new Native American Ministry Director from Tulsa. Reminisce with

Deacon "Bud" Jetty, recalling days long past at St. Paul's Indian Mission School, in Marty, South Dakota. Let's go "south" to hear of the plight of the Native Houma people. Keep digging and you will discover other interesting tidbits of news and faith.

We just celebrated the seven weeks of the Easter Season, which extend to Pentecost Sunday. It is springtime when Mother Earth is in bloom reminding us of the spiritual call to new life in Christ. Plant love and YOU will blossom!

In the joy of Blessed Kateri,

Reverend Wayne C. Paysse
Executive Director

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Visit us at www.blackandindianmission.org

Plugging into the Legacy of St. Katharine Drexel

Philadelphia Socialite Lives Simply

She transformed her family wealth into a poverty of spirit! We celebrate the feast of St. Katharine Drexel on March third. And this year, we commemorate the ten years since her canonization by His Holiness, John Paul II, on October 1, 2000.

Katharine was always a woman of deep and intense prayer with particular devotion to the Eucharist. This was the on-going source of her strength and courage to reach out to the poor and oppressed and to staunchly combat the rages of racism. On February 12, 1891, she professed her vows as a religious, founding the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament whose dedication would be to share the message of the Gospel and the life of the Eucharist among American Indians and African-Americans.

Founding and staffing schools throughout the country became a priority for Mother Katharine and her Congregation. During her lifetime, she opened, staffed and directly supported nearly sixty schools and missions across the United States. In 1925 her educational efforts birthed Xavier University, Louisiana, the only predominantly Black Catholic institution of higher learning in the country. Religious education, social service, hospitals and prisons were also included in the ministries of Katharine and her Sisters.

Attuned to the Holy Spirit, Katharine combined prayer and trust in divine Providence with amazing activism that overcame great obstacles. She spoke against injustice and took a public stance when racial discrimination was in evidence. In the last eighteen years of her life, Katharine was seriously ill and almost immobile. She channeled her once high energy into quiet adoration and contemplation. She died on March 3, 1955.

May we seek to imitate Katharine in her love of the Eucharist and the perspective on unity of all people fostered by her devotion. With courageous hearts may we seek to stand up for the excluded in our ever changing world today.



From the Office of the vice-postulator

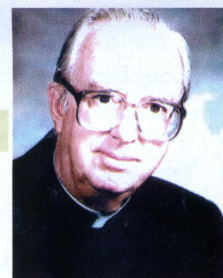
Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, P.A.

In articles, I, as the Vice Postulator, working under Father Paul Molinari, S.J., the Postulator at the Vatican, have been assuring those truly devoted to Kateri that much work was being done on a definite miracle for the honor of Canonization to come to Kateri.

Where does the Case for Blessed Kateri stand at the present time? As mentioned, the case is at the Vatican. Word was received in September, 2009, that it was opened but that more documents were needed. These were prepared by the Tribunal, comprised of an episcopal delegate, a canon lawyer, a notary and a medical doctor. Subsequently these documents were forwarded to the Congregation for the Canonizations. The next step is for the three committees, that is, the medical committee, the theological committee and a committee of bishops, to study all the information gathered. Then a decision will be made by the Holy Father to declare if Blessed Kateri is to be canonized.

Blessed Kateri is well known in Canada and in many countries around the world, for example, Portugal, Guatemala, Brazil, and Italy. On a large stained glass window of the Basilica of the Shrine of our Lady of Loreto, Italy, there is Blessed Kateri for thousands of pilgrims visiting the shrine to see.

What do we do now? Simply, we continue to pray that the Secretariat for Canonizations at the Vatican will not delay the study needed to declare Kateri Tekakwitha a Saint!



On the Mission Trail

“My mission excursion included many other wonderful individuals and locals who opened the story of Native Americans before me like pages from an ancient book.”

- Father Mike Wheelahan

You should have been with me! Father Mike Wheelahan, drove southwest, sixty miles from Oklahoma City to Anadarko to St. Patrick's Indian Mission, his former parish of twelve years ago. Being in his company was a journey down memory lane. A journey I will always remember. We drove through the wide and flat Anadarko basin area and flood plains. This area is also the foothills to the Wichita Mountains.

