



**NATIVE FIRST COMMUNION SERIES**

**CELEBRATING**

**WORKBOOK**





## **NATIVE FIRST COMMUNION SERIES**

A series of 9 children's workbooks with family letters, including a family and teaching guide:

1. BELONGING
2. CELEBRATING
3. FORGIVING
4. HEARING
5. LOVING
6. OUR CREATOR'S GIVE-AWAY
7. NEW LIFE
8. SHARING
9. SERVING
10. FAMILY & TEACHING GUIDE

- Created in the early 1970s by Fr. Gilbert F. Hemaier, OFM Cap. and Religion Research Center Staff at St. Labre Indian School, Ashland, MT 59003
- Piloted in various native communities until the Summer of 1987
- Revised by the Tekakwitha Conference Staff and Native Catechists in 1987
- Illustrated by Gus Antone



# CELEBRATING

Through the teaching on CELEBRATING, the children can begin to see how celebration reaches its fullest meaning in the Eucharist. The children have already experienced various kinds of celebrations. People come together as family, as friends, as community to celebrate. The occasion may be something very special, such as the grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary, or something more ordinary, such as the annual tribal fair. The celebration may involve making music, sharing a meal, recalling treasured memories, feeling happy and thankful. The most important thing in a celebration is people coming together to share something special.

In the Eucharistic Celebration people come together to share God's love! Through praying, singing, listening to the Word of God, and renewing the memory of Jesus' words and deeds, we enter into the mystery of God's presence and saving action in our human history.

In the sacramental celebration of the Lord's Supper, we proclaim Jesus' passion, death, and rising to everlasting life. By sharing in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine, we share more fully in the new life of love Jesus came to give us. By his own blood, Jesus sealed the new covenant, the sacred agreement of faithful love between God and his people. Partaking of the Body of Christ not only unites us with God but with one another.

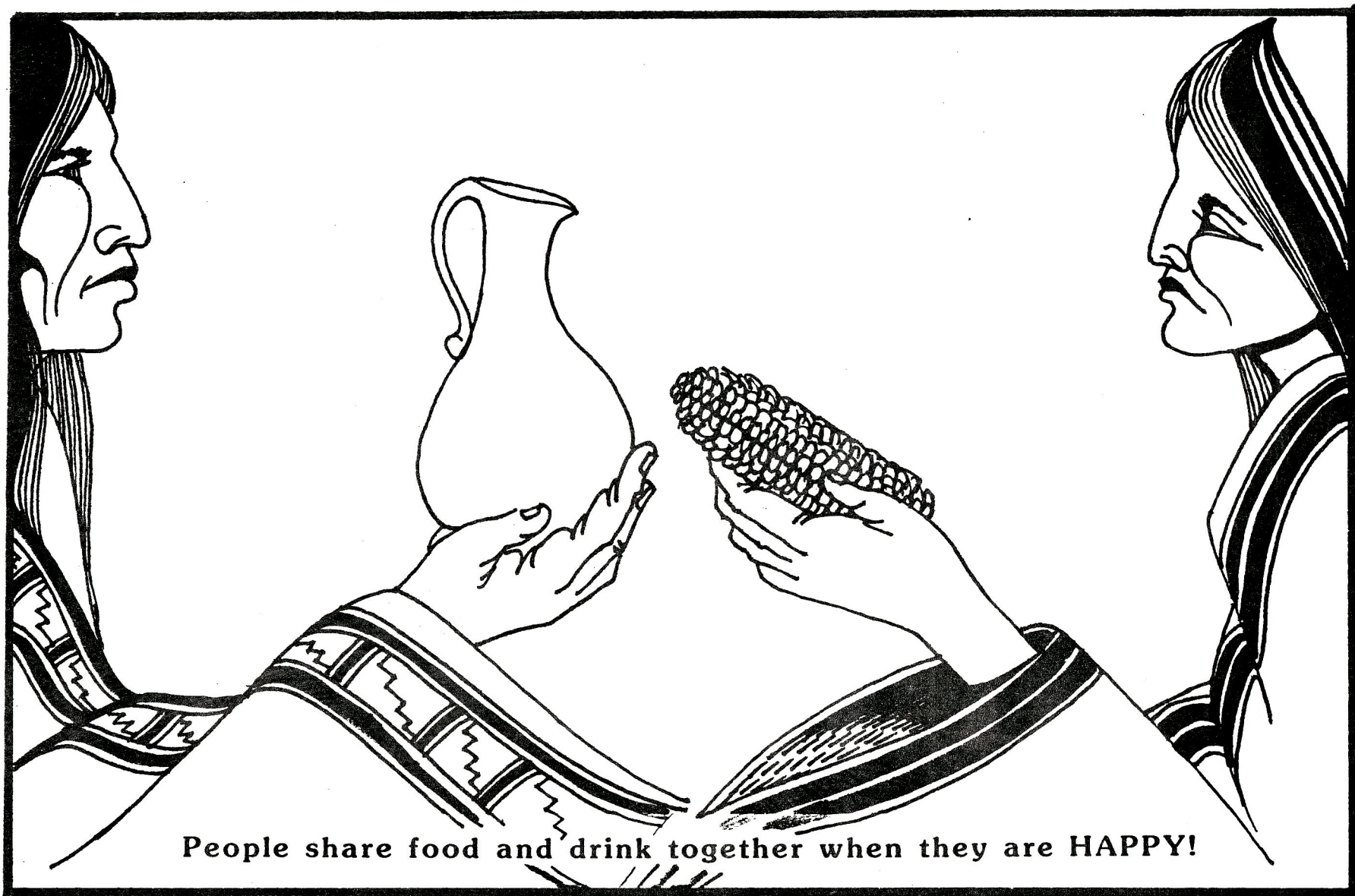
Just as many grapes make up the cup of wine and many grains of wheat make up the loaf of bread, so many members make up the Body of Christ. Just as the eye cannot say to the ear, "I do not need you," or the hand cannot say to the foot, "I do not need you," so we cannot spoil the unity of the Body of Christ by saying to another person, "I do not respect you." In so many deep ways, we celebrate unity, love, and new life in the Body of Christ, the Eucharist.

