

# Our Sacred Heart Story with the Potawatomi People in Kansas, 1841-79

## Preparation, reflection and study guide

Session Four, March 16, 2022

*Pages 105-145*

*Waning of St Mary's Mission 1861-1869, Building and Closing 1870-1879,  
Epilogue: The Future of the Potawatomi and the Society of the Sacred Heart*

*Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,*

*with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;*

*rend your **hearts** and not your clothing.*

[Joel 2.1-2, 12-17](#)

We experienced an extraordinary moment in time together last Wednesday- the vulnerability of Dr. Mosteller, her graciousness, passion, and courage in such an intimate sharing was so very profound. Her clarity and stalwartness were deeply touching and enlightening. Her truth-telling opened our consciousness and consciences. We rend our hearts, our wounds are more open. We feel grief-stricken and wonder- how do you pray a lament prayer? I found this answer:

*God, we find ourselves in a time of great sorrow. Give us the gift of tears that moves us beyond sadness into compassion. Inspire and empower us not only to cry about others but also to weep with them. Teach us to lament, so that we do more than regret our circumstances; we resolve to cooperate with you to change them.*

And we want to ponder with the [Sacred Heart Education/Examen on Social Sin](#) Sacred Heart Examen on Social Sin prepared by Meg Causey, rscj and Suzanne Cooke, rscj, for the Conference of Sacred Heart Education: **Penitence, Repentance, Contrition and Remorse**. We are grateful for these models and spiritual support. They are rich offerings from our Sacred Heart Family.

This fourth session will be a zoom meeting with author Maureen Chicione, rscj and Molly Arthur, Associate, and Bridget Bearss, RSCJ, technology. This will be our time as a community to share our experiences, insights and learnings.

### Reflection:

1. What in your experience with the sessions touched you most deeply? What was lost, what was gained?
2. How do you relate what you have learned with your relationship with the charism of the Sacred Heart? *"To discover the heart of Jesus and how it is revealed in the heart of reality"* as described by Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, July 2021?



## Timeline

- 1861 Treaty of 1861- allotments and US citizenship
- 1861-1865 Civil War
- 1862 Homestead Act
- 1862- (38) Dakota warriors were publicly hanged, MN
- 1863-1869 [First Transcontinental Railroad](#)
- 1866 - 7th Cavalry, Custer at Fort Riley, near Mission
- 1866 - [Battle of the Hundred Slain/Fetterman Fight](#)
- 1867 - Decision to take allotments in OK
- 1868 - President Ulysses S. Grant implements his Native American Peace Policy, shifting American strategy from the elimination of Native peoples to assimilation
- 1870s Division from Prairie Potawatomi, then move to OK
- 1870-1879 Gov stopped paying for the students, SH took over building and land, had settler Catholic children, dropped using Potawatomi language
- 1876 Custer defeated at [Battle of the Little Bighorn](#)
- 1887 Dawes General Allotment Act
- 1891 Non-Optional allotment- Land Run, Dual citizenship
- 1930 Indian Reorganization Act, still under Sec Interior.
- 1938 CPN Constitution- Federal recognition of formal tribal governments was an important component of the shift away from a federal Indian policy of assimilation.
- 2007 Rejected BIA oversight. New constitution

*This time of a common, global trauma is also an opportunity to assess what is important and what is not. It is time to pay attention to what we are hearing among ourselves and from the people around us, to be humble enough to learn. Perhaps now is the time to re-examine our own hearts and ask ourselves again how we too are complicit in the systemic sins of our world. To acknowledge our complicity in systems that hurt, diminish, and disregard others and our earth is a sign of our capacity to respond to God's call in a new way- that of strength in weakness.*

Sister Barbara Dawson, Superior General of the Society, in her reflection  
on the Feast of the Sacred Heart - June 19, 2020