Oklahoma has no reservations, but Tribal Lands. I learned there are five major tribes in Anadarko: 1) Kiawa; 2) Caddo; 3) Wichita; 4) Delaware; 5) Apache. The Kiawa tribe is one of the largest communities of Native Americans in Oklahoma City. Being a native from New Orleans, Louisiana, I found it interesting to learn that the Caddo tribe is from South Louisiana. With culinary delight, Father Mike spoke of his days at the summer pow wow with the Caddo, when he would enjoy the tasty homemade grape dumplings.

There is a fondness in Father Mike's voice as he described his great affection for the Native people. Like a drum cadence, he spoke of how Native American spirituality has enriched him as a person and a priest. His experience with Native Americans has never left his heart. No doubt, the bond is woven as tight as water reeds, for he is adopted into the Ponca Tribe.

St. Patrick's was founded in 1891 by Father Isidore Ricklin O.S.B., from St. Gregory's Abbey. The monks were invited to the diocese to start Catholic Schools, and with the help of St. Katharine Drexel much success and continued growth came to the mission. It was not always easy to care for the mission and its residents, so the parishioners raised cattle to feed the children at the mission school.

When we arrived at St. Patrick's, my eyes were drawn to the sky, beyond the eagles flight, towards the tall sycamore trees that line the drive. As I glanced across the lawn, I saw a grotto where the rocks and wood, so lovingly placed by the hands of the locals, speak of the Native Peoples. It was as if they say "I sign my name to this ..." The Indians appreciate unique and beautiful things. The rose rocks, are only found two places in the world, somewhere in Africa and Oklahoma; petrified wood, comes from the pan-handle of the petrified forest; purple quartz, comes from Mexico and white rock, found north of St. Patrick's mission. The people were as delightful and unique as each individual

rock placed on the grotto exterior.

The granary and water trough remain today as icons of a bygone age, when missionaries and people labored together in the natural world to secure the supernatural in the experience of the moment.

My mission excursion included many other wonderful individuals and locals who opened the story of Native Americans before me like pages from an ancient book. Please enjoy the collage of photo's that give glimpse to my visit to the local Church of Oklahoma City. A special thank you to Most Reverend Eusebius Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City and to his many collaborators who made my visit a joyful one.



Second Annual Monsignor Paul A. Lenz Art Contest and Exhibition



National Contest Grand Prize Winner
Crystal C. Love
St. Joseph Catholic School
Tuskegee, Alabama

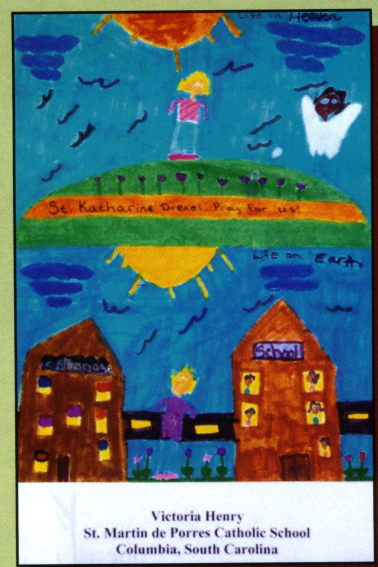
More than 150 students in eleven schools and parish religious programs in ten states—Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, South Carolina, and Texas—participated in the contest this year.

The theme of the contest—*The Legacy of St. Katharine Drexel: What is it like to be a Saint living in Heaven?*—challenged the students to portray St. Katharine Drexel in Heaven and how she answers the prayers of children and grown-ups still living on Earth.

The winning entry from each school and parish religious educational program was submitted to the national contest and exhibition at the St. Katherine Drexel National Shrine and Mission Center in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. The panel of judges, organized by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament determined the National Grand Prize Winner to be awarded a \$100 cash prize, the school or parish of the winner receiving a \$1,000 grant from the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions or the Catholic Negro American Mission Board to continue the important work of its religious education programs. Every student who entered the contest was awarded a

The charming and imaginative works of art in this special exhibition represented the national prize winners in the Second Annual Monsignor Paul A. Lenz Art contest and Exhibition, sponsored by the National Advisory Council of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and the Catholic Negro American Mission Board.

