

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

## Preparation, reflection and study guide

Session Two: Wednesday, February 16, 2022

### Preparation for session:

Look up some history of those Indigenous Peoples upon whose land you live now and where you were born.

<https://native-land.ca/>

Create a space of comfort for yourself, free from interruptions for the 1.5 hours. Think of having a glass of water, a candle and objects of meaning sharing the space with you during the session. Gather some of Mother Earth's bounty to join you in your space.

This second session will be a zoom meeting with our guest speaker, Maureen Chicoine, RSCJ and Molly Arthur, Associate and Bridget Bearss, RSCJ, technology.

**Four members of our Sacred Heart family will respond for five minutes each to Jerilyn DeCoteau's talk and to the book readings up to page 68:**

**Julia Arce, teacher, Jenny Morfin, Mary Kay Hunyady, RSCJ, and Kristi Laughlin, Associate.** There will be small groups offered as well. You will be muted and your video on. You will be able to ask questions in the chat at any time during the session, we will also save the questions for future response- please keep your contribution in the chat to questions only. Please come early, starting at 3:50pm PST so we can start promptly at 4:00 pm PST.

***Read "Grave on the Prairie" Sugar Creek Indian Mission 1841-1847 Pages 36-68***

### Study:

1. What were the qualities the RSCJ expressed in order to persevere in such a different cultural encounter and in face of the hardships of the frontier, including disease and drought? And what qualities of the Potawatomi would enable them to survive the trauma of the Trail of Death in 1838 and start anew in building their lives in Sugar Creek and then to remove again to St. Mary's in 1847?
2. What differences were there between the RSCJ spirituality and the Potawatomi spirituality?
3. How does the story of RSCJ living with the Potawatomi People on their reservation, endeavoring to teach in the Potawatomi language, serving them as Catholics teachers, acting as "Mothers" to the students, fit within the US system and policy of "civilizing" the natives? Pg 62

## Reflection:

1. What response do you have individually and through the prism of your relationship with the Sacred Heart?
2. Which attitudes that the RSCJ brought to America and their mission evoked a strong response in you?
3. What lessons learned by RSCJ in America surprised you?

## Optional Session Resources:

[West of the Mississippi](#)- Gallery 8 in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center- Sugar Creek and St Mary's Mission, Kansas- 22 minute video



## Timeline

- 1841- 1847 Sacred Heart School on Potawatomi territory in Sugar Creek, KS
- 1843 - Emigrants begin their journey along the [Oregon Trail](#)
- 1845 - [Florida](#) and [Texas](#) become states
- 1846 - 1848 [U.S.-Mexican War](#)
- 1846 - [Bear Flag revolt](#) in Alta California, which is momentarily independent.
- 1846 - [Iowa](#) becomes a state
- 1846 - The United States and Great Britain sign the [Oregon Treaty](#)
- 1848 - RSCJ move school to St Mary's Mission, KS
- 1848 - California Gold Rush

<https://www.potawatomiheritage.com/history/>  
<https://www.potawatomiheritage.com/360-virtual-tour/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5rvJC20li-0cmZ6eCi4m0Q/videos>

*As family of the Sacred Heart, we are called to respond, “as One Body,” drawing from our charism and mission as educators. This means growing in a shared vision that allows us to understand the complexity of the political, economic, and social systems that confront us; increasing awareness of how we ourselves may be complicit in injustice; and deepening practices rooted in an integral ecology.”*

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, pg 2

## Recommended Course Resources read by Molly Arthur

**[TRIGGER POINTS](#) Current State of Research on History, Impacts, and Healing Related to the United States’ Indian Industrial/Boarding School Policy–Native American Rights Fund 2019 112 page pdf**  
See pages 13-14 –*Formative Roots: Assimilation and Christian Saviors.*

**[Native, Belonging and Rediscovering God](#) by Kaitlin B. Curtice 2020** Native is about identity, soul-searching, and the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God. As both a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, Kaitlin Curtice shares what it means to experience her faith through the lens of her Indigenous heritage and encourages us to embrace our own origins.

**[Unsettling Truths The ongoing-dehumanizing legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery](#) by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rahn 2019** Injustice has plagued American society for centuries. And we cannot move toward being a more just nation without understanding the root causes that have shaped our culture and institutions.

**[The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee](#) by David Treuer 2019** “Part of the magic of this book stems from Treuer’s ability to move seamlessly back and forth from the Big Indian Story to the voices of living Indians explaining to us, and to themselves, what it means to be Indian, American, and both at the same time. . . . open[ing] a window on the contemporary Indian world, in its dazzling variety, and infus[ing] the book with a kind of vividness and punch rarely found in narrative histories. . . . It’s hard to imagine there will be a better, more compelling look at Indian country than this one anytime soon.” –*The Daily Beast*

**[The Other Slavery The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America](#) by Andres Resendez 2016** Since the time of Columbus, Indian slavery was illegal in much of the American continent. Yet, as Andrés Reséndez illuminates in his myth-shattering *The Other Slavery*, it was practiced for centuries as an open secret.

**[An Indigenous People’s History of the United States](#) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz 2014** The first history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples.

[Braiding Sweetgrass Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer 2013 As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers.

[The Indian Frontier of the American West, 1846-1890](#) by Robert M. Utley, 2003 "Utley puts events in context and this context will help readers understand the conflicts that stretched from the Civil War to the settling of the West. *The Indian Frontier* will give any reader a good overview of the happenings in the West between 1846-1890."—*H-AmIndian H-Net Book Review*

[Missionary Conquest The Gospel and Native American Cultural Genocide](#) by George E. Tinker 1993 This fascinating probe into U.S. mission history pierces the romantic veil of most history writing and shows how four of the most noted Christian missionaries—men of the highest moral character, the best of intentions, and sincere commitment to the gospel—confused gospel values and European cultural values, often with lethal results. Including Pierre-Jean De Smet and Junipero Serra.

[Ceremony](#) by Leslie Marmon Silko 1977 Almost forty years since its original publication, *Ceremony* remains one of the most profound and moving works of Native American literature—a novel that is itself a ceremony of healing. Masterfully written, filled with the somber majesty of Pueblo myth, *Ceremony* is a work of enduring power.

[There There](#) by Tommy Orange 2018 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • PEN/HEMINGWAY AWARD WINNER • One of *The New York Times* 10 Best Books of the Year • A wondrous and shattering novel that follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize.