



A Perspective of Indigenous Concerns and Issues

--Al MacLeod
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The 7 Grandfather Teachings: (conclusion) **Niizhwaaswi Gmishoomsinaan Kinoomaagewinan**

As we review the remainder of THE 7 GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS, note their similarities to those of the Catholic Social Teachings.



#4 Bravery (Courage) Aakode'ewin

Bravery is represented by the bear. The mother bear has the courage and strength to face her fears and challenges while protecting her young. The bear also shows us how to live a balanced life with rest, survival and play.

To face the foe with integrity. To face life with courage is to know bravery. Use personal strength to face difficulties, obstacles and challenges. Have courage. Make positive choices. Stand up for your convictions. Show courage in communicating and decision making.



#5 Honesty Gwayakwaadiziwin

Honesty is represented by either the raven or the sabe. They both understand who they are how to walk in their life. Sabe reminds us to be ourselves and not someone we are not. An honest person is said to walk tall like Kitchi-Sabe...Raven accepts himself and knows how to use his gift. He does not seek the power, speed or beauty of others. He uses what he has been given to survive and thrive. So must you.

Honesty in facing the situation is to be brave. To walk through life with integrity is to know honesty. Be truthful and trustworthy. Tell the truth. Accept and act on truths through straightforward and appropriate communication



#6 Truth Debwewin

Truth is represented by the turtle as he was here during creation of Earth and carries the teachings of life on his back. The turtle lives life in a slow and meticulous manner, because he understands the importance of both the journey and the destination.

To know all of these things. To know of the heart is to know the truth. Faithfully apply the teachings of our Seven Grandfathers. Trust in the Creator. Be sincere in action, of character, and in utterance. Be faithful to fact and reality



#7 Humility Dabaadendiziwin

Humility is represented by the wolf. For the wolf, life is lived for his pack and the ultimate shame is to be outcast.

To accept yourself as a sacred part of creation is to know humility. Reflect on how you present yourself. Express or offer in spirit of deference and submission. Use a balance of equality with all life. Recognize the human need for balance in life.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

Life and Dignity of the Human Person: human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation: The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.

Rights and Responsibilities: Human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: A basic moral tradition instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers: The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is a form of continuing participation in God's creation.

Solidarity: We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers.

Care for God's Creation: We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is a requirement of our faith.