

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
Indigenous Peoples
November 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am writing this reflection on Indigenous Peoples Day, October 13, 2025. How blessed we are that we have come to see the deeper significance of this day. For so many years we celebrated the day as a day of conquest, with little regard for the dignity and worth of each person living here, disregard and disrespect for the communities on this land. How blessed we are that our eyes have been opened and as a nation we can now recognize that we are living on the ancestral lands of so many Indigenous peoples. We are now called to deepen our understanding and respect for those who walked these lands before us and continue to share its beauty.



Compassionate Action

As I began my reflection, I learned that there are 18 federally recognized tribal nations in the Diocese of San Diego. I was gratified and excited to learn this. I plan to spend some time over the next year learning more about these sisters and brothers who share the same earth, sea, and sky with us in our Diocese. May I encourage you to explore your area of our beautiful St. Francis Region and learn more about the indigenous peoples near you.



Let Us Pray

Our Divine, Holy, Sovereign God. Thank you for loving us and protecting us. May we learn more deeply every day to celebrate the life you have given us, and the opportunity to learn more and celebrate with all the culturally diverse peoples that you created, our blessed Lord and Creator.

Let Us Sing
Cherokee Morning Song

https://youtu.be/YhcgX1VHsgk?list=PLT3s1fQmINygnPcmHteG6eQWek8Ar_yJsl

May we pray, act, and sing as we carry God's Hope and Love into the world.