



## Diocese of Raleigh

**African Ancestry Ministry  
and Evangelization**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Echoing the proclamation of the Governor of North Carolina, "For more than 12,000 years, American Indians have inhabited North Carolina and throughout that time have influenced its history and culture by sharing their foods, traditions, agricultural practices and customs; and North Carolina continues to be the home to eight tribes and four urban Indian organizations: the Coharie, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee, the Meherrin, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi, the Sappony, the Waccamaw-Siouan, Cumberland County Association for Indian People, Guilford Native American Association, Metrolina Native American Association, and Triangle Native American Society. American Indians throughout our state's history have played key roles in advancing health, education, civil rights, cultural preservation and economic development opportunities within their communities and for the benefit of all citizens of the state; and the rights of state-recognized tribes continue to be threatened by individuals and institutions who do not understand the unique history of the American Indian population in North Carolina.

Today North Carolina is home to more than 122,000 American Indians, giving the state the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi and the eighth largest American Indian population in the country; and, this year the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, a state agency created by the North Carolina General Assembly, celebrates its 40th anniversary of advocacy and service for the American Indian people of North Carolina; and still Making History is reflective of the contributions that continue to be made by American Indians to the state so that we may acknowledge and celebrate a culture that enriches the lives of the citizens of the Tar Heel State."

We, the Roman Catholic Diocese, recognizing the efforts of evangelization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Katherine Drexel, and many other religious men and women, salute the Native American population in the State of North Carolina and offer prayers to God for the well-being of all.

With prayers of thanksgiving,

*Very Rev. Marcos Leon-Angulo*

Very Rev. Marcos Leon-Angulo, Th.M., M.Div  
AAMEN/NACC Vicar