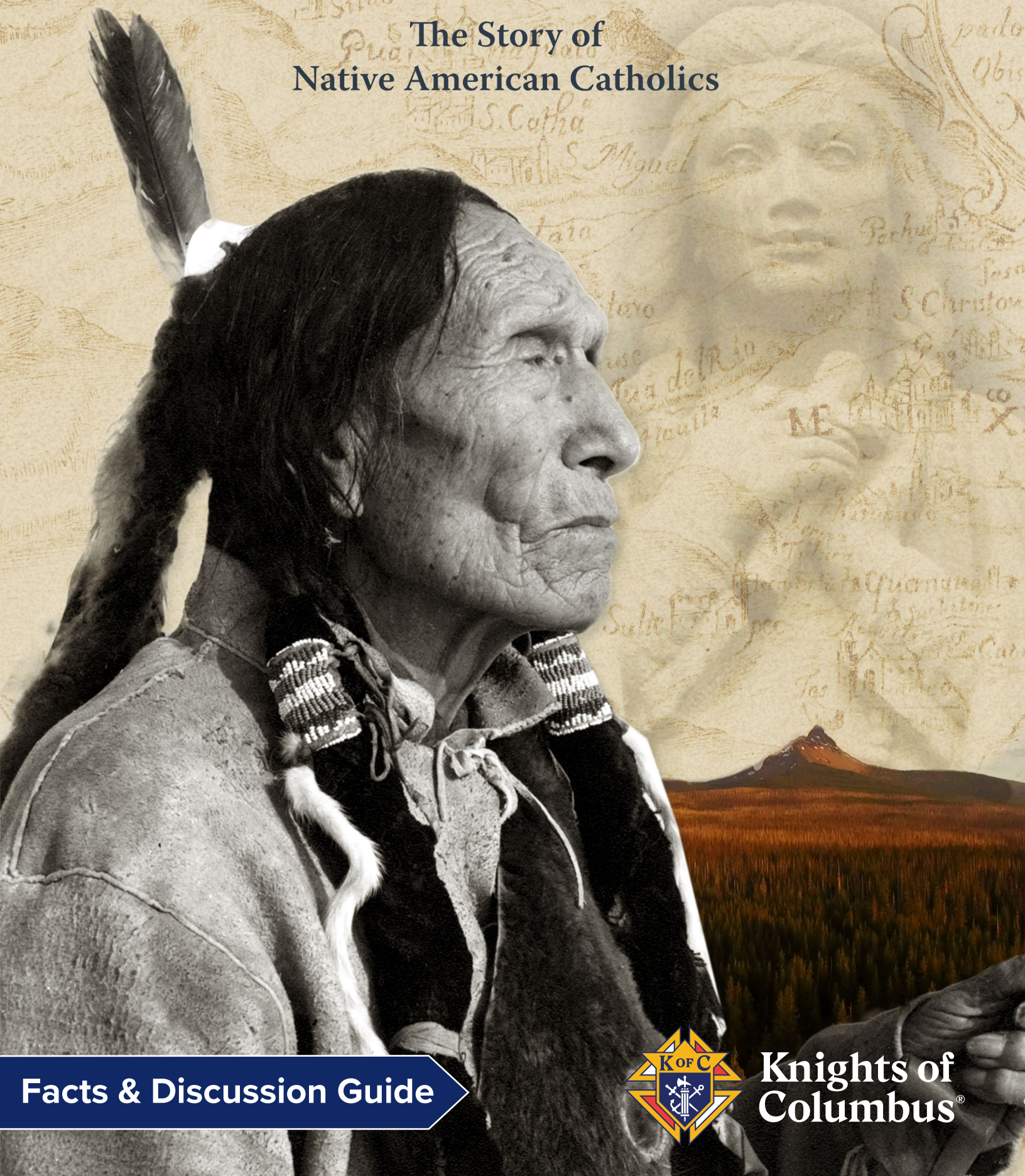


# ENDURING FAITH

The Story of  
Native American Catholics



Facts & Discussion Guide



Knights of  
Columbus®

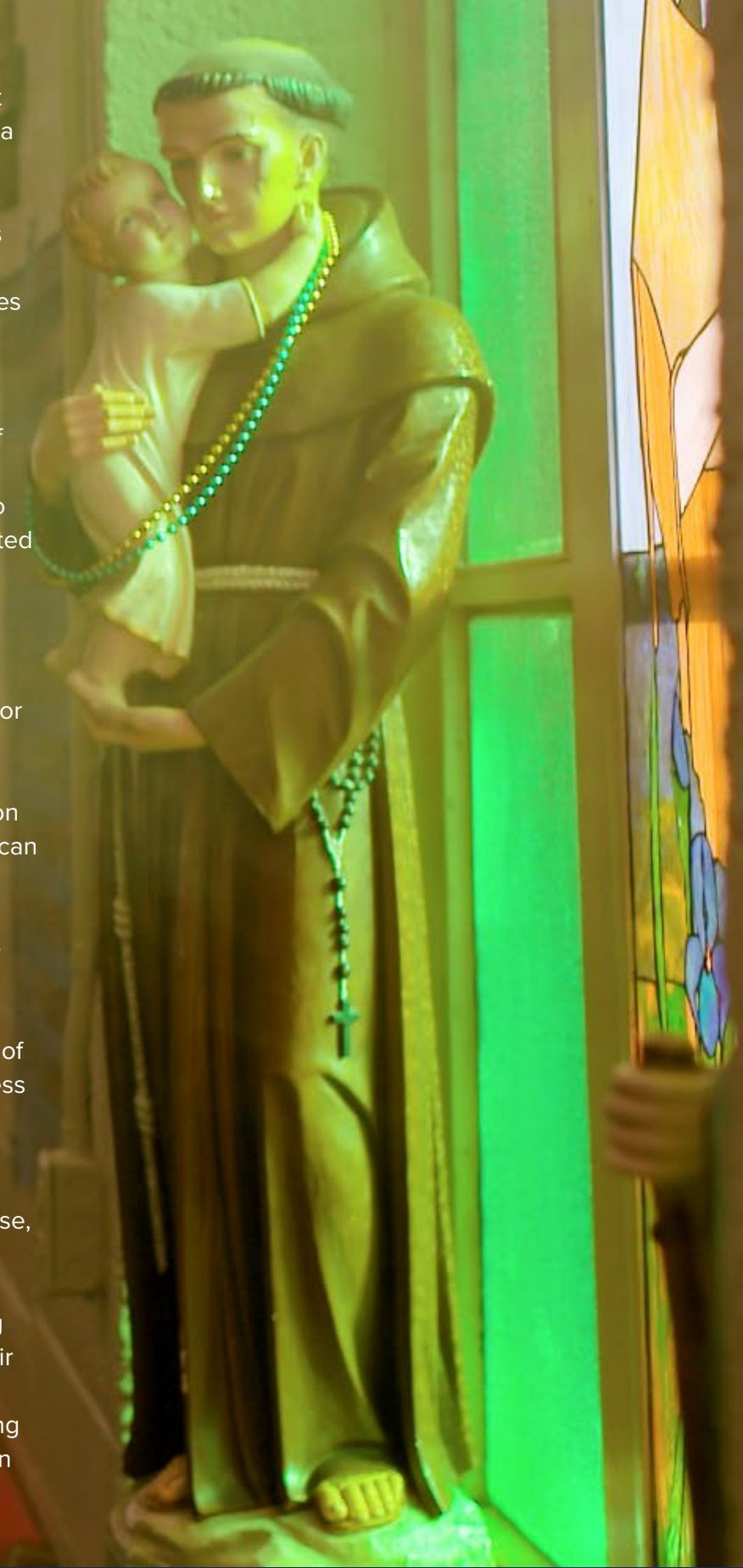


IT is impossible to fully understand what it means to be a Catholic in North America without a sincere appreciation for the Catholic tradition among so many Native tribes. Few people realize that Indigenous communities throughout the U.S. and Canada have been practicing their faith for centuries — in some cases for more than 400 years.

