

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

7 February, 2022

A Message from Molly Arthur, Associate

Chair of the Workshop Preparation Team, JPIC Indigenous Justice Group

My Dear Family of the Sacred Heart,

My gratitude for those who attended and to those who will watch the video of Jerilyn's talk from our first session. Jerilyn presented a clear and provocative outline of US Indigenous history, seen through the US government's Native American education policy. Her personal recounting as an Indigenous woman whose relatives and ancestors have been recipients of this history, was stunning and spoke to our hearts and minds. The beauty of Jerilyn and her reverent words of truth-telling broke open our hearts. We each had our realizations- mine focused on the overall arc of lack of control, autonomy and sovereignty that was forced upon the Indigenous peoples of America continuously since the very beginning of European contact, centuries ago. I had not seen nor felt the full spectrum of that history until Jerilyn created it for me. I am moved, touched and provoked.

Our second session will highlight Maureen Chicoine, RSCJ with more of her insights about her process in writing the book we all are entirely enjoying! And we are going to hear from members of our Sacred Heart Family, with their responses to the reading so far and to Jerilyn's talk through the lens of their relationship with the Sacred Heart. The links to all of these resources are in the email you received.

Reminder, in advance of our gathering, please read, "Grave on the Prairie" pages 36-68, *Sugar Creek Indian Mission 1841-1847*.

Map of Potawatomi removals. (Courtesy of Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center). Osage Reserve= Sugar Creek, KS, Kansas Reserve=St. Mary's, KS



I welcome all of us and our strong connections with the charism of the Sacred Heart and the living reality of being the Heart of Jesus in the world. We are challenged and provoked to expand and engage new definitions of ourselves- this is sacred work and so important for our future generations and our legacy.

May we feel heartbreak and heartwarming in this work.

Unseen Companion of our life,
Give us faith and eager expectancy
as we continue to face uncertainty.
Help us hold our fear of the unknown
in the assurance that You are with us.
Teach us to wrest treasures from anxiety.
Encourage us to approach each day
with faith, wisdom and compassion.
We pray for those who suffer and all
who care for them.
Inspire us to honor the human
dignity of each person and
may our presence be a source of
healing and encouragement.
We ask all of this confident in your
Spirit. Amen

 **Revealing God's**
Love *in the midst of uncertainty*

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