

The Dreamer

Exclusive news for the St. Joseph's Indian School DreamMakers



February 2025

Thank You for Reflecting Your Light to Lakota Children

Have you ever stopped to think about the sun, moon and Earth and how they all are perfectly woven together?

***Perfectly created. Perfectly designed.
Perfectly made.***

We can see God's work everywhere. His perfectly created, designed and made plan of the world and the circle of life. In dwelling on this, a metaphor came to mind including the sun, moon and Earth.

Let's get a little science-y for a moment and do some comparisons for the sake of this metaphor.

Typically, He's known as the son, S-O-N, but for the sake of this metaphor, Jesus is the sun, S-U-N. He shines His light on the world.

Humans, and more specifically, the Lakota (Sioux) students at St. Joseph's Indian School, are like the moon. The moon doesn't produce its own light; it reflects the sun's light onto the world. The same is true of humans. When the light of Jesus fills us up, we reflect it on to others.

But, sometimes, you can barely see the moon in the sky. This happens when the Earth — worldly things — comes between the sun and the moon. When this happens, the moon can't reflect His light because the world has separated it from the sun.

However, a sliver of light reaches the moon when the moon is in its New Moon phase, its smallest form. Looking closely at a New Moon, you can see a faint glow illuminating the moon's outline. This is a phenomenon called "Earthshine." Earthshine happens when Earth, still able to absorb light from the sun, reflects it a second time to the moon. Though mostly hindered by the world, the moon absorbs the smallest glimmers from Earth for a faint glow. You cannot see the full value of the moon, but you can see the outline of what it can become with more light and time.

The students at St. Joseph's must overcome many obstacles the world throws at them. Poverty, racism, exposure to drug and alcohol abuse — the list continues. All those worldly things attempt to block their exposure to the

(over, please)



sun — their blessings from Jesus.

But the world not only supplies hurdles and hindrances. There is still goodness to be shared. You see, that faint glow resulting from Earthshine? That's you. Your kindness reflects the goodness of Christ, so even when the world wants to get in the way, it cannot completely extinguish the glow. As a DreamMaker, you step in to do the work of Jesus. You provide a bit of your light for others plagued by darkness.

Starting with the faintest light from you, the New Moon continues its cycle. As it does, the world slowly moves out of the way, allowing the moon to grow bigger and bigger until it reaches its fullest potential and becomes a Full Moon.

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

— Ephesians 3:20-21

If I stop and think about how we're all woven together and how we have a part to

play in His grand master plan, I'm completely in awe. In awe of how perfect it all is.

But we have choices to make. We can add to the darkness or share our light.

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

— Romans 12:2

Traditionally, the Lakota tracked the moon cycles for a total of 13 moons throughout the year. Each month they watched the skies as the moons started off as just slivers of light before achieving their full potential.

You do something similar. As a DreamMaker, your gifts help provide Native American children with the ability to reach their full potential. Thank you for sharing the light each month to help them shine!

Yes, what a *perfectly created, perfectly designed and perfectly made* life He has in store for the Lakota children.

DID YOU KNOW?

To the Lakota, the February moon was named *Čhaŋnáphopa wí* — *Moon of Popping Trees*. As the new moon arrived, the Lakota people noticed a great change. Trees on the Great Plains popped and burst as their branches became laden with winter snow and ice. Winter signified the beginning of a quieter time. The camp stayed at a single location. Women spent their time making and mending clothing. Men participated in raiding parties to ensure their camp's strength and safety. The children gathered around the fire's warmth to listen to their elders' stories, preserving history for another generation.

Learn more about the Lakota culture by visiting stjo.org/culture today.



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.
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by Zenneth.