*Enduring Faith: The Story of Native American Catholics* dives deep into the rich contribution of Native American Catholics. Discover how in the 16th century Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to an Indigenous elder, St. Juan Diego, and generated the largest conversion in world history. Hear the inspiring story of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a 17th-century Algonquin-Mohawk woman who was canonized in 2012. Learn about a 20th-century Lakota healer, Nicholas Black Elk, whose cause for canonization is currently open.

This film inspires in viewers a deeper appreciation for the spiritual and cultural gifts of Native American Catholics, a greater awareness of the wrongs inflicted upon them by the unjust policies of the past, and a sense of hope at how many continue to live out their faith today. Above all, it offers a missing piece to the greater story of Catholicism in America and Canada and a beautiful example of how Christ reveals himself through the uniqueness of every culture.

Pope Francis has repeatedly asked us to, “Go to the peripheries to help those in need.” In response, the Knights of Columbus began a new initiative to get to know Native Americans and especially Native American Catholics better by cooperating on projects and seeking to learn more about their culture and history. A part of that movement, this film offers a contribution to what is often a missing piece in the tapestry of the story of Catholicism in America: the story of Native American Catholics.



## ENDURING FAITH

THE STORY OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN CATHOLICS





# FAST FACTS

- ◆ Executive Producer: Carl Anderson
- ◆ Written and directed by: David Naglieri and Tim Moriarty
- ◆ Narrated by: Larry Omaha
- ◆ Running time: 60 mins
- ◆ Broadcast distribution / availability:
  - First wave – May to July 2021*
  - Exclusive broadcasts on ABC affiliated stations through a partnership with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission.
  - Second wave – Available to all at [KofC.org/enduringfaith](https://KofC.org/enduringfaith)*
- ◆ Goals of the production:
  - Educate
  - Build bridges
  - Contribute to reconciliation
  - Provide an authentic model of inculturation
  - Convey love of – and witness to – Christ

# DID YOU KNOW?

## GUADALUPE



In her miraculous and validated appearances to Juan Diego in 1531, Our Lady of Guadalupe featured mestizo/Indigenous traits.



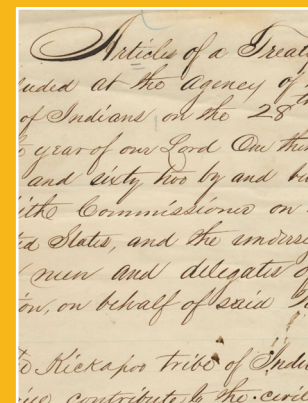
## MEMBERTOU



Grand Chief Membertou, leader of the Mi'kmaq community (present in areas including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec), was baptized, June 24, 1610.



## TREATIES

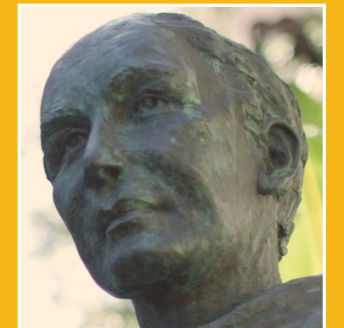


From the 1850s through 1880s, the U.S. Government signed hundreds of dubious treaties with western tribes, confining them to newly created reservations.

## JUNÍPERO SERRA



Nearly two decades before a bill of rights was added to the U.S. Constitution, Junípero Serra achieved a bill of rights for Native peoples, recognizing them as, “children of God.”



## ST. STEPHEN'S



A church in the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, built in 1629, is still in use to this day.



**ENDURING FAITH**  
THE STORY OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN CATHOLICS

FAST FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?





