



**A Pastoral Letter by Nick Black Elk in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha***  
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A pastoral letter by Nick Black Elk written at Manderson, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, October 20, 1907; published in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*, St. Michael's Mission, Fort Totten, Fort Totten Indian Reservation, North Dakota, Vol. 11, no. 5 (December 15, 1907): 4. Translated from Lakota to English under Michael F. Steltenkamp, S.J. and Patricia Catches the Enemy.

We started the St. Joseph Society here and decided to select people into these positions every year. They are:

Joseph Spotted Tail, (Chief) President	Adam Lone Elk, Alternate James
Black Bear, Treasurer	John Lone Goose, Chiefs' Bonnet Keeper
Sam Wears Black Shoes, Secretary	John Eagle Elk, Door Keeper
Jerome Little Elk, Opening Prayer	William Thunderhorse, Song preparer
Henry Weasel, Funeral Arranger	

St. Joseph Health Issues Committee are: Charlie Hollow Horn, John Plenty Wolf, Alfred Black Bear, William Black Tail, Frank Kicking Bear, Leonard Foolish Woman, Moves Camp

My relatives, These people will carry forward as Gods' community, to pray and work together, to become strong in our faith and help one another in prayer and support for our future.

Last May, Edward White Crow lost his wife. And at that wake I said these words: My friends and relatives and St. Joseph and St. Mary Society present. What I want to tell the mourners is this. Every one of us has to die some day and we are not going to live for a long time because God has sent us on this earth for a short time. But what I want to tell you is: have faith in God and remember to go to church every Sunday because this is where you can gain wisdom. And when you pray to God, all your sorrows and whatever that comes your way will disappear, because God is there to help you.

This woman was very active in the St. Mary's Society. So now she has gained the gates of heaven because she has worked very hard for God. Now what I'm going to say again is this: that Julia White Crow was a very kind woman. I saw her work many times, and she tried her best to do what she was supposed to be doing—sewing, and helping out in the meetings, cooking—and we are going to miss this woman because God has called her. God the Father, and Jesus Christ—I pray to them often that St. Joseph's and St Mary's Society will never fade away. Some day this is going to happen because the present generation is beginning to turn. But let us train our younger ones to continue on the work that we've been doing. I am very old now and my days are numbered. So my friends and relatives, what I'd like to say is, at least, God have pity on you during your mourning.

And last July I went to Indianapolis, Indiana. There I met with the White people in a meeting and I was really glad that I have heard and seen with my own eyes the things that they are doing. And we should do the same thing here, but it is very hard for us to do the things that the white people are doing because we have very few things to work with. But again, we must depend on God to help us. My friends and relatives I speak to you from the bottom of my heart. Please try and do the things that we're supposed to do. Let us not forget the main person—that is Wakan Tanka [God]. And the priest or the bishop has told us that we are never to be afraid because God is always with us.

Now last September 20th, I went on a trip again. This time to Montana where they called me and invited me to go there. And it was difficult for me [because they spoke a different language]. But they have organized a St. Joseph and a St. Mary Society, and I was really glad that these people, too, were interested in the organization. And I spoke at that meeting and congratulated them because they, too, have interest in the great family, the Holy Family. So I will now close. You should all pray and always remember to pray for each other.

I am,

Nick Black Elk

zapi.

Nitakuyepi wanji miye.

MARY HORN CLOUD.

Onciyapi.

Manderson, S. D. Oct. 20, 1907

St. Joseph Okodakiciye letannan tokatakiya wi akenup woitancanyan kagapi kin lena epi,

Joshua Spotted Owl itancan.

Adam Lone Elk okihe.

James Blackbear mazaska awanyaka.

Alex Publo wowapi kaga.

John Lone Goose wapaha yuha.

Sam Tahanpesapa iapi awanyaka.

John Eagle Elk tiyopa awanyaka.

Jerome Little elk wocekiye eye.

William Thunderhorse lowan itancan.

Henry Weasel wicahapi awanka.

St. Joseph ataya wicokuje awanyakapi

Charlie Hollow Horn, John Plenty Wolf,

Alfred Blackbear Wm. Blacktail Frank

Kickingbear na Leonard Foolish-woman, wiklklapi.

Mitakuyepi, lena tokatakiya Wakantanka okoikiciye tawa kin na le wasakuyapi kta hecel on onawicayahonpi kta na wocekiye ewicaye cin yapi kta.

