

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

Preparation, reflection and study guide Session One, Feb 2, 2022

Preparation for session:

- Look up what Indigenous land you are on: <https://native-land.ca/>
- Please 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.

This first session will be a webinar, with our guest speaker, Jerilyn DeCoteau and Maureen Chicoine, RSCJ and Molly Arthur, Associate.

Session One will use the webinar platform of Zoom. You will only see the presenters, not the participants. If you would like to ask a question, please use the “Q and A” button at the bottom of your screen. In this format, all participants are muted and video is off.

The Stuart Center and Bridget Bearss, RSCJ will do technology support. If you need assistance during the presentation, please text her: 248-505-5905. If you have technology or registration questions prior to the presentation, please email her bbearss@stuartcenter.org

- *Pre- Read before the session*
 - *Introduction, Prequel to the Missions with the Potawatomi, 1806-1840, pages 1-23 and*
 - *The People Called “Keepers of the Fire” pages 24-35*

Maureen Chicoine-Introduction and Book mission:

“Try to understand how the missionaries viewed the natives, how their work with the natives shaped the way they lived and worked and, as far as possible, what the natives might have thought of the black-robed women who came to live and work among them. Since the Potawatomi left no written record of their feelings, their impressions will be gauged through observation of their behavior toward the missionaries and the mission school.” Page 2

Successful in their history with Potawatomi- overcame their prejudices to have a successful work and relationship with Potawatomi. Pages 4-5

Biography of our guest presenter: [Jerilyn DeCoteau](#) Article: [Why I opted out of the Cobell settlement](#)

Study:

1. What attitudes did the original RSCJ at Sugar Creek bring to their work with the Indigenous Peoples? How might these attitudes have helped or hindered their ministry?
2. What philosophies and structures in the Catholic Church and actions by Catholic missionaries (Jesuits) influenced the RSCJ in their actions and relationships with the Indigenous Peoples of America- “Reductions”, “Savagism”, cloister, patriarchal hierarchy, 2-tier congregation, “civilizing”, evangelizing.
3. RSCJ saw their education work as a way to help their students develop their full potential as children of God. How does this integrate with the stated goal by St. Madeleine Sophie of education being a “requirement of cultivated society”?

Reflection:

1. What new information did I learn from the readings? Was any of it surprising to me? What feelings am I aware of about this learning?
2. What does this history mean to me related to my Sacred Heart values?

Resources:

Education Week: [1819-2013 A History of American Indian Education](#)

This cited reference to a history of education of Native peoples in the United States includes about 20 frames. Please note that only the first two frames refer to the early 19th century “mission schools” that included the RSCJ and SJ schools at St. Mary’s, Kansas.

Book: [White Man’s Club Schools, Race and the Struggle of Indian Acculturation](#)

For the sake of one child, I would have founded the Society of the Sacred Heart.

Education must be concerned not only with studies, but also with whatever may be required for the right ordering of life and requirements of cultivated society.

St. Madeleine Sophie Barat



Timeline

Origins: Believing that the earth and our existence have been manifested in succession of four worlds, each end is met with great devastation, humility and sacrifice. The story of the Great Flood embodies the compelling and humbling beginning of our fourth and current existence.

- 800-1300: Migration to Great Lakes
- 1200: Neshnabek disbanded into three distinct tribes
- 1600-1800s: Fur trade and French Alliance, Catholic missionaries in East, Metis, in Forest lands
- 1628-1815: Participated in 9 major conflicts, including the American Revolutionary War and War of 1812: most often on opposing sides to Americans
- 1819: [Civilization Fund Act](#)
- 1820s: Marshall Trilogy ([Doctrine of Discovery](#))
- 1820: Missouri Compromise
- 1830: [Indian Removal Act](#)
- 1834-37: Whiskey Treaties and removal to KS
- 1838: Trail of Death, IN to Sugar Creek, KS

<https://www.potawatomiheritage.com/history/>

<https://www.potawatomiheritage.com/360-virtual-tour/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5rvJC20li-0cmZ6eCi4m0Q/videos>