# DID YOU KNOW?

## ULYSSES S. GRANT

In 1868, President Ulysses S. Grant implements his Native American Peace Policy, shifting American strategy from the elimination of Native peoples to assimilation.



## THE DAWES ACT

In 1887, numerous lands were taken from tribes when U.S. Congress passed the Dawes General Allotment Act, which stated that any surplus of land not allocated to a head of household would become available for purchase.



## U.S. BISHOPS



In 1874, bishops in U.S. opened the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions to be an advocate for Native Americans.

## VISIT TO CANADA



In 1984, while traveling throughout Canada, John Paul II acknowledged the land rights of Indigenous peoples.

## JUAN DIEGO

In 2002, Pope John Paul II presided over the canonization Mass of Juan Diego – the first Catholic saint indigenous to the Americas.



# DID YOU KNOW?

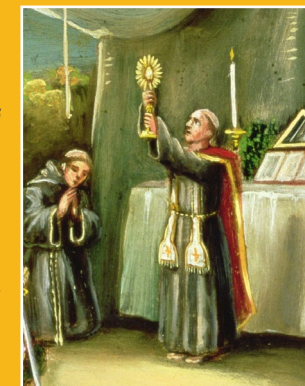
## KATERI TEKAKWITHA



In 2012, Pope Benedict presided over the canonization Mass of Kateri Tekakwitha, earning the young Algonquin-Mohawk the title of first Indigenous American woman to be elevated to sainthood.

## MISSIONARIES

While Pope Francis has condemned the abuses of colonialism, he has also praised the work of missionaries, including St. Junípero Serra, whom he canonized in 2015. The Holy Father called Serra, “the embodiment of a Church that goes forth.”



## FLORIDA MARTYRS



In 2015, a cause for canonization is opened for the martyrs of La Florida mission.

## VISIT TO MEXICO



In an apostolic visit to Mexico in 2016, Pope Francis begged the Indigenous peoples of the Americas to forgive the Church for the mistakes of the past.

## THE PERIPHERIES

Pope Francis has repeatedly asked Catholics to “Go to the peripheries to help those in need.” And among those peripheries on our own continent are Native American communities.



## NICHOLAS BLACK ELK

On Oct. 21, 2017, the cause for canonization for Nicholas Black Elk was opened by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rapid City, S.D.



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DID YOU KNOW?

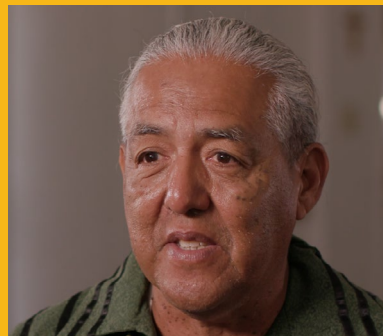
DID YOU KNOW?





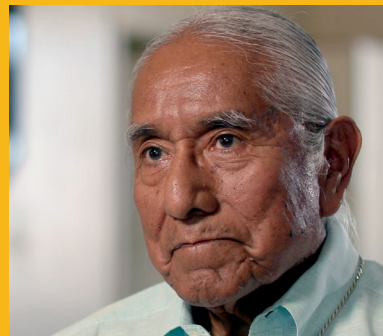
# TESTIMONIALS

(in order of appearance)



**DEACON ANDREW OROSCO**

Ipai-Kumeyaay  
San Jacinto, California



**JOSEPH ENOS**

Tohono O'odham  
Gila River Reservation, Arizona



**CARL ANDERSON**  
Supreme Knight, 2000-2021  
Knights of Columbus  
New Haven, Connecticut



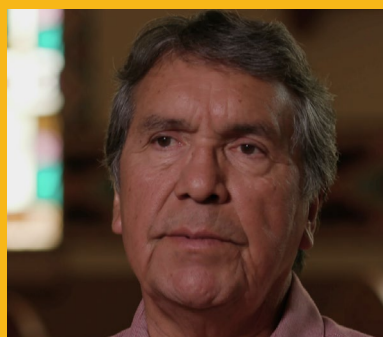
**FATHER HENRY SANDS**  
Exec. Dir. Black and Indian Mission Office  
Anishinaabe: Ojibwe, Ottawa, Potawatomi  
San Jacinto, California