When people come together to celebrate,

**THEY ARE HAPPY!**

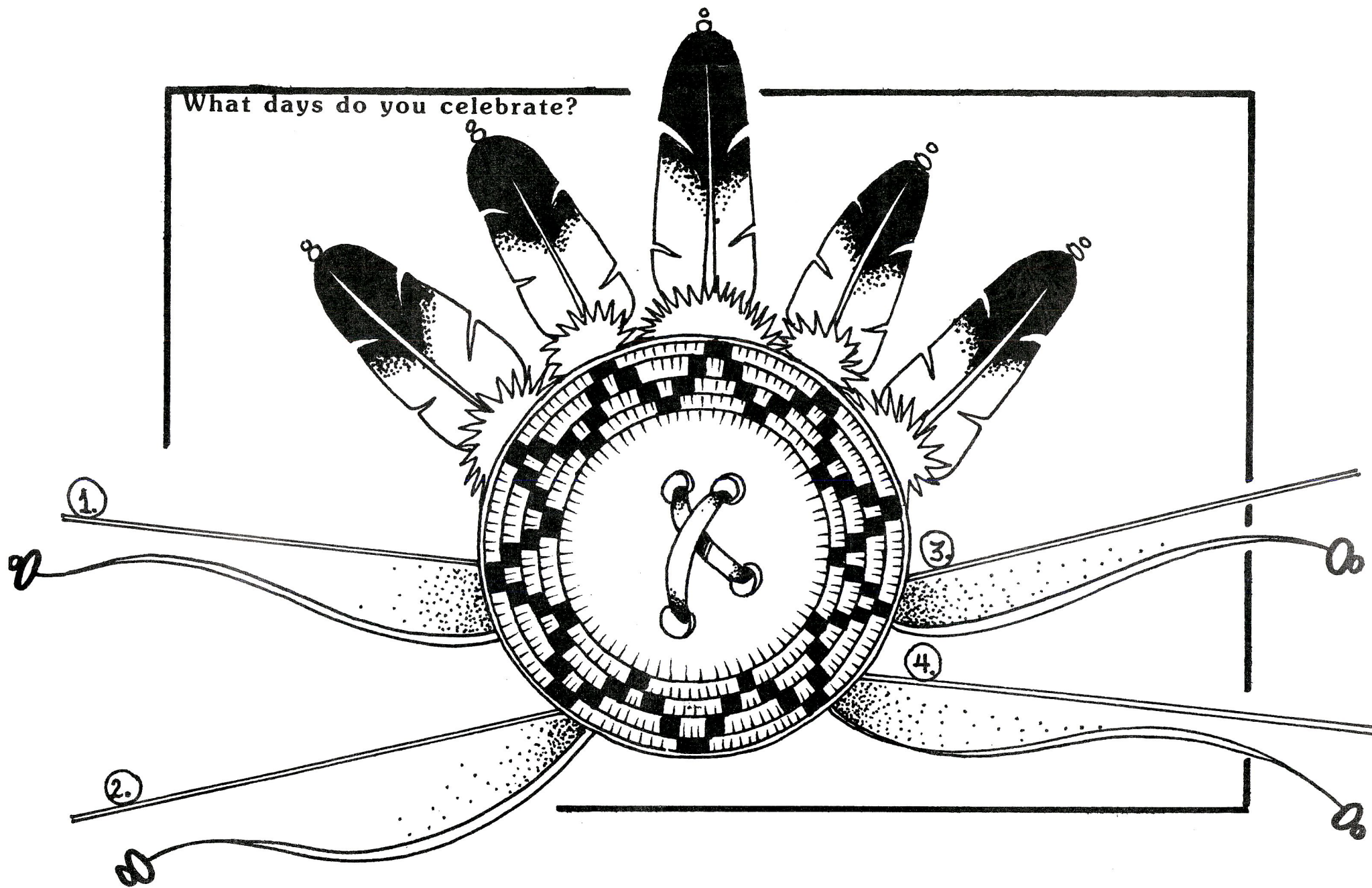






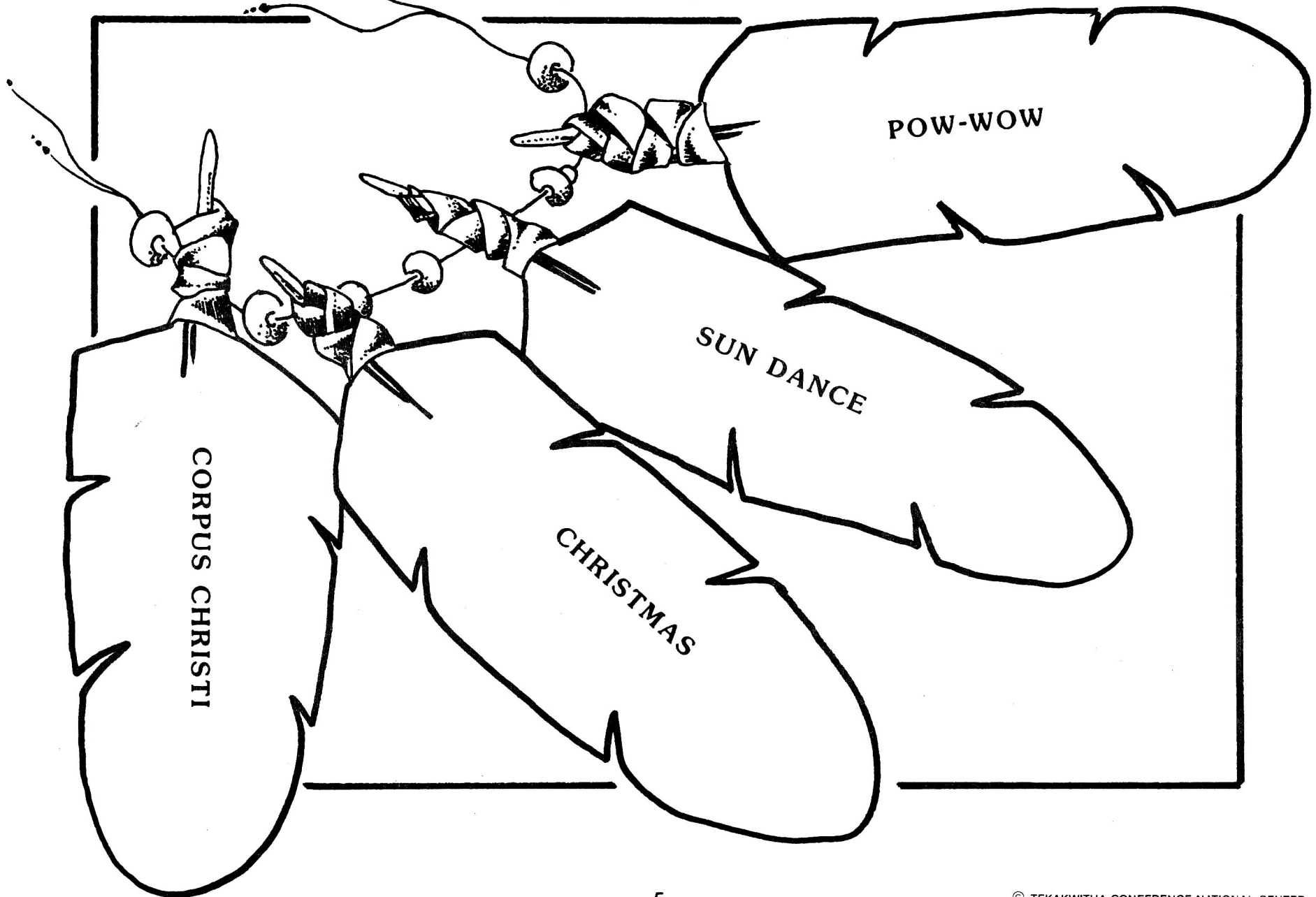
People share food and drink together when they are **HAPPY!**