This annual event focused attention on grade-school children enrolled in parochial schools and parish religious education programs throughout the United States that receive much-needed financial support from grants made by the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and the Catholic Negro American Mission Board. The exhibition at the St. Katharine Drexel National Shrine and Mission Center coincided with the annual celebration marking St. Katharine Drexel's Feast Day on March third and in 2010, the national celebrations to be held throughout the year commemorating the tenth anniversary of her canonization on October 1, 2000. This year's contest was open to boys and girls who were ten years old in the anniversary year.



Victoria Henry
St. Martin de Porres Catholic School
Columbia, South Carolina

Sentinel Goes "GREEN"

The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions is promoting going "GREEN" as a sign of solidarity with Mother Earth, our Native American Family and all people who care for the environment. "The earth and myself are of one mind." (Chief Joseph) To be one with the earth is to be one with the Creator, the Great Spirit.

The recycling of 1 ton of paper saves:

- 17 mature trees
- 7,000 gallons of water
- 3,000 yards of landfill space
- 4,100 kw hours of electricity
(enough to power a home for 5 months)

Please consider viewing The Sentinel on our website, www.blackandindianmission.org. This will help us to reduce our costs and to use the savings to continue our great legacy of Native American Evangelization, especially support to our Catholic Indian Mission Schools. Of course, we are happy to continue mailing The Sentinel to your home. Regardless of your preference, please fill out the form below and return to us. Be sure to kindly PRINT. You are also helping us to update our database. THANK YOU!

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Amarissa Garcia
St. Peter Indian School
Bapchule, Arizona



Agnes Pare
St. Peter Claver Catholic School
Macon, Georgia

Certificate of Merit; the top winning entries selected for the national contest and exhibition received a National Contest and Exhibition Ribbon of Recognition certificate. We congratulate the Grand Prize Winner, Crystal C. Love of St Joseph Catholic School, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

A special thank you to members of the Advisory Council, Vernelle Brown, Ann and Jim Robertson, the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions staff, Sister Pat Downs, SBS, the Sisters of The Blessed Sacrament and all those who collaborated in making The Second Annual Art Contest a success!

The Native Houma People

The native Houma people, who have long relied on fishing and trapping in the marshlands of Louisiana, have been tested as a tribe. They have been robbed of their lands, subjected to segregation, witnessed the steady erosion of marshlands and been displaced by hurricanes. Now, some fear the oil slick that threatens to invade the bayou could be the final blow to their culture and traditions.

With about 17,000 members remaining in their tribe, they maintain their livelihood as they have for hundreds of years through seasonal harvests in the marshlands. The Houma survived this way after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803,

when the U.S. Government took control of the region from the French. Houma property claims were rejected by the Americans according to tribal historian Michael Dardar. Eventually they were forced out of their permanent villages to the north in Bayou Cane driving them into the marshes where traditionally they had seasonal fishing villages.

"We have no tribal lands," says Laura Billiat, a member of the tribal council that represents more than half the Houma. "The oil companies and the politicians took our lands a long time ago."

One pocket of Houma families is famously clinging to their traditional lifestyle on tiny Isle de Jean Charles in Terrebonne Parish, but their situation is becoming increasingly dire. Where 100 Houma families lived there prior to the recent string of hurricanes, only about 20 remain today.

“Where 100 Houma families lived there prior to the recent string of hurricanes, only about 20 remain today.”

Some of the others would like to return, but they face obstacles that include the cost of replacing destroyed homes with stronger, higher structures on land that is rapidly eroding and sinking. In addition, the road to the island remains damaged and is regularly submerged during high tide. The parish government says it doesn't have the funds to repair it.

Add to those challenges the threat of oil. "The tribe is at a crossroads," says Kirk Charamie, program director for a Houma radio station who also acts as spokesman for the tribe. "We are tied to the land, the resources, the fish, the crab and shrimp... Not only that, but it's where our families are buried. It's our identity."

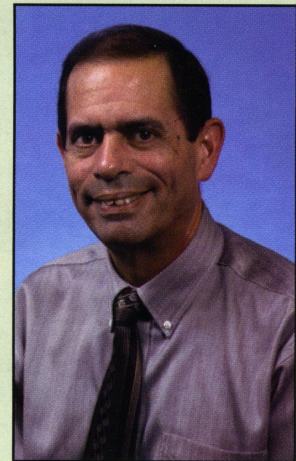
Meet Louis Aguirre

Father Paysse and the Mission House staff are happy to welcome Louis Aguirre as a collaborator with The Black and Indian Mission Office. He will serve as the Managing Editor of The Sentinel. We are grateful to Louis and to Bishop Jacobs of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux for their commitment to the National Office.

