



A Pastoral Letter by Nick Black Elk in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*
Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records, Series 14-1 Collected Publications

A pastoral letter by Nick Black Elk written at Manderson, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, October 18, 1909; published in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*, St. Michael's Mission, Fort Totten, Fort Totten Indian Reservation, North Dakota, Vol. 14, no. 4 (November 15, 1909): 4. Translated from Lakota to English under Michael F. Steltenkamp, S.J.

I will tell you something about what I have been writing in the newspaper. I've been telling you about God and all His works and how we could all be involved. We should all support each other—in the St. Joseph Society, or helping others like cutting wood or helping haul water.

The Apostolic Delegate in Washington, D.C., is a very nice and holy man. His name is Fr. Ketcham [William H. Ketcham]. They called a big meeting and at this meeting, there was a big occasion that happened. He recognized us as catechists—helping the priests and helping our own people.

The children that are coming up as adults should be taught what is right and what is wrong. If we don't teach them, then these children will not learn anything about God, and also the commandments. So teach your children. And if you need information, ask me or ask the Father.

My friends and relatives: You should set aside a date when you could call me or the Father and have a family to come together and pray. Then, if you don't know the prayers, I or the Father, whoever is around, could tell you or give you some books or something that you can pray with.

Children must learn that they must first learn to pray. First they must learn who God is, and who the Holy Spirit is. All these things should be taught. When I was given this job I did not want it, but you people have encouraged me to take on this job. So that's why I'm doing this—for your own good—so I need your help. When I come to your house to pray, please have everyone there so I may be able to teach you something about God.

I will now close here that you remember to donate .25. That will help us to build a new church and a meeting house in the near future. In closing my friends and relatives, I will remember you in my prayers. Also pray for me.

Nick Black Elk

Source: Marquette University, Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records (Series 14-1 General Publications, *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*, Box 25 Folder 19, Microfilm reel 19)

MANDERSON. S. D.

Oct. 18, 1909.

Eyanpaha.

Taku wanji tehan rcin awacin waon kin wanna lehanl iyeyawapaha kte, heon tuwe geyas eyapaha iyapi kin he ilukcanpi kte lo. Ikcewicasa wocekiye ounpapi kin hena tokel okihi Wakantanka ceonkiyapi wasteka tka econonkapinpi heon etanhan okodakiciye oycin hunke sni; heciyatanhan on onkitawakanyejapi kin hena tokel wastepi kta hecin wicoran wanji etanhan wastepi kta iyecetu kin he lee. Washington, D. C. etanhan wicasawakan Ikcewicasa awanwicayake kin, Father Ketcham eciyapi kin, omniciye wan tanka yuha na wicoran tanka rca el koyakya yuha heciyatanhan on Ikcewicasa wakanyeja wicononyuhapi kin hel opewicaonkiyapi kta iyecetu. Hecela tokata wakanyeja wanji waste icar onpi kte. Incin hel lila wocekiye tanka wicakicagapi kin heon etanhan tuweni otuyacin taku waste icarya okihi sni na tuweni otuyacin tiwahe waste yuha kta okihi sni. Incin tuktel Wakantanka oiye kin yanke hantans ecela el taku waste icaga okihi; heon etanhan mitakuyepi, nicincapi kin hel opewicayakiyapi kta iyececa. Omarka wanjica kin he 25c. on wocekiye tanka wicakicagapi kte laka onknahercin Wakantanka wowaake onqupi kta iyececa. Ho le mitakuyepi, iyucanpo; Ikcewicasa ota nahanrcin kakijapi. Ho hecetu. Tona taku cinyapi on hena wocekiye wicoran on ciksuyapelo.

NICK W. BLACKELK.