**PATRICK MASON**  
Supreme Secretary, Knights of Columbus  
Osage Nation  
Gallup, New Mexico



**DEACON BEN BLACK BEAR, JR**  
  
Rosebud Sioux  
Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota



**RODNEY BORDEAUX**  
Tribal President, Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota

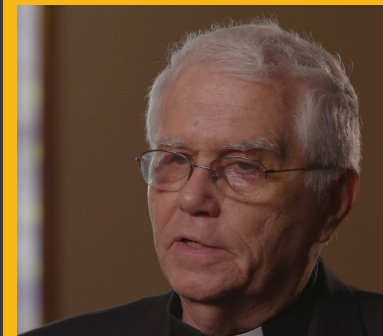


**PATRICIA CATCHES THE ENEMY**  
  
Oglala Lakota  
Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota



**HAROLD COMPTON**  
  
Rosebud Sioux  
Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota

# TESTIMONIALS



**FATHER JOSEPH DAOUST, SJ**

Holy Rosary Church  
Pine Ridge, South Dakota



**PHYLLIS WHITE EYES DECORY**

Oglala Lakota  
Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota



**CAROLINE DECORY**

Rosebud Sioux  
Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota



**BEN BLACK BEAR III**

Rosebud Sioux  
Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota



**JENNIFER BLACK BEAR**

Rosebud Sioux  
Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota



**DR. DAMIAN COSTELLO**

Author: "Black Elk: Colonialism  
and Lakota Catholicism"



**GRAYDON NICHOLAS**  
Former Lt-Governor of New Brunswick  
Maliseet First Nation  
New Brunswick, Canada



**FATHER ANTONY TINKER, FHS**  
Dir. Native Amer. Ministry, Dioc. of Phoenix  
Osage Nation  
Phoenix, Arizona



**FATHER MATTHEW KELLER**  
Vicar General, Diocese of Gallup  
St. John the Baptist Parish  
Phoenix, Arizona



**ENDURING FAITH**  
THE STORY OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN CATHOLICS

TESTIMONIALS

TESTIMONIALS





# TESTIMONIALS



**NADINE ULIBARRI**

Pueblo Pojoaque  
Santa Fe County, New Mexico



**ERIC ULIBARRI**

Pueblo Pojoaque  
Santa Fe County, New Mexico



**DR. MARY SOHA**

Vice Postulator  
Martyrs of La Florida Missions Board  
St. Augustine, Florida



**MICHAEL SHEEDY**

Vice President  
Martyrs of La Florida Missions Board  
St. Augustine, Florida



**SISTER CARLA RIACH, FSCC**

Mission San Xavier del Bac, Arizona



**GERALDINE ENCIMAS**

Tohono O'odham  
San Xavier Indian Reservation, Arizona



**DR. RUBEN MENDOZA**

Professor of Archaeology  
California State University  
Monterey Bay, California



