

ORIGINAL CATHOLICISM/CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA

The origin of Christianity, hence Catholicism in this case, started in Africa long before the Europeans received it. The first indications of this was the story of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39. After his encounter with Philip and his baptism, he may have introduced the faith in Ethiopia. No certain date is known, but Ethiopia had claimed to be a Catholic/Christian nation earlier than many nations in Europe. It was long before Ireland was evangelized, before most of Northern Germany was evangelized, and before Poland was a Catholic country.

However, Egypt has claimed to have Catholicism/Christianity long before the Ethiopian eunuch. They claimed the travels of Mark (or John Mark), the evangelist, took him there in AD 49, approximately 19 years after the Ascension of Jesus, and he founded the Church in Alexandria, Egypt – which today is the Coptic Church (one the rites of the Catholic Church). The Greek Orthodox Church, in addition to the Coptic Catholic Church trace their origins to this beginning.

Mark established the episcopal see of Alexandria, one of the five most important sees of early Christianity; his feast day is April 25 and his symbol as an evangelist is the winged lion. He was the first bishop of Alexandria and had appointed a successor after him. His position was to govern the church and grow it while Mark was away.

The Congo had become Catholic around the 15th century when the king, Alphonso the Good, converted to Catholicism. When the kingdom was conquered by Portugal many natives were converted to Catholicism. Many Africans were evangelized by the Jesuits of Maryland and Louisiana. Africans were brought to the country through the slave trade as Catholics already and no record has been kept on this fact.

SCOPE
of
NATIVE AMERICAN / INDIGENOUS CULTURE

The true history of native and indigenous peoples as told in American history is in error. The country officially recognizes 570 tribes (tribal nations) when in truth there are many more. They exist beyond the scope of the federal government and are not recognized. Native Americans see and understand the diversity of these indigenous peoples.

The federal government has been biased, dehumanizing, and stereotyping in portraying them as a single homogenous entity. Such stories have been perpetuated throughout history and reinforces, whether consciously or not, misinformation or fairytales; they are continually used to justify land theft and genocide against Native Americans, and have been for generations.

An enormous and diverse group of tribal nations exist on this land. An example is the more than 200 Alaskan Native tribes which speak more than 20 distinct languages. They have lived along the Pacific Coast for over a thousand years. Farther east is the Columbia Plateau Great Basin, Northern Rockies, and Great Plains regions – home to descendants of the Yakama, Bitterroot, Salish, Blackfeet, Assiniboine, Crow, Northern Cheyenne, and a multitude of other tribes and bands with each having their own unique traditions, culture, and history. They all have their histories being sharpened by their daily experiences. These communities continually thrive across the nation in rural and urban areas on reservations creating a distinct geographic content which adds to complex histories and to the indigenous experiences and identities.