What days do you celebrate?





Why do we celebrate these special days?



Draw faces of the people you celebrate with

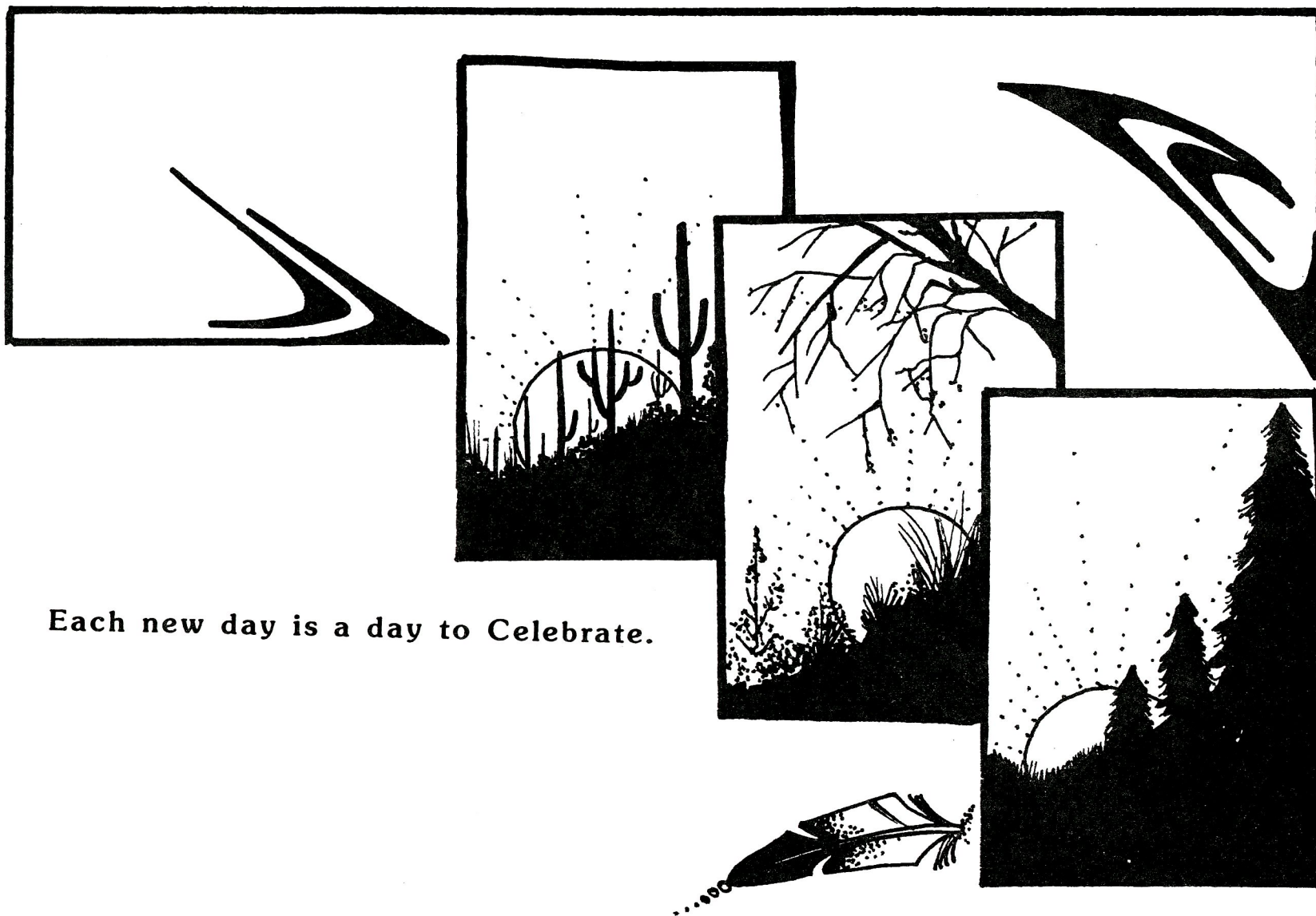


**If you were having your own celebration, who would you ask to come?**



Draw a picture of your celebration and the people who were there.



