



KNIGHTLINE

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WEEKLY NEWS FOR KNIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

The feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American saint, is just a few days away, on Tuesday, July 14. In honor of her feast day, check out the stories below about the Knights of Columbus' devotion to the saint, as well as their outreach to First Nation people and Native American communities.

St. Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks and Flower of Algonquins, pray for us!

St. Kateri: A beacon of hope

Graydon Nicholas, former lieutenant governor of New Brunswick, a Knights of Columbus board member and a member of the Maliseet First Nation Tribe, reflects on his personal connection with St. Kateri Tekakwitha. [READ MORE](#)

Learn more about this First Nation Knight – and how he unites evangelization and advocacy for Indigenous peoples – [here](#).



Angela Riley from the Pueblo of Laguna, N.M., holds a relic of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. (Image by Tamino Petelinsek)

Relief for our Native neighbors at risk

Knights in New Mexico, Hawaii and Canada aid Indigenous communities stricken by coronavirus. Patrick Mason – a member of the Knights of Columbus' Board of Directors and Fray Marcos Council 1783 in Gallup, N.M. – rallied his brother Knights in bringing relief.



The Order's call to "Leave No Neighbor Behind" this past spring had a special urgency for Supreme Director Patrick Mason, a member of the Osage Nation. He knew his neighbors in nearby Native American reservations were particularly threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact.

Meanwhile, 5,000 miles away, Knights on Oahu were making a similar effort to provide food and other supplies to kūpuna, or elderly Native Hawaiians, through the Kūpuna Needs Project.

And Saskatchewan Knights traveled hundreds of kilometers north in June, hauling more than \$12,000 of food to two remote villages pummeled by the coronavirus pandemic. [READ MORE](#)

Check out this video highlighting the COVID-19 relief to Native American communities, including those in the Pueblo of Acoma, N.M., considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited sites in North America. In response to the pandemic, Knights drove a trailer to deliver food to the Acoma peoples. [WATCH](#)



Eagle dancers of the Pueblo of Laguna, N.M., and Father Maurice Henry Sands take part in a procession with a relic of St. Kateri. (Image by Tamino Petelinsek)

Did you know that the K of C is helping build a shrine to St. Kateri?

The shrine to the first Native American saint is being built in partnership with the Diocese of Gallup, N.M., and the Southwest Indian Foundation. Designed by architect Erik Bootsma, a member of Father William J. Nolte Council 11533 in Richmond, Va., the shrine complex will feature a 200-foot-tall crucifix, a chapel, and a museum dedicated to St. Kateri, other Native American Catholics and saints who evangelized the Native people. Building began with groundbreaking in August 2019. [READ MORE](#) • [WATCH](#)

A history of Knights and Native peoples The Knights' charity and advocacy for Native Americans and First Nation tribes began as early as the turn of the 20th century. [READ MORE](#)

Supreme Knight welcomed pro-life Native Americans



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson joined the group after the March for Life in January. "Native Americans are our brothers and sisters in Christ, and they are so often forgotten by the culture at large. ... Together we march as people of faith standing up for the rights of every human life." [READ MORE](#) • [WATCH](#)

Coats for Kids at Native American Schools Before the coronavirus, at the beginning of the last school year, Knights of Columbus provided coats for kids at four Native American schools on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations in South Dakota. [WATCH](#)

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A 'message of hope'

An interview with Father Maurice Henry Sands about the experience and needs of Native American Catholics today. "It has never been difficult for me to be a Native American Christian. I am both," he says.

Father Maurice Henry Sands, a member of the Knights of Columbus, is unique among U.S. priests. To his knowledge, he is the only Native American priest in active ministry who grew up on a reservation. He was raised on Walpole Island (Bkejwanong First Nation), which is located on the border between Michigan and Ontario and is home to Ojibwe, Ottawa and Potawatomi peoples.

Father Sands has served as the associate director of Native American affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as executive director of the Black and Indian Mission Office, which consists of three organizations that have historically served the pastoral needs of African American and Native American Catholics.

Last September, he spoke with the Knights of Columbus' *Columbia* magazine about his personal background and about the broader experience of Native Americans within the Catholic Church. [READ MORE](#)

