



**A Pastoral Letter by Nick Black Elk in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha***  
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A pastoral letter by Nick Black Elk written at Greenwood, Yankton Indian Reservation, South Dakota, undated; published in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*, St. Michael's Mission, Fort Totten, Fort Totten Indian Reservation, North Dakota Vol. 19, no. 7 (February 15, 1915): 3. 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 26 Folder 3, Microfilm reel 19)

GREENWOOD, SD

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

The CRYER

The Catholic Church requests to have a meeting. For the Lakota people, this coming spring, There will be a large meeting on the Yankton (Reservation), there is to be this meeting where the headsmen will be there too. The Coordinator of these meetings is Father Westropp. Nickolas Black Elk from Pine Ridge, SD is to be there too. The third man is Yellow Bird. The man in charge of the Yankton gathering is Chief The Heart Of Many People, he was an important Yanktonai Chief. The man who will carry the headdress is to be Samuel One Star. John W. Howard will be the doorkeeper. Wm. Fine-eyes, John I. Little Owl will wear their robes. Mm. Zephier is to lead the songs/hymns. These people will take charge of the main meeting.

So at the Yanktonai house, all the men there are members of the Catholic church, very upstanding in their communities. Wm. Bean Sr.(Arapahoe), David Zephier, Jacob Little Owl, Amos Blue Legs, Charles Cordier, Lighting Horse, and Red Lighting. These men had great status in their communities and they came willingly. So, we welcome all the people who come from South Dakota, from North Dakota, Montana, Nebraska and all who are Catholic people will be here and our hope is to continue this in the future, this is what we intend to do. We want to do this important thing.

A while back, there was a Catholic priest named Father DeSmet, who came here to this part of the country and at that time, the chiefs of that time, with the blessing of the Great Spirit adopted him as brothers. Chief Struck By The Rees and his people were all baptized there. And then, from up north, the common people all recognized that the goodness of God's ways was also good for them and all peoples. So then, towards the end, all of the common people understood that with the people that lived as God intended them to, it was all very good. This is a great understanding (gift) we have been given.

So this great understanding is a memorial we are to carry forward for our people and future generations to come. In that way, the Catholic church/community in your area, you are responsible. So those of you that have seen and heard are responsible. The meetings are important to be kept, the rules and prayers are to be kept going for the future. Keep that in your minds/hearts. That is all I am going to say. Then everything that has happened at these general meetings, what took place, what was proposed and adopted for the benefit of all peoples, every one remember that. This is the way it is.

My relatives, the Savior died on the cross for you and me so that we will live, this is the most grateful thing I have to say to you.

Nickolas BlackElk Catechist

GREENWOOD, S. D.  
St. Paul's Church.

Eyanpaha

Śinasapa omniciye tanka eciyatanhan. Lakota bloketu kinnan Inanktonwan tipi el omniciye tanka yuhapi kte cin hel omniciye itancan yankapi kte cin he lena eepi: Ataya omniciye awanyakin kte cin he Father Westropp. Nicholas Black elk, Pine Ridge etanhan kin, okihe. Iyamni kte cin he Yellowbird, Inanktonwan tipi etan-

etanhan, Cetanwicota eciyapi. Wapaha yuha mani kte cin he Samuel Onestar. John W. Howard tiyopa awanyaka. Wm. Fine-eyes, John I. Little-owl oklikiepi. Mm. Zephier dowan itanean. Ho lena wicoran tanka kin he awanyakapi kta.

Hehan Inanktonwan tipi kin el wicaśa kin dena śinasapa owicoran yuha najinpi. Wm. Bean, Sr. (Marpiyato), David Zephier, Jacob Little-owl, Amos Sitoka, Chas Cordier, Wakinyantaśunke, Redlightning. Lena wicaśa tankapi qa wašte hecapi.

South Dakota Śinasapa yaunpi kin qa North Dakota, Montana, qa Nebraska śinasapa yaunpi kin, hena oyasin tokata le oyanke kin el omniciye yuhapi kte cin yaupi uncinpi. Taku wanji on le lecel uncinpi kin lee. Ehana hekta śinasapa wicaśawan wanji Father DeSmet lel oyanke el hi yelo, na he wicaśa itaneanpi (chiefs) kin hena heon etanhan Tunkansila kici wolokotakagape lo. Palani apapi taoyate kin le ataya miniawieakastan yelo. Na iyopteya waziyatakiya oyate watogla onpi kin iya za wicoran wašte oyag aye cin he slolyayapelo. Na ecel lehantu kin wanna Ikcewicaśa kin Wakantanka Taoyate heca icagapi kin lehan slolyayapelo.

Heon wokiksuye wan tanka ca ekicihdepi kte lo. Heon Śinasapa owancaya yaonpi kin he iyoniwajapelo. Ca leon tokata waeonkeyapi kte lo ca kiksuyapo! Hehan letan tokatakiya wi otoloyohi omniciye tanka kte cin on naron alapi kte lo.

Hehan tokeśa anpetn wan el tohan omniciye tanka kin he inyanke kte cin he nayaronpi kte lo. Ho heon hecel epin kte lo. Oyanke iyohi le oyate nin taku iwaštepi kta iyececa kin hena tehinla gna iyukcanpi na yuha wapo. Hekta omniciye tanka qonhan taku yuśtan qon hena kiksuya po: Lecetu welo. Mitakuyepi, Wanikiya canicipawega Tawa kin el tona niwicakiyapi qon hena wopila eciyapi.

NICKOLAS BLACKELK.  
Catechist.

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SINASAPA WOCEKIYE TAEYANPAHA FEBRUARY 15, 1915.