

Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School

Fall 2025

*"I love powwow
because of the
food, but I like
to dance, too!
Thanks for
donating to
my school!"*

*— Josephine,
St. Joseph's student*



From the Desk of Fr. Greg



Fr. Greg, Chaplain

As the seasons shift once again, we find ourselves reflecting on another powerful moment at St. Joseph's Indian School — our 49th Annual Powwow.

Each fall, this cherished tradition brings together our Lakota (Sioux) students,

families, staff, supporters and our alumni — those who carry the spirit of St. Joseph's into the world beyond our campus. Their return each year is a testament to the strength of our **thiyóšpaye** — *extended family* — and a beautiful reminder of the lasting bonds formed here.

“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

At this year's **wačhípi** — *powwow* — there was much to rejoice in and give thanks for. We honored the past, celebrated the present and danced with hope for the future.

Your continued generosity makes this celebration possible. It creates a space where memories are rekindled, culture is celebrated and community is strengthened.

Philámayaye — *thank you* — for walking beside the Lakota children through life's seasons and being a vital part of their ongoing story.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ
Chaplain

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Taivin

Taivin, a 2023 graduate of St. Joseph's Indian School's high school program, graduated this past spring from Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, S.D., as a Build Dakota Scholar. He completed the Building Trades Technology Program, inspired by his father's career in construction. Last summer, he worked with Dakota Land Design in Brookings, S.D., where he has now begun his post-graduation employment.

Taivin was one of 113 recipients of the Čhaŋkú Lúta Scholarship awarded by St. Joseph's last fall, supporting Native American students committed to

walking the “Red Road” — a path of integrity, respect and service. He credited his family for teaching him discipline and motivating his continued success.



Thanks to generous donors like YOU, St. Joseph's Indian School awarded over \$228,000 in scholarships last year to support Native American students like Taivin.

To learn more about our alumni, visit stjo.org/alumni.

Stitching Gratitude: An Alumna's Star Quilt Gift

A St. Joseph's Indian School alumna gifts a handmade star quilt to a donor.

Each year, St. Joseph's Indian School hosts a **wačhípi** — *powwow* — which is a vibrant gathering where tradition, culture and community combine. It is a time for Lakota (Sioux) students to celebrate their heritage, connect with family and friends and share the beauty of their traditions with visitors from near and far.

The powwow grounds come alive with the rhythmic beat of the drum, echoing across the prairie. The air fills with the sounds of jingling dresses and the colorful swirls of regalia as dancers step to the music in Fancy, Jingle, Traditional and Grass dances. Students proudly showcase the traditions passed down through generations, while alumni return to reconnect with the school that shaped their early years.

One St. Joseph's alumna chose a recent powwow to express gratitude in a deeply meaningful way. Danisha, a former student, worked alongside her family to create a breathtaking **wičháŋpi owínŋža** — *star quilt*. The star quilt is a traditional Lakota symbol of honor, respect and appreciation. During the powwow, she presented this handmade gift to a donor who had helped make her journey at St. Joseph's possible.

"I wanted to give back," Danisha shared. "I went through a rough spot, but St. Joseph's was always there for me."

Her journey reflects the strength and resilience of many students who come through our doors. Thanks to your

(over, please)



generosity, St. Joseph's provides an education and a safe place where students can learn, heal and grow. Your gifts support everything from academics and cultural education, to spiritual development and emotional well-being.

The recipient of Danisha's star quilt, Herb, a longtime donor, was deeply touched by the gift.

"It is the most beautiful star quilt I have ever seen," Herb said. "I treasure it and always will. Most of all, it comes from the place and people that I love and treasure very much."

The star quilt symbolizes more than just appreciation, it embodies the Lakota belief of **mitákuye oyás'iy** — *we are all related*. Like the many pieces stitched together to form a unified design, the support of donors, alumni, students and staff all come together to create something meaningful: a future full of hope for Native American children.

As a supporter, YOU are part of the quilt that makes up St. Joseph's. Your gift is a vital piece of something bigger, warmer and more meaningful. Because of you, lives are being touched, traditions are being honored and hope is being passed from one generation to the next. **Philámayaye** — *thank you* — for your support and for helping stitch a legacy of love and learning at St. Joseph's.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can purchase your very own **wíčháŋpi owíŋža** — *star quilt* — at the Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center! These beautiful, handcrafted quilts come in a variety of colors and patterns, each one woven with meaning and tradition.

Get your star quilt today by visiting the museum's website at aktalakota.stjo.org and clicking SHOP.

BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN

What is your favorite thing
about Powwow?



“My favorite
thing about
powwow is
dancing and
the food!”

— Raeleia



“My favorite
thing about
powwow is
dancing the
Grass Dance!”

— Ambrose



“My favorite
thing about
powwow is
everything!”

— Veronica

Do you have a question to ask the Lakota
children? Email it to saintjosephs@stjo.org.



Earn Income for Life

Are you looking for attractive income rates?
A St. Joseph's Charitable Gift Annuity offers
wonderful rates and helps provide a brighter
future for the Lakota children in our care.

Here are three easy ways to request
additional information on Charitable
Gift Annuities:

1. Fill out the included form and return it
in the enclosed envelope.
2. Visit online at stjo.org/annuity.
3. Call toll-free at 1-800-584-9200 or email
Denise Hyland at dhyland@stjo.org.

To establish an annuity, you must have
your check, money order or securities
postmarked by December 31, 2025, to
receive a tax deduction for 2025.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

