



**NATIVE FIRST COMMUNION SERIES**

# **BELONGING**

**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. Hemaue, 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



# BELONGING

Through the teaching on BELONGING, children begin to understand how preparation for First Holy Communion is rooted in the truths about Baptism. All the Sacraments of the Catholic Church are intended to communicate God's Life to those receiving them.

Family members who are instructing the children can start with what the children know. When a baby is born into a family, the baby belongs to that family and has certain rights and duties as a member of that family. Of course, the infant must be nurtured if it is to grow into the fuller life of childhood and adulthood.

Baptism is the first sacrament we receive because it is the one through which we are born into the spiritual life of God and his family. Belonging to God's family means belonging to his people, the community of the church. It also means entering into a new relationship with the Trinity, one God in three divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through

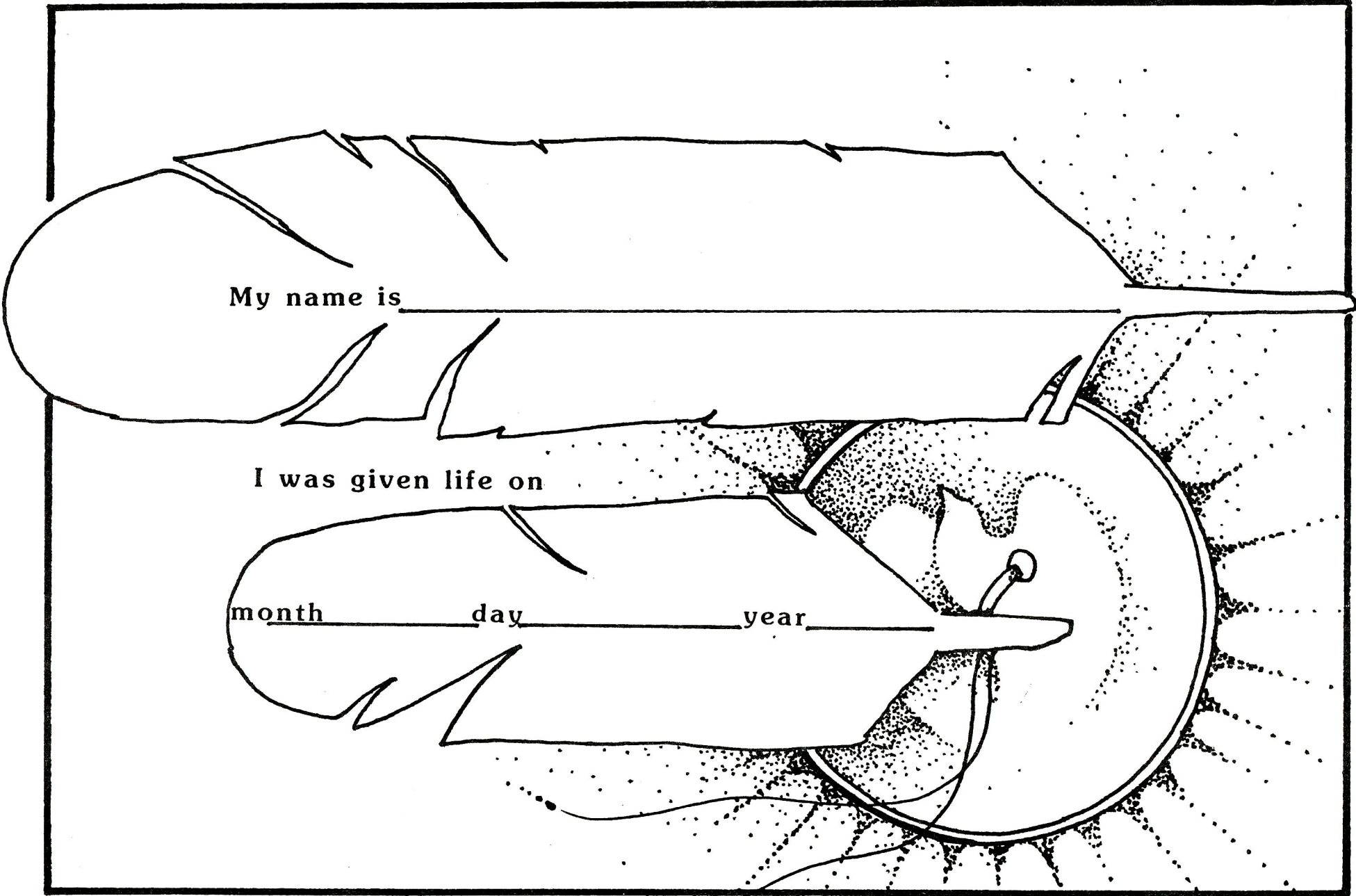
baptism, God, our all-powerful creator becomes our all-loving father. Jesus his Son becomes our way to the Father and also our brother. Since God is our father and Jesus is our brother, we become brothers and sisters of one another.