**ANDREW GALVAN**

Curator  
Old Mission Dolores  
San Francisco, California



**FR. CRAIG HIGHTOWER, SJ**

St. Ignatius Mission, Montana

# TESTIMONIALS



**CAROL LANKFORD**

Confederated Kootenai and Salish  
Flathead Reservation, Montana



**SHIRLEY TRAHAM**

Confederated Kootenai and Salish  
Flathead Reservation, Montana



**KATIE MCCLURE MILLER**

Confederated Kootenai and Salish  
Flathead Reservation, Montana



**MAKA AKANNHAIN BLACK ELK**

Lakota  
Pine Ridge, South Dakota



**DEACON BILL WHITE**

Oglala Sioux  
Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota



**MANNY MARTINEZ**

Tohono O'odham  
San Xavier Indian Reservation, Arizona



**ENDURING FAITH**  
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NATIVE AMERICAN CATHOLICS

TESTIMONIALS

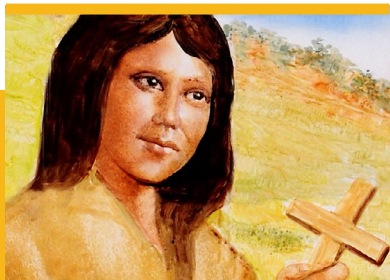
TESTIMONIALS





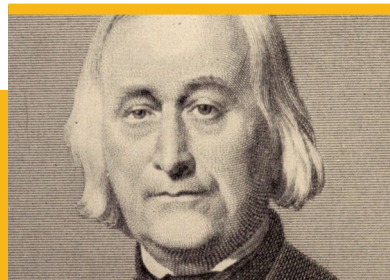
# HISTORICAL FIGURES

ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA



Born in 1656, Kateri was the first Native American woman to be canonized. She converted to Catholicism at the age of 19 and lived the rest of her life in the Jesuit mission village on the St. Lawrence River in New France. Catching smallpox at the age of four left her disfigured but, miraculously, the marks of this disease disappeared when she died.

FATHER PIERRE-JEAN DE SMET



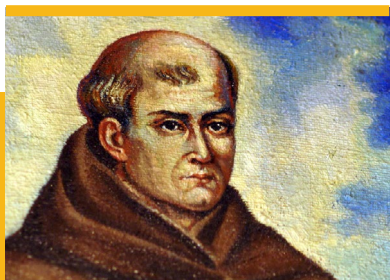
Among the first Catholic priests to spend time with the Sioux. In the 1860s, he famously went up the Missouri River and had interactions with Sitting Bull of the Lakota. Renowned for travelling in excess of 180,000 miles, he was successful in reaching out to the native people and was very well received.

NICHOLAS BLACK ELK



Born in a teepee (Wyoming) circa 1866, Black Elk was given a vision when he was six or eight years old in the middle of the Great Sioux wars. The message: we must all live together as one. A renowned Lakota healer and catechist, his cause for beatification/canonization is now open at the Vatican.

ST. JUNÍPERO SERRA



Junípero Serra stood up for the rights and the dignity of Native peoples, resisting the abuses of colonization. Nearly two decades before a bill of rights was added to the U.S. Constitution, Junípero Serra achieved a bill of rights for Native peoples, recognizing them as “children of God.”

FATHER EUSEBIO FRANCISCO KINO



In Sonora Mexico and Southern Arizona, a Jesuit missionary, geographer and astronomer Father Eusebio Francisco Kino explores the region and works respectfully with the people and cultures of the local Native American population, establishing 24 missions.

FATHER LUIS DE CÁNCER



In Florida, missionaries follow the lead of Father Luis de Cáncer, a Dominican priest and disciple of the famed protector of the Indians, Bartolomé de las Casas. He insisted that Native peoples be treated with dignity and respect.

## Enduring Faith

The Story of Native American Catholics

### QUESTIONS FOR GROUP STUDY

- 1 In the documentary, Graydon Nicholas, former Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, Canada, compares the Indigenous peoples of North America (from the 1600s) to the Jewish people before the birth Jesus Christ. What similarities might be drawn between both groups?
- 2 There are many similarities between traditional Native American spirituality and Catholicism. Which ones inspire you most? Why?
- 3 The film opens with the line, “Christ reveals Himself through the beauty of each and every one of our cultures.” How have you seen this manifest in your experiences with your own culture? With cultures other than your own?
- 4 The documentary quotes the Holy Father’s well known call to “Go to the peripheries to help those in need.” In concrete ways, how might you be living (or resolve to live) that call in your life?
- 5 The portrayal of Catholic identity in the U.S./Canada has often underrepresented Native Americans/Indigenous peoples. As we reconsider our thoughts on the tapestry of Catholicism in North America, we may be able to better appreciate the important part that belongs to the tribes who have, in many cases, been faithful for many centuries. Why do you think it is important to portray this legacy?
- 6 What are some of the reasons for this lack of awareness or knowledge of the contributions of Native American/Indigenous peoples to Catholicism in the U.S. and Canada?
- 7 The reservation and residential school systems were designed and developed with particular goals in mind — goals that are not ours today. In our present-day world, what are some actions you can do to foster dialogue, mutual understanding and respect between members of your community and those of Native Americans in your region/area?