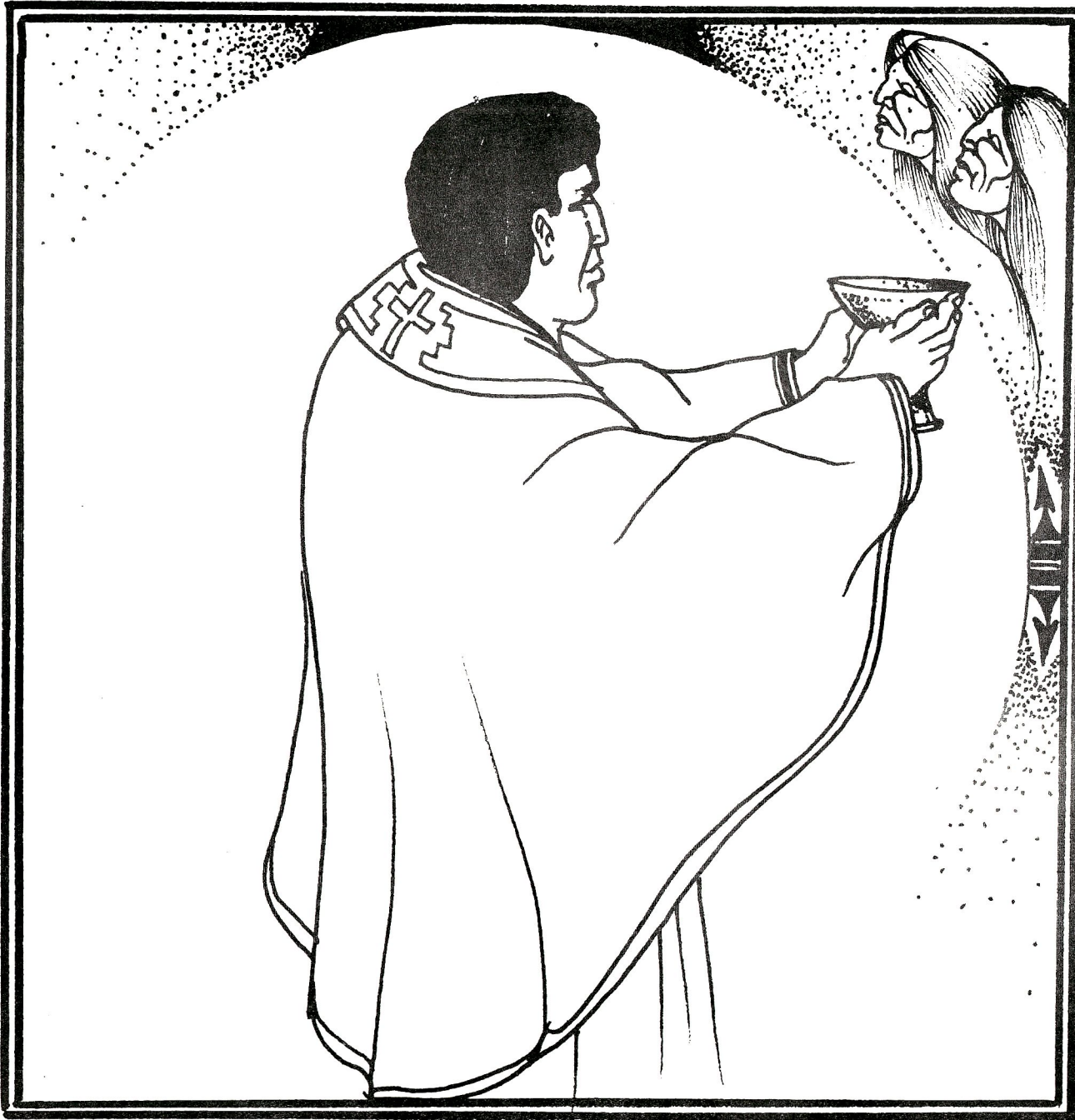


Each new day is a day to Celebrate.

Everyday is a day to celebrate  
with Jesus.