The Holy Spirit lives within each one of us. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love God and one another with God's own love. This is the source of our new life. The precious gift of new life received in baptism must be nourished so it can grow. We receive Jesus in the Eucharist. The "Bread of Life," strengthens us each time we receive Holy Communion.

Human teaching about spiritual truths is important. Jesus became human like us in all things but sin so he could better teach us about God's love by word and example. Likewise, the whole family's words and example prepare the children to live a full life of faith, hope, and love.



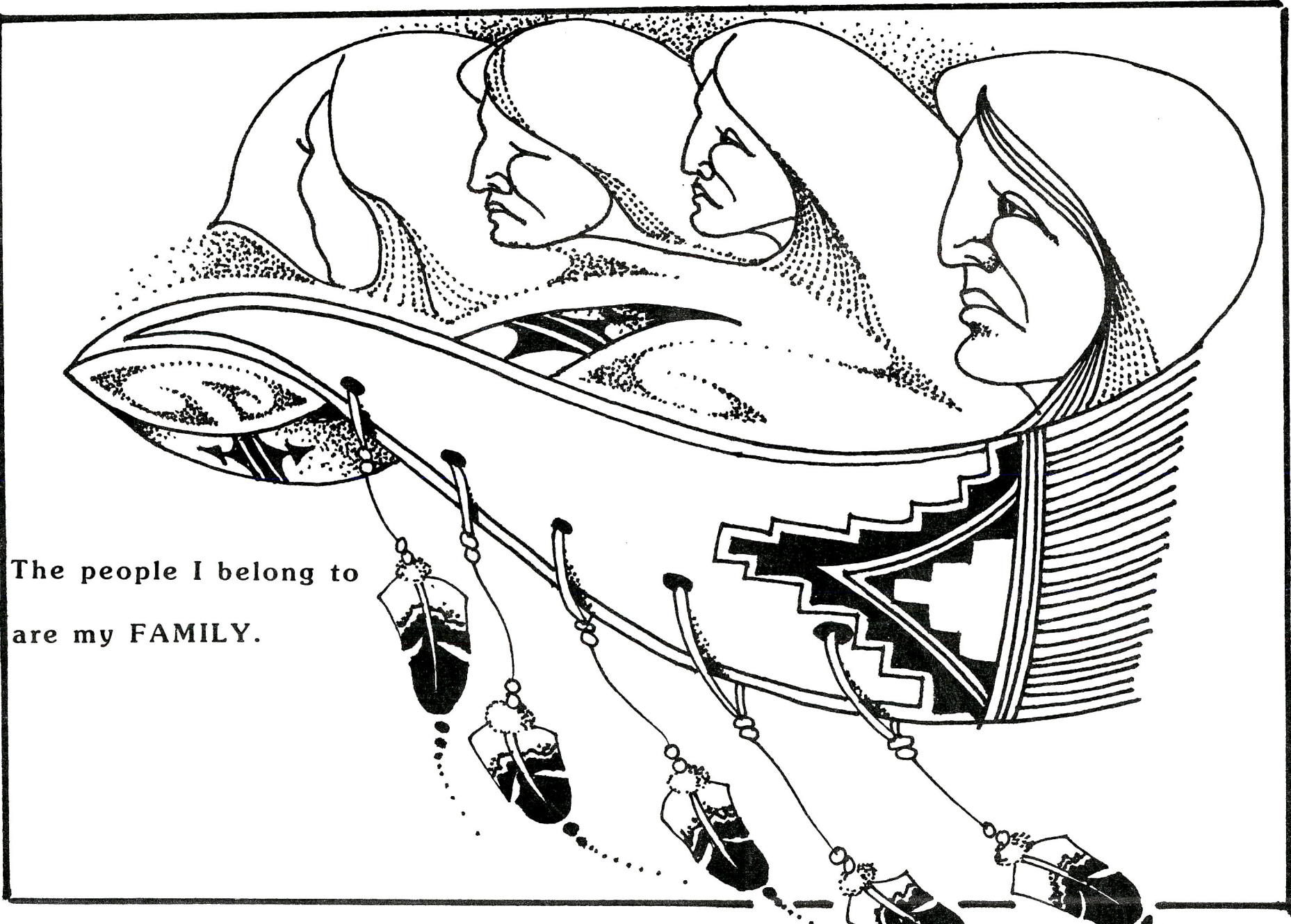




My name is \_\_\_\_\_

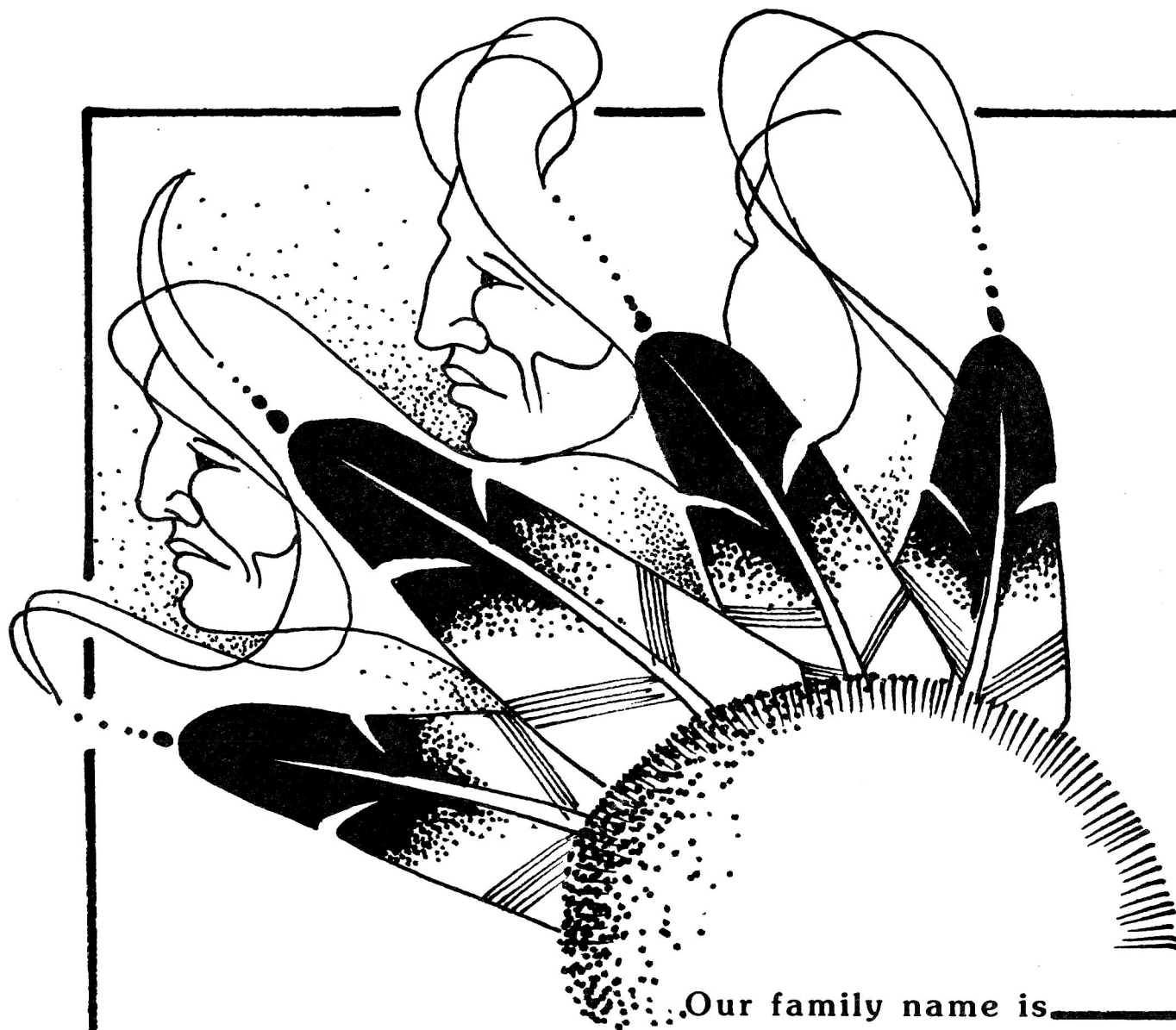
I was given life on \_\_\_\_\_

month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

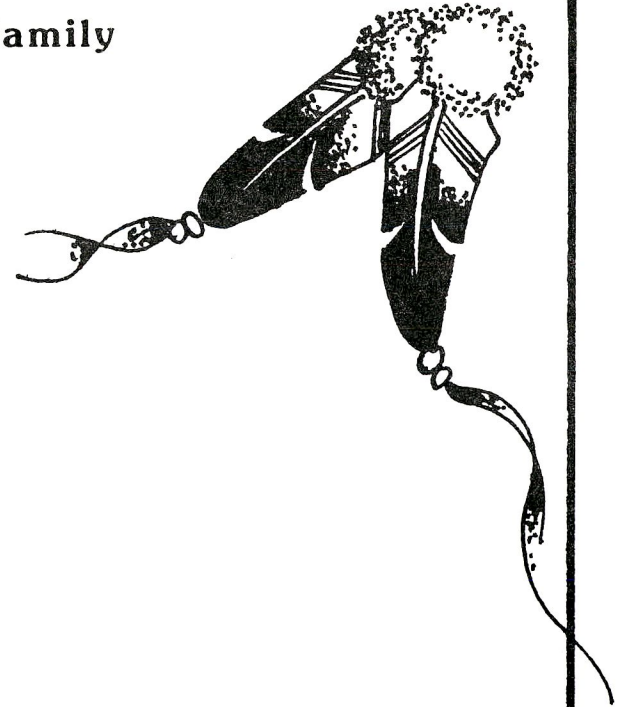


The people I belong to  
are my FAMILY.