Hekta May wiyawap. yaman on hehan Edward White Crow tawicu tin kta yunkan wicoie lenakeca eyin la te io. Titakuye owasin kico na St. Joseph na St. Mary okolakiciye nakun hipi; lila wicota hece. Yunkan iecel ewicakiya: Wanna le mañin kta ca manke, mañe eśaś yaceyapi kte śni eyaś tanyehci wacem yeciciyapi kta na micinca kin oyasin wanna mañpiya ekta tanyehcin wokajuhduña yankapi, ho m.ś iyecel wanna wokajuju iwekcu kta. Eyaś cin winyan wanjikji okolakiciye le wicawakamba na heon tanyehce mañpiya ekta wakni kte, hecel tokśa wocekiye eciciyapi kta. Ho mitakuyapi, wicohan wakan le lila hece ewacannipi kte.

Hecehci wicoie eyin na ehakehci oyasin nape wicayuzin na ta. Winyan kin le Julia White Crow eciyapi, Wakmeza Wakpa etannan. Ho mitakuyepi, le iyukanpo. Wakantanka Cinhintku taku eye kin nahan awecakeya wowicake St. Joseph na St. Mary yaonpi kin lecehece le woawacin kin awacin po; la Wakantanka tanyan wowasi ecakicon wacinpo. Taku tona mañpiya el on kin klamnapi kin hena tohanni oihanke wanicin kta, wicohan wašte econqonpi kin he mañpiya ekta onkiciknakapi, heon okolakiciye oyasin wicakeye hecin onwacinpo. Na ptaya najin wacin po, na wicohan wašte akiciyuha po. Mitakuyepi, le maka le wicohan nup wanblake, hekta July 14 hehan Indianapolis, Ind. heciya wasicun omniciye tanka econpi ekta wai na wicohan wanblakin na lila tansak maña, awecakehan tokel okihika Wakantanka wacinyanpi kin wanblaka, wica-

keyehci Wakantanka kici onpi lakaś wookiye kin wicakici on. Heon etanhan mitakuyepi wicaśawakan ob yaonpi kin wicakeya wicayunihanpo na anawicagoptanpo, na taku onspeniciyapi kin hena tinsyahan yuhapo na suta najinpo; hececa kin wookiye kin nicipi on kte. Na hehanl hekta September 20, hehan Inyanconkaśkela lakota śinasapa omniciye tanka yuhapi na ekta wai na wicohan kin wanblake na hecel wicohan wašte econpi heon eciyatanhan mitakuyepi taku tona okolakiciye wakan on taku tona econpi kin hena tanyehce onkiksu-yapi kte; hececa kinahan waśakonkiciyapi kte na wookiye kin onkicipi on kte.

Oyasin nape ciyuzapi.

Nitakolapi wanji

Nick W. Black Elk

MANDERSON, S. D.

St. Mary Okolakiciye. Itancanpi.

Anne Black Elk itancan.

Mary Eagle Elk okihe.

Agnes Black Bear wowapi kaga.

Juha Lone Elk mazaska awanyaka.

Lou sa Plenty Wolf wapaha yuha.

Alvina Wright wokuje awanyaka.

Jessie Weasel wocekiye eye.

Mrs. Red Elk iapi awanyaka.

Mrs. Kicking Bear tiyopa awanyaka.

Mary Kicking Bear, Annie Kleśkawin,

Jennie Thunder Horse, Louisa Plenty

Star wiklklapi.

Mrs. Living Bear wamnaye.

Mitakuyepi, St. Mary okoikiciye yaonpi kin wowacinye nitawapi kin patan wanjila yuha wacanipi kte na ito lila ceonkiyapi kte. hecel wicohan wašte kin onkiklamlapi kte; ho hecetu we.

Oyasin nape ciyuzape.

Agnes Black Bear.

OWANCAYA WOTANIN.

WIKOŚKE WAN

SIHA IYUTAPI 1000.

HINHĀYA.

Olean, N. Y. makoce kin nen Miss Carrie Myers on kinyanpi heca onna wankan ye qa tewannankan i eca he nan kañoiyeç ya keś taku wan onanzindepi yuha onpi kin hececa yus hiyu eca yubdañ iyeya ecee. eca on iwanmana makata inajin ecee; de ake necon unkan tanyan yupsag niyu tuka ooyuspe kin yuśna qa oyate tanka wicitokam sina iyutapi kektopawinge wanji wankantuya hetanham hinħapaya qa kte.

CAICIPA.

Alfred Anderson eciyapi wan istinman wihanbda unkan wanke kin etkiya wamanon wicaśta wan sdohan ue hecen isan ehdaku qa capa ihanmnan. ogonge