ENDURING FAITH  
THE STORY OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN CATHOLICS

HISTORICAL FIGURES

GROUP STUDY





# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

RELEVANT INFORMATION

The Knights of Columbus is one of the world's leading fraternal and service organizations and the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization —

2 MILLION+  
MEMBERS  
WORLDWIDE

16,000+  
COUNCILS  
WORLDWIDE



OUR FOUNDER,  
FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY,  
WAS OFFICIALLY DECLARED  
"BLESSED" ON OCTOBER 31, 2020

The documentary is part of the Knights of Columbus Native Solidarity initiative. First announced at the 137th Supreme Convention in 2019, the Native Solidarity initiative began with a partnership between the Knights, the Diocese of Gallup, N.M., and the Southwest Indian Foundation to build a shrine to St. Kateri in the Southwest United States.

In solidarity with Indigenous peoples and as part of the Order's call to "Leave No Neighbor Behind," throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Knights brought necessities to thousands of Native and Indigenous communities in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Hawaii that were struck particularly hard by the virus. The Knights has also collaborated with Life is Sacred, a native-run non-profit committed to building a culture of life and a civilization of love, and the Black and Indian Mission Office.



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

RELEVANT INFORMATION

In 2020, Knights donated more than 47.4 million service hours and \$150 million for worthy causes in their communities. The organization also offers extensive life insurance services to members and their families, resulting in more than \$121 billion of insurance in force. From helping children in need, to providing wheelchairs for the disabled, to stocking food banks, to offering top-rated and affordable insurance products to its members, Knights of Columbus has supported families and communities for more than 139 years.



To support efforts of evangelization and inculturation, Knights of Columbus, in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, and with the Southwest Indian Foundation, is building a new shrine in honor of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. When completed, the shrine will be a spiritual resource; a beacon of reconciliation, dialogue and unity. It will be a place of celebration and respect for the spiritual and faithful legacy of Native American Catholics.

For a deeper look at Knights of Columbus programs at the service of Indigenous peoples, or to watch the documentary, visit [kofc.org/enduringfaith](https://kofc.org/enduringfaith).



Knights of  
Columbus®

Looking to live life to the full as part of a fraternal organization for Catholic men? Start here: [kofc.org/joinus](https://kofc.org/joinus)



ENDURING FAITH  
THE STORY OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN CATHOLICS

RELEVANT INFO

RELEVANT INFO





# FILM TOPICS

A sampling of historical topics broached in the documentary

- ◆ Early European voyages to the Americas
- ◆ Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego
- ◆ The reservation system
- ◆ Trail of Tears
- ◆ Indian Removal Policy
- ◆ Doctrine of Discovery
- ◆ Residential school system
- ◆ President Ulysses S. Grant's Native American Peace Policy
- ◆ Battle of Greasy Grass ("Little Bighorn")
- ◆ Wounded Knee massacre
- ◆ Founding of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions established by bishops of the U.S. to be an advocate for Native Americans
- ◆ Dawes General Allotment Act
- ◆ Pope John Paul II 1984 Canadian visit
- ◆ Pope Francis visits Indigenous communities of Chiapas at San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Mexico (2016)
- ◆ Different strategies for evangelization among the Europeans



## ENDURING FAITH

THE STORY OF  
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FILM TOPICS