Some faces of people in my family



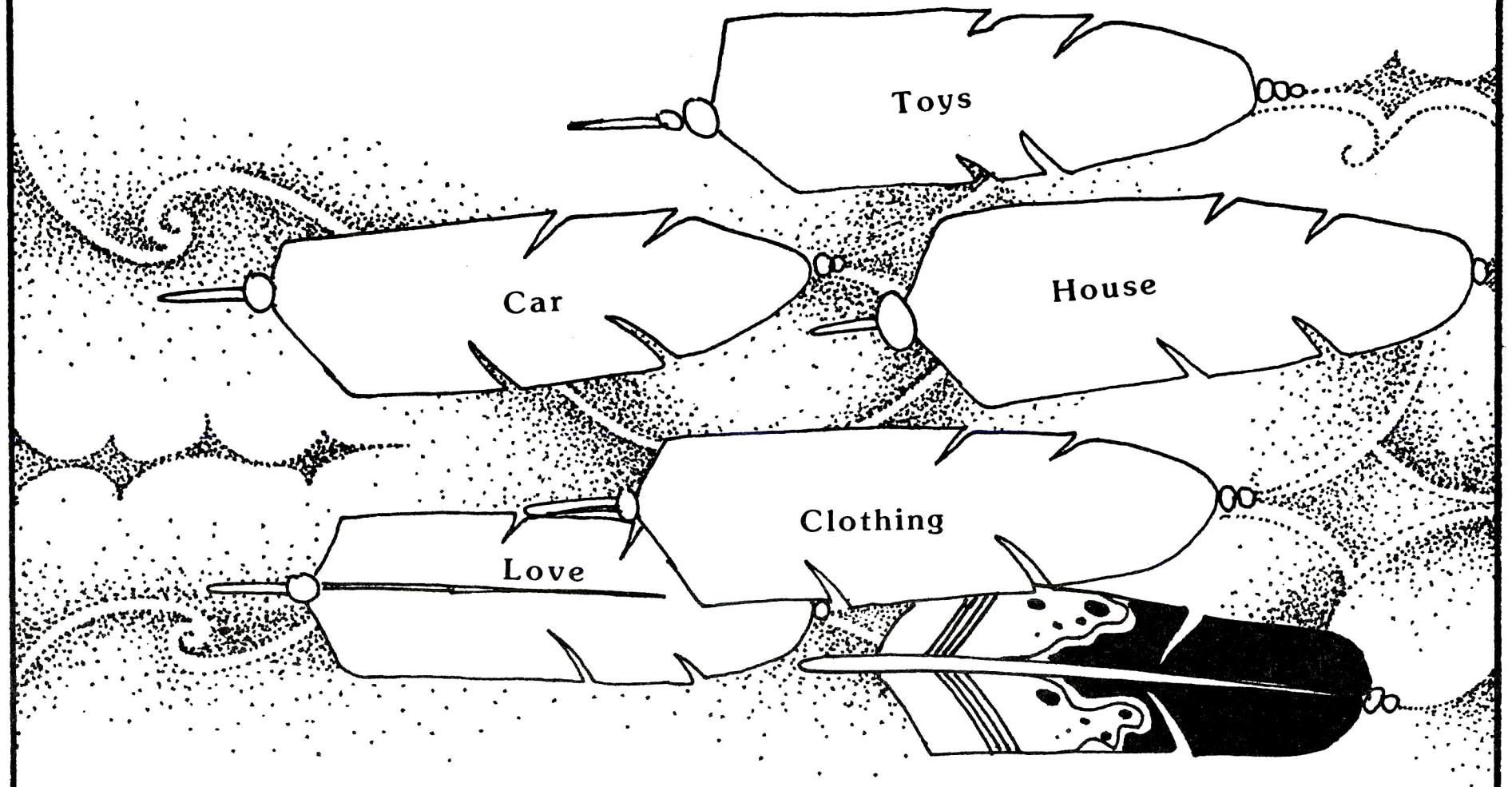




**This is where my family and I live.**

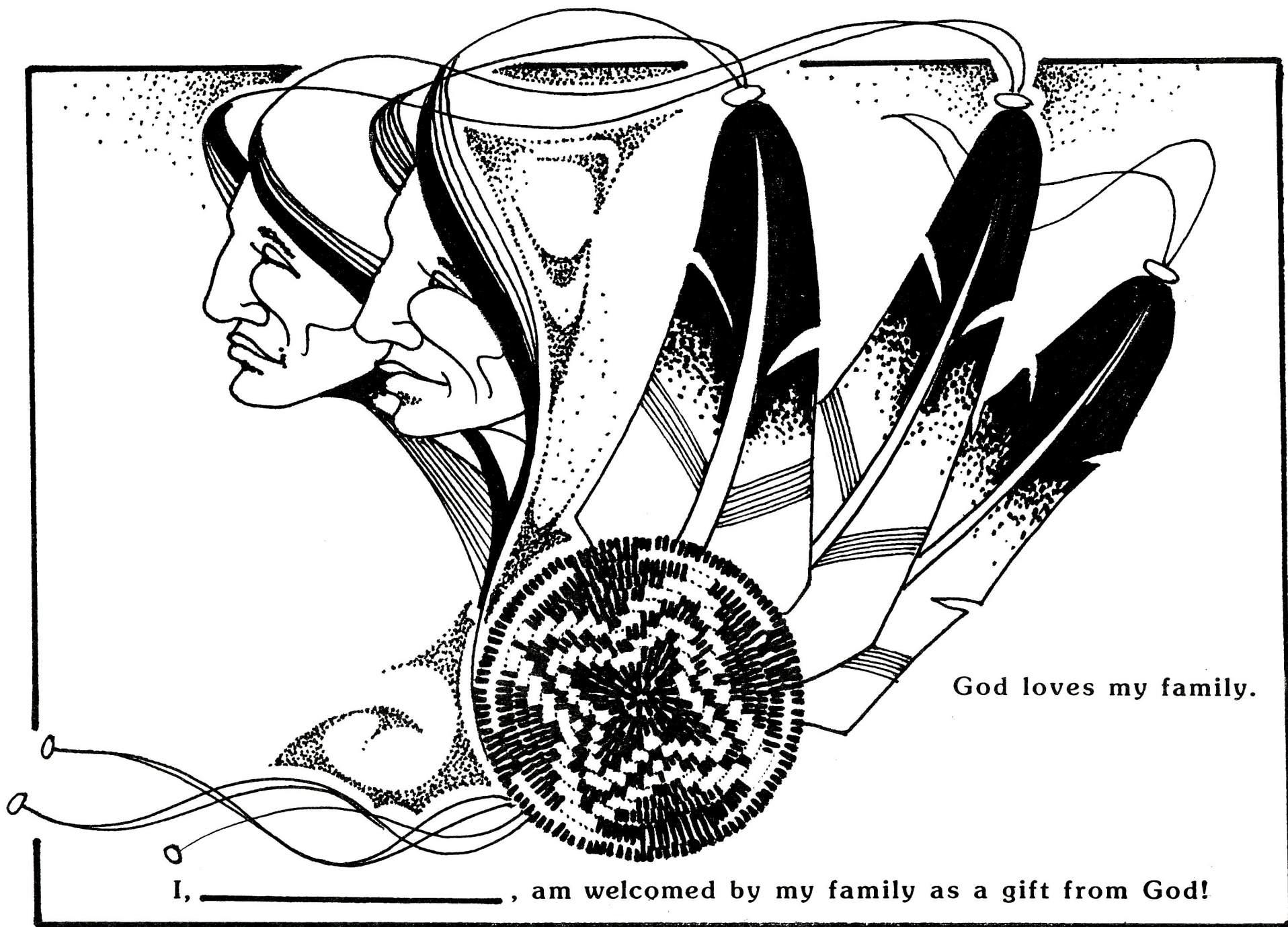


All the people who belong to my family



Share many things together.





God loves my family.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am welcomed by my family as a gift from God!