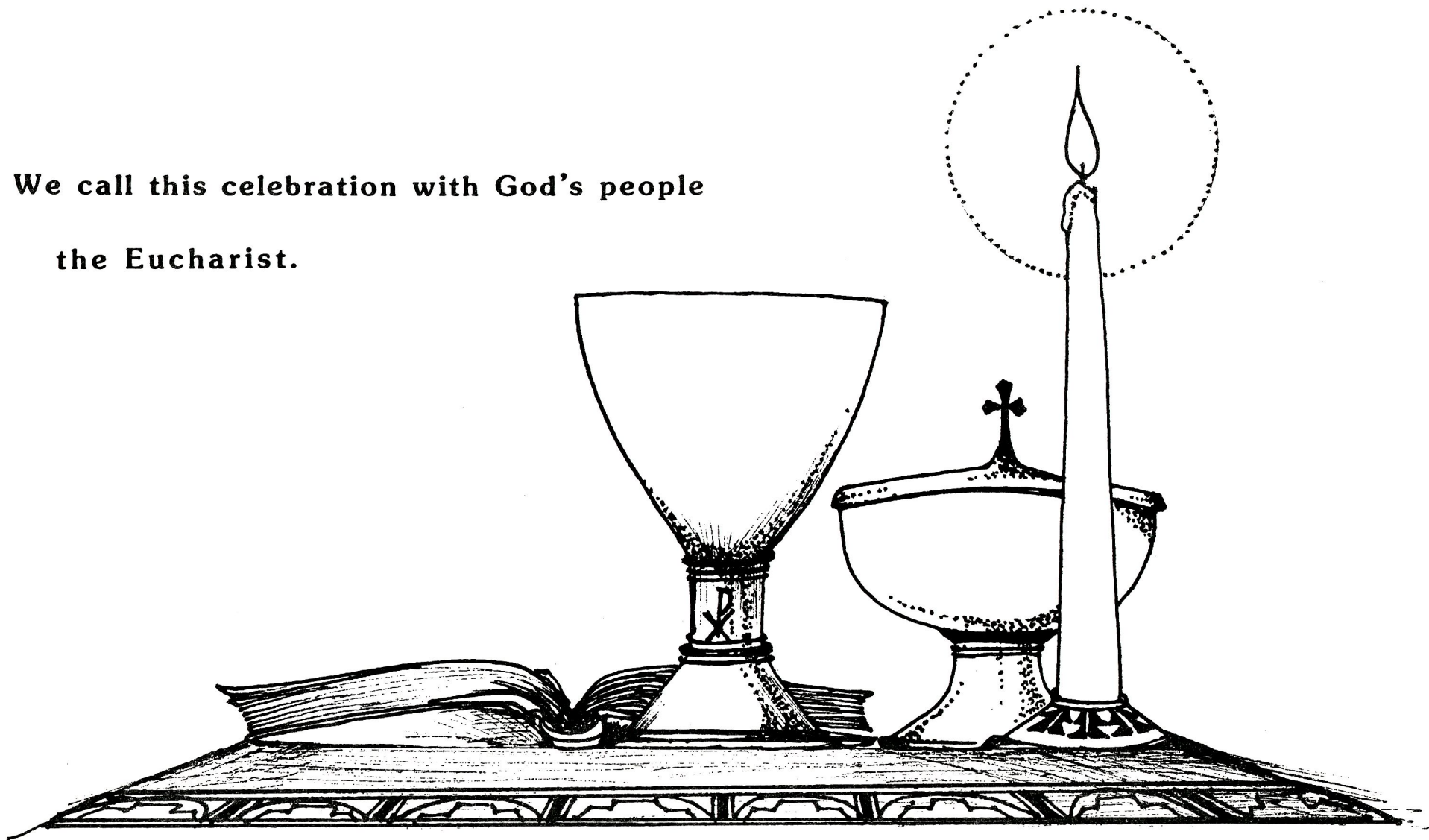




People celebrating  
together with our friend  
Jesus at Eucharist

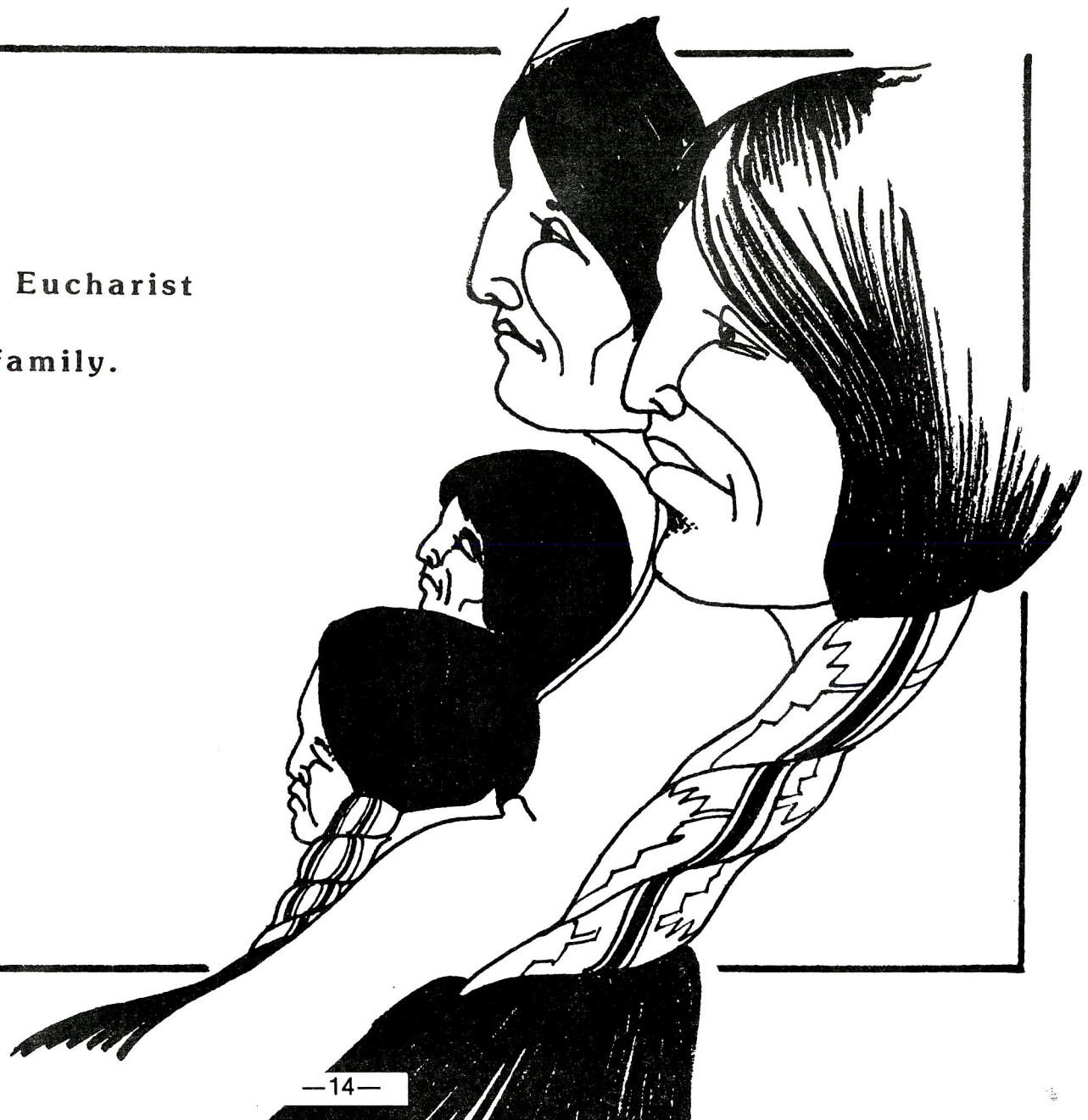
**Draw some places where you celebrate.**