Louis G. Aguirre has been working for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux since its establishment in 1977. He serves as editor of the Bayou Catholic and as director of communications. Since 1986 he has been assisting the diocesan bishop as coordinator of the Department of Formation Ministries, overseeing the work of 12 offices such as Catholic Schools, Religious Education, Family Ministries and Youth Ministry. He is also a member of the Bishop's Cabinet.

Before coming to Houma-Thibodaux he served as youth editor of the Clarion Herald of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and as associate editor of the Arlington Catholic Herald for the Diocese of Arlington.

Aguirre holds a B.A. degree in Journalism from Louisiana State University and an M.A. in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University in New Orleans. He is married to the former Anne Marie Veron of New Orleans and the couple has two sons, one of whom is married. They are the proud grandparents of a 17-month-old boy.



Remembering Mission Moments



Top Row: Orlin Jewett, Tom Skye, Billy Gayton, Paul LaFrance, Francis Woods, Francis King, Thomas Hatai, Connie McBride and Howard Klyne.
Middle Row: Alfred "Bud" Jetty, Toby Moran, Matthew DeCora, Coach Emil Redfish, Rocky Marciano, Father Robert, Joe Skye, Morris Houle and Bob DeCora.
Bottom Row: Francis Croteau, PeeWee Lonewolf, John Stricker, Robert "Goofus" Houle, Gary Moran, Wayne Powers and James Vanderblomen.

School Memories

For over fifty years the Benedictine Monks from St. Meinrad's Arch Abbey in Indiana and Blue Cloud Abbey in South Dakota were administrators of the Catholic Indian Mission Boarding School at Marty, South Dakota. The school was called St. Paul's Indian Mission School. Mother Katharine Drexel who is now St. Katharine Drexel provided financial assistance. In addition to her financial assistance Mother Katharine Drexel sent her Sisters, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament from Pennsylvania to take care of everything necessary to run the school, such as teachers, cooks, bakers, seamstresses, etc. Shortly after the school began, the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament were formed to help out. The Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament whose Mother House is at Marty continue their work in South Dakota.

Most of the students who attended the school came from the surrounding area including most States in the Midwest. At its peak over four hundred students in grades one to twelve attended the school. Father Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., the founder and builder of St. Paul's Indian Mission School wanted students who attended the school to be able to go out into the world able to make a good living and to contribute to society. Many former students of St. Paul's Indian Mission continue to make Father Sylvester's dream come true.

During those years the school had outstanding sports teams. As a matter of fact, the Marty Braves Basketball team won the State Catholic Basketball Championship two times. In the fall of 1952, the undefeated heavyweight boxing champion of the world, Rocky Marciano, visited the school. In the photo you will see Rocky Marciano with Coach Emil Redfish, Father Roger Dieckhouse and students, most of whom were members of Marty's undefeated six man football team that had just completed its second consecutive undefeated season. The visit of Rocky Marciano to Marty Mission lingers as one of my fondest memories of my school days at St. Paul's Indian Mission. The single most important thing I learned at Marty was to be able to live a life in which I could set a good example for others to follow.

Submitted by Deacon "Bud" Jetty

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Pray Daily for the Canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha



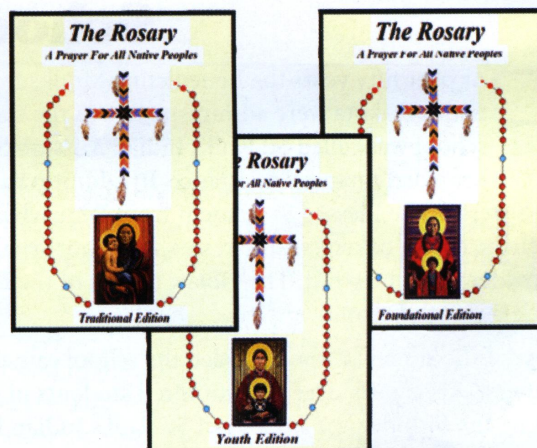
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† Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Archbishop of Denver; Member, Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe

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