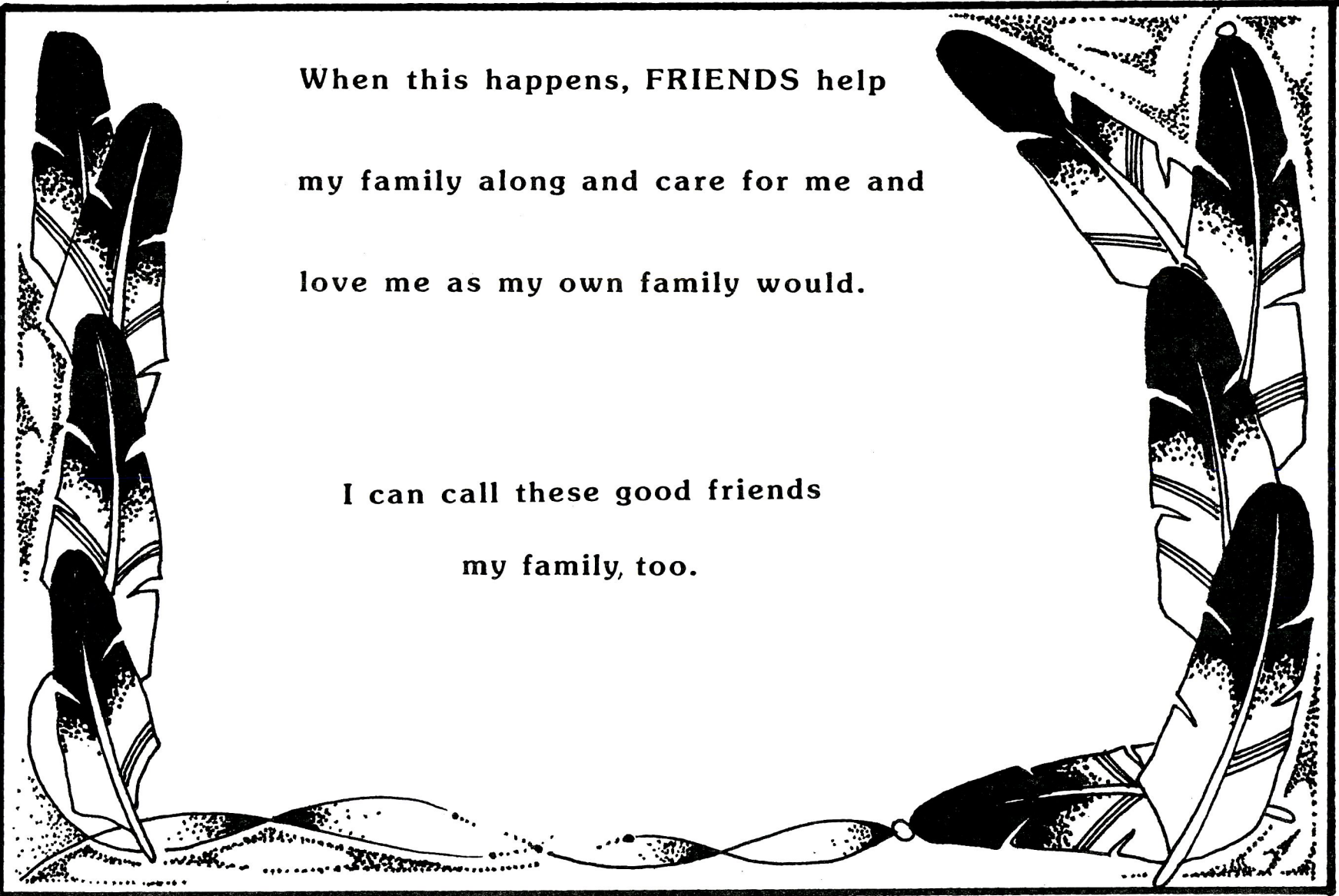


My family loves me,

but, sometimes it happens that they cannot take care of me, yet

LOVE is still there.



A decorative border made of several large, stylized feathers. The feathers are arranged in a U-shape, with two on the left, two on the right, and a long, thin one at the bottom center. They are drawn with black outlines and filled with a stippled pattern.

When this happens, FRIENDS help  
my family along and care for me and  
love me as my own family would.

I can call these good friends  
my family, too.



Tribe

I BELONG

America

Clan