**We call this celebration with God's people  
the Eucharist.**



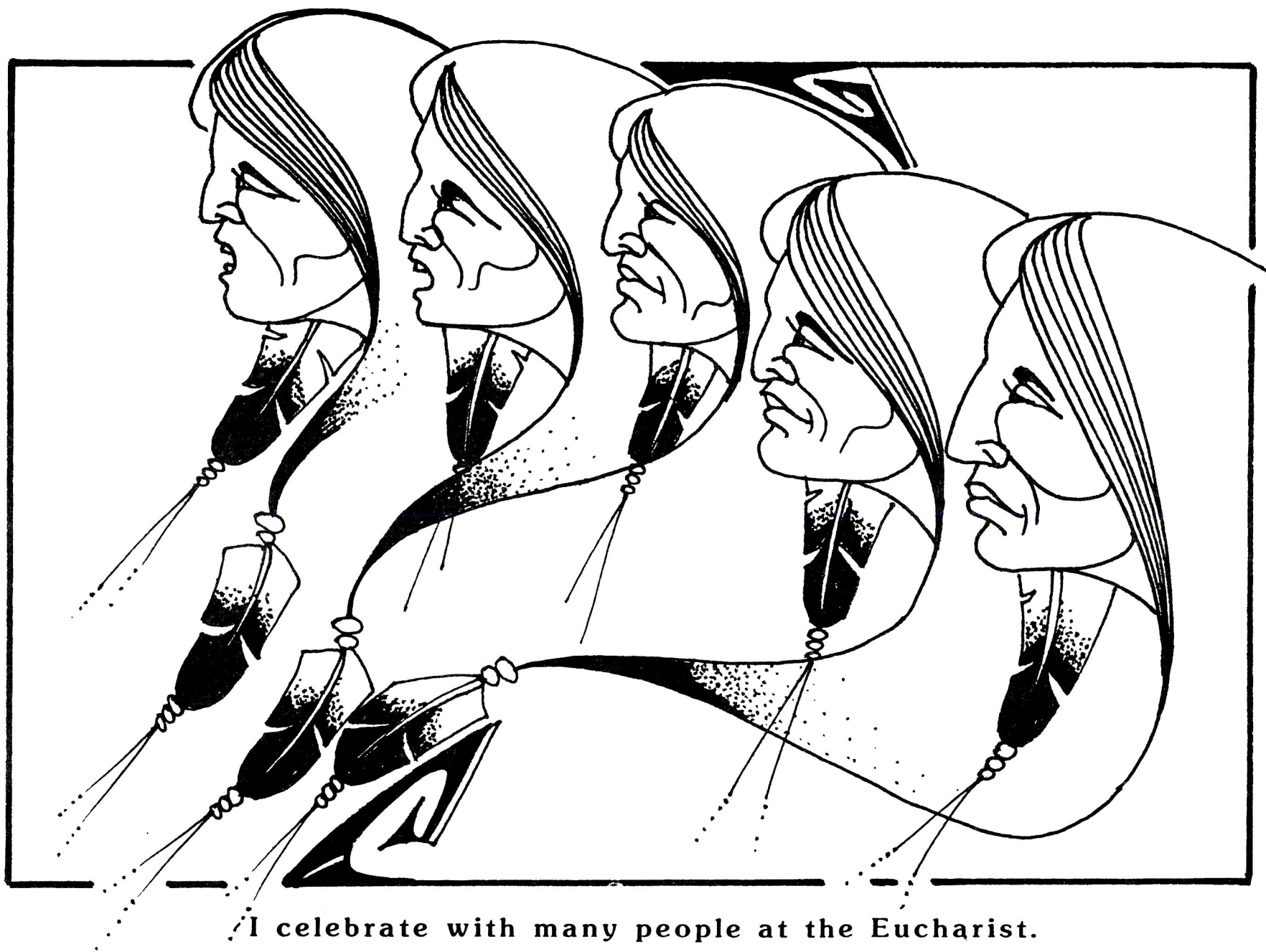


I celebrate Eucharist  
with my family.





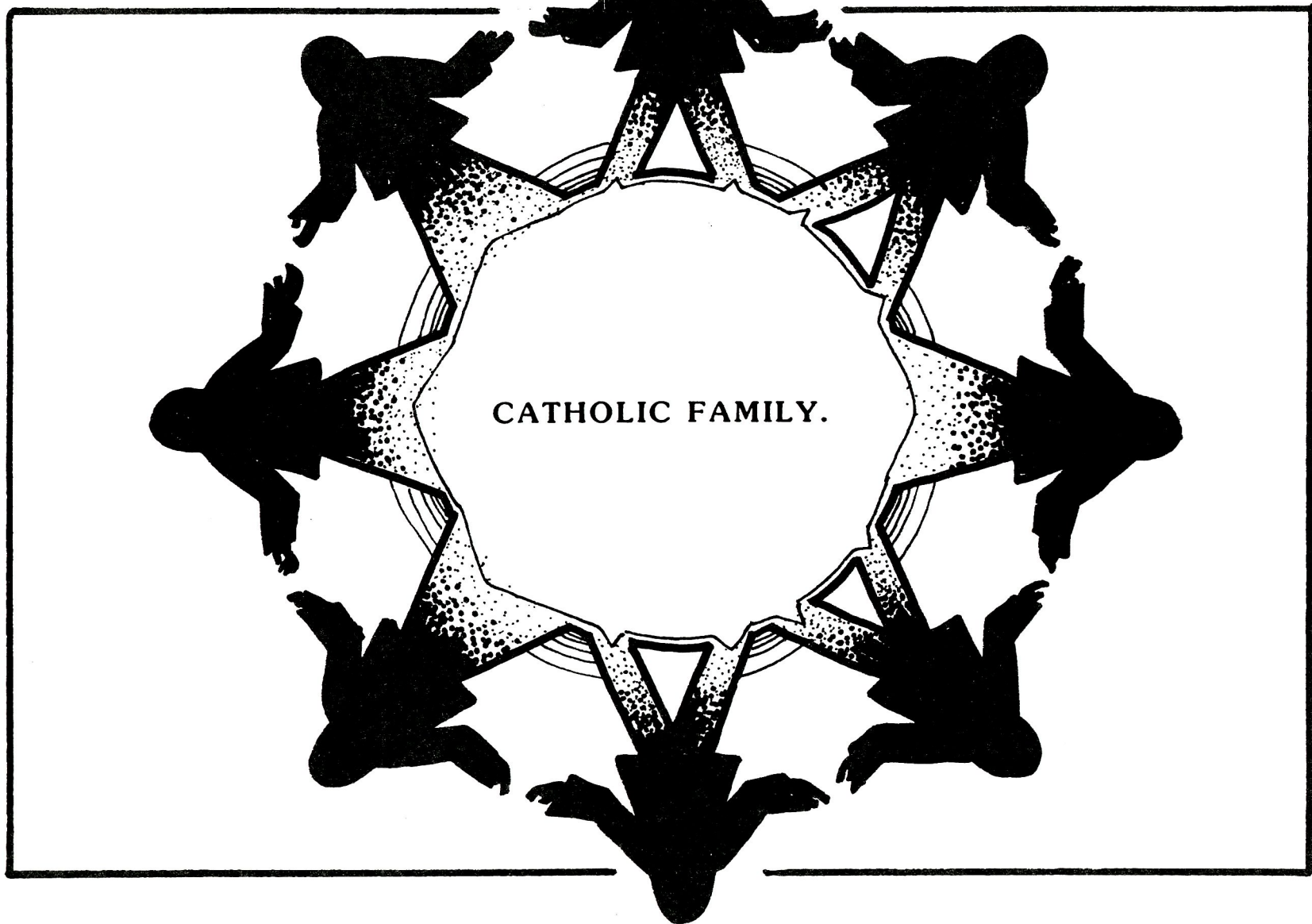
**I celebrate Eucharist with my friends.**



I celebrate with many people at the Eucharist.



The people I celebrate with are my



When we celebrate with Jesus, we tell Him why we are HAPPY.

We thank Him for  
being our friend.



Whenever we talk to Jesus,  
we pray.





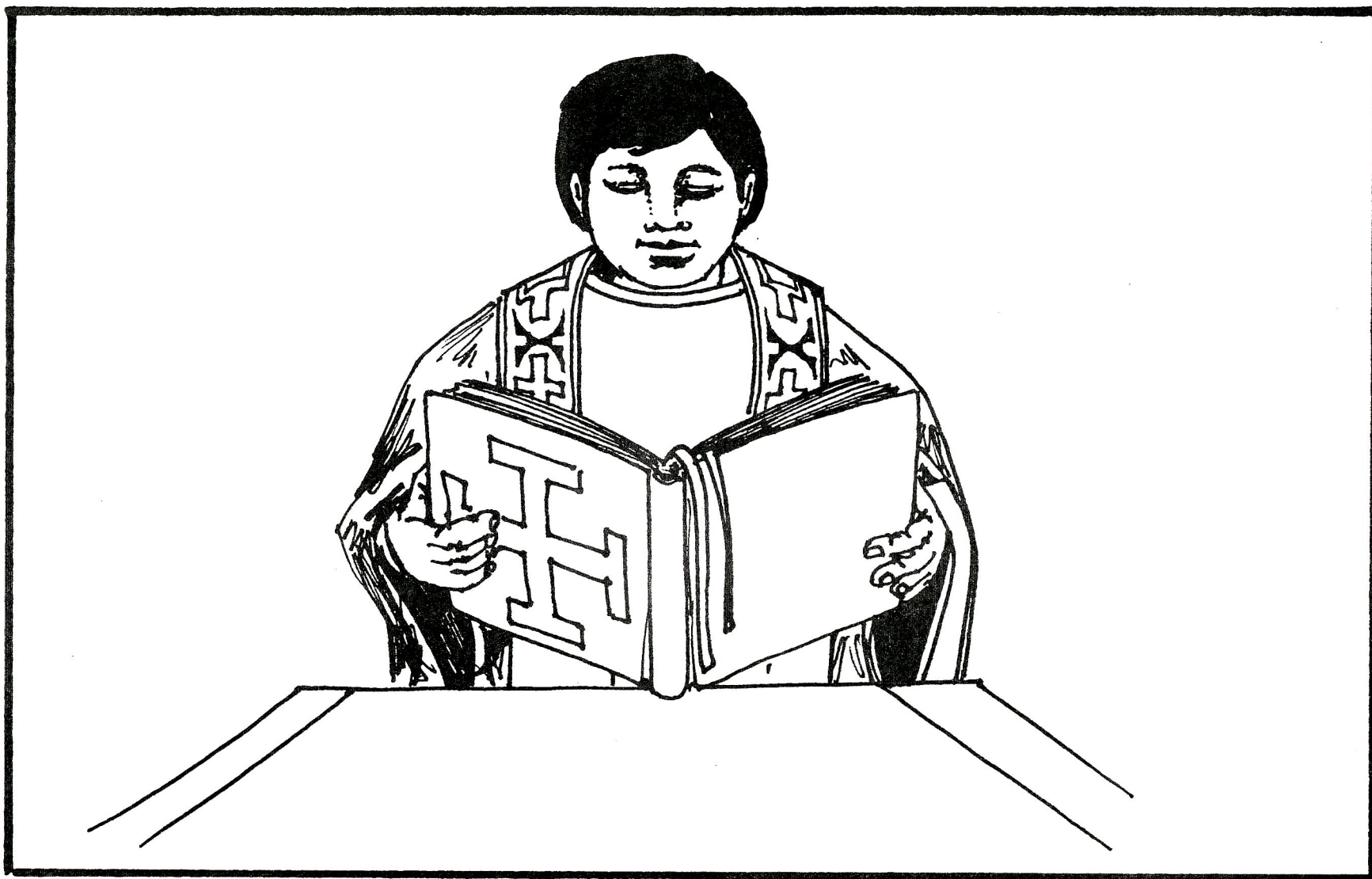
At Eucharist we celebrate by

LISTENING

SINGING

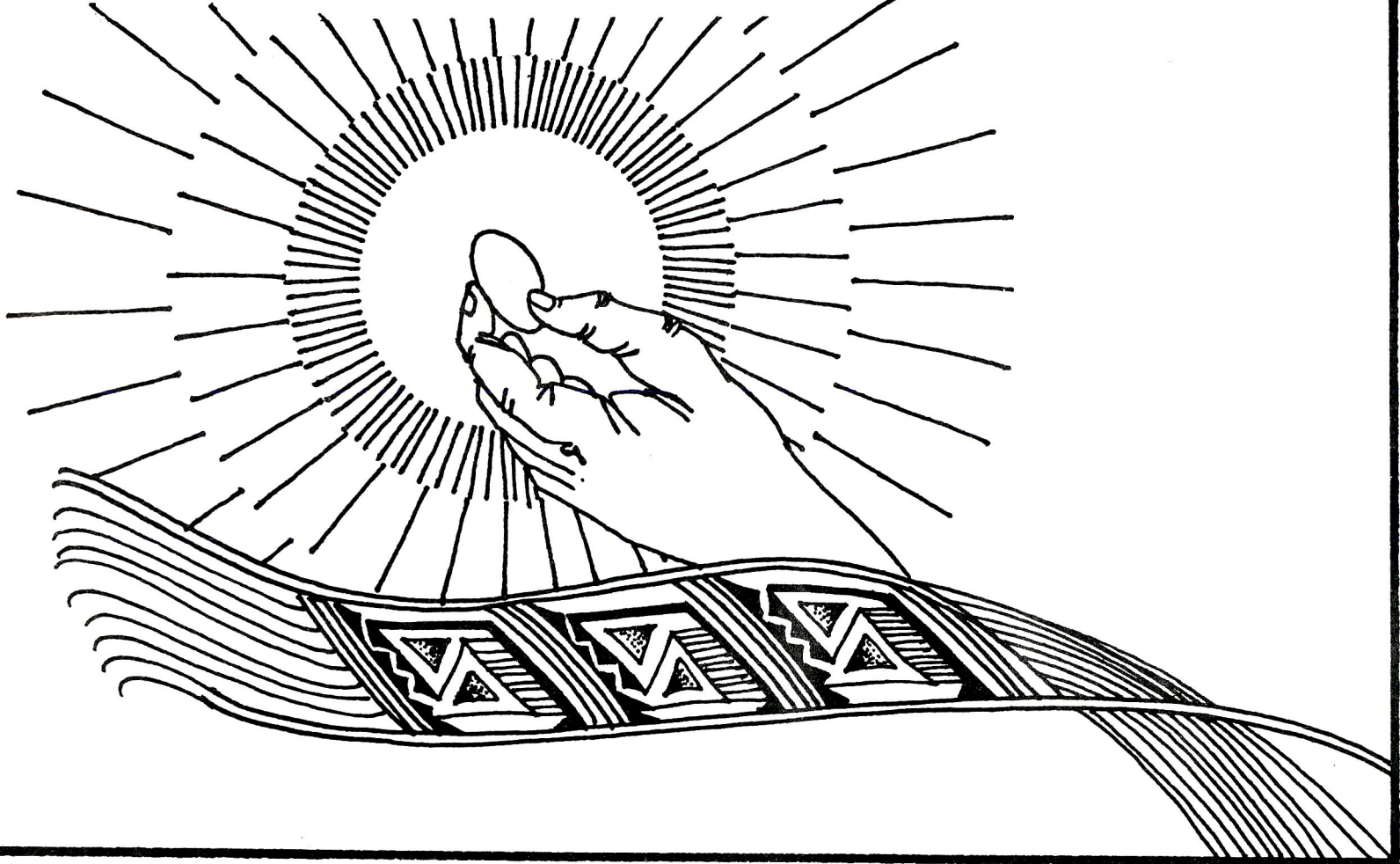
PRAYING





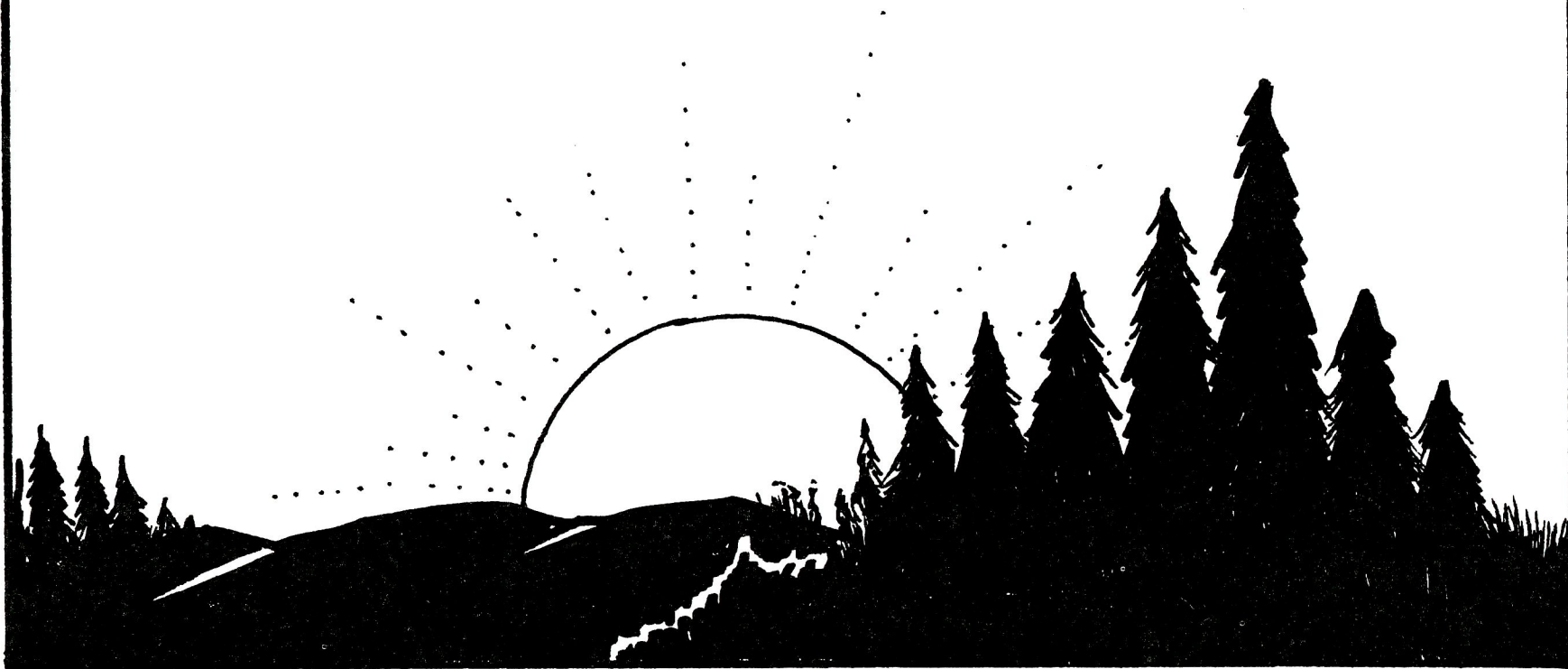
When we listen to His word we learn a good way to live everyday.

Jesus gives us the strength to live a good way by sharing  
His special food with us in the Eucharist.





**My prayer to thank Jesus for His help.**



Produced and Printed  
by  
**TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE  
NATIONAL CENTER**  
P. O. Box 6759, Great Falls, Montana 59406-6759