



A Pastoral Letter by Nick Black Elk in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*
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A pastoral letter by Nick Black Elk written at Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, no date; published in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*, St. Michael's Mission, Fort Totten, Fort Totten Indian Reservation, North Dakota 10, no. 6 (January 15, 1907): 4. Translated from Lakota to English by Patricia Catches the Enemy, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, January 2019; requested by Holy Rosary Mission. Source: Marquette University, Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records (Series 14-1 General Publications, Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha, Box 25 Folder 18, Microfilm reel 18)

HOLY ROSARY MISSION, PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S.D.

My Relatives, On this day the Catholic community will come together to have a meeting in a good way and has invited all common folks to come and gather with a prayer. All are having a poor start because everyone is poor so the church is having a hard time; in that way they can not have a community building so it is with their intention for all of us as Catholics to come together and see what we can do for each other. We are one community and we have a single purpose, so as Catholics we work together; we are raised as Lakota Catholics helping one another and that is what we all know and understand that this is what we do. This is the way Jesus told us to do, for one another.

Lastly, there is only-one important law, to love one another; So then, we have always known one basic law that we have heard over and over, that a good man always has the Great Spirit in our hearts toward one another and be thankful for each other; so for you we are here, we are all related. Take the shawls and the strings of a head dress and give them to me and I will sell them for pennies so that we, the common man, can build a prayer house. The future generations will continue to live this way and know the importance of it and will move it forward. As Lakota so too the Jesuit community when they are called upon this earth they go to places, leave everything and come here and some suffer so; it is with this in mind that I ask you to seek this way for whatever you can do. Our Father, his son and the Holy Ghost in his holy name.

I am one of your relatives.

N. W. Black Elk

HOLY ROSARY MISSION,
PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S. D.

Mitakuyepi, Sínasapa owancaya onpi kin le anpetu kin yuonihanyan mniciyapi heciyatannan on ikcewicaśa wocekiye yunapi kin lila iyotiyeki-yapi icin lila wañpanicapi kin neon tipiwakan yunapi kta okinipi śni heciyatannan on owancaya Catholic ya-onpi kin ekta ahionytonwanpi kta iyenicecapi. Tiwahe wanjila neon-capi na wowicala wanjila onyunapi heciyatannan on ti sanpatannan onkakiyapi ca sloiyayapi, incin Jesus lecel onkokiyakapi. Enake ĩcin woope teca wanji onqupi, oyaśinla wašte kicilakapo; necel wicoie wanji naonñonpi heon wicaśa waštepi kin Wakantanka eciyatannan wopila eci-ciyapi neciyatannan on mitakuyepi, sina oyaśin eśa na wapañlate he ikan tanni eśa niyumakiyapi kin mazaśala eśa iyopewavin kte na heciyatannan on ikcewicaśa tipiwakan wanji ĩci wicawecagin kte. Icin tokatakiya wicoicage yuha yapi kte kin nehanyan okolakiciye wakan qel kakijapi kte, icin Jesus taokolakiciye el tona wicalapi kin hena maka akan nanan- ĩci ni onpi kin hena onkakijapi kin tanka heciyatannan on takun onya-yapi kin ekta ahiontowanpo. Ate-yapi kin na Cinnintku kin na Woniya Wakan caje nicipi on nunwe.

Nitakuyepi wanji miye

N. W. BLACK ELK.