

Active Nonviolence Corner

Scripture Connection

Creator's blessing rests on the ones who make peace. It will be said to them, 'They are the children of the Great Spirit.' Matthew 5:9, First Nations Version Bible

Native American Heritage Month

November 2025



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge in Milwaukee that we are on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homeland along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America's largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin's sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida and Mohican nations remain present. [Visit Milwaukee](#)



[Wisconsin First Nations](#)

"I humbly ask forgiveness, not only for the offenses of the church herself, but also for crimes committed against the Native peoples during the so-called conquest of America." Pope Francis, Meeting with First Nations, Metis and Inuit indigenous communities in Maskwacis, Alberta, Canada, July 25, 2022.

[Read Pope Francis' full apology](#)

Confronting Our History

Our nation and the indigenous peoples that occupied Turtle Island (North America to many indigenous people) share a difficult history of invasion, colonialism, genocide and ethnocide. Though to be people of nonviolence, we must confront the truth about what has occurred, and that requires we listen, enter into dialogue, take responsibility, and seek forgiveness and reconciliation. That is a lot, so where do we begin?

Spreading awareness about Native American heritage and history is paramount, especially in a context where many school systems have historically neglected this vital part of our nation's story. The consequences of this have led to the perpetuation of harmful stereotypes and historical inaccuracies, as well as the underrepresentation of Native Americans in various aspects of society, including the media and politics. This lack of awareness also hinders Native Americans' rightful place in discussions on policy, culture, environmental issues, and representation. By rectifying this educational gap, we can work toward a more equitable and inclusive society – one where the richness of Indigenous cultures and contributions is acknowledged and celebrated.

Quiz



[Do you and your kids know these Native American Heritage Month facts?](#)

Try our 10-question quiz and see how you do!

Local Activities

[Milwaukee Public Museum](#)

Second floor exhibits feature [Native Americans of North America](#).

[Congregation of the Great Spirit](#)

The Congregation of the Great Spirit, located at 1000 W Lapham Blvd in Milwaukee, is a Catholic community that preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ through American Indian Culture and Spirituality.

[Indian Community School](#)

Located in the greater Milwaukee area, ICS serves Native American students from various tribes. It aims to cultivate cultural identity through a curriculum that combines indigenous teachings with a distinguished learning environment.

[Effigy Mounds in Milwaukee](#)

[Milwaukee](#), and southern Wisconsin at [Aztalan State Park](#), has some effigy mounds at [Forest Home Cemetery](#).

Read All About It

[A Look at Nonviolent Protests by Indigenous People Throughout History](#)

[Nonviolence Indigenous Civil Resistance and Treaty Rights and the Role of non-Native Allies](#).

Creative Reconciliation

[Reconciliation Rising](#) is a multimedia project that showcases the lives and work of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the U.S. who are engaged in honestly confronting painful and traumatic histories, promoting meaningful and respectful dialogue between Natives and non-Natives, and creating pathways to reconciliation.

Restorative Justice

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA), are [transferring the Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center property to the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#), the original caretakers of the land.

Jesus' Call to Nonviolence Conversation Starters



How can a shared reverence for creation, which is deeply rooted in many Native American traditions, inform and enrich Catholic understanding of environmental stewardship?

The Catholic Church teaches about working for the common good. How can this principle guide us in supporting and standing in solidarity with Native American communities today, especially in advocating for issues like land rights and the preservation of cultural heritage?

Many Native American Catholics have a blended identity, incorporating their cultural traditions with their Catholic faith. How might seeing the faith through a different cultural lens, such as the prayer to the Four Directions or the use of smudge, deepen and broaden one's own Catholic spirituality?

Bartolomé de Las Casas, a 16th Century Spanish Dominican priest, wrote directly to the King of Spain hoping for new laws to prevent the brutal exploitation of Native Americans. What can we learn from his example about speaking out against injustice and upholding the dignity of every person?

Prayer

(the image of the people gathered at sunset would go
underneath the word prayer)

Great Spirit,
Open our hearts to the lessons of our elders,
And our minds to the laughter and dreams of our children.
Give us the courage and patience to heal the wounds of the past, And to build a future
filled with justice and peace.
May we learn from the traditions that teach us to walk softly on the Earth.

May we show respect and kindness to one another, And to all the creatures and beings
with whom we share this planet.
Guide us to live with deep compassion and understanding,
For all people, in all relations. We offer this prayer with grateful hearts, seeking balance
and a renewed commitment to your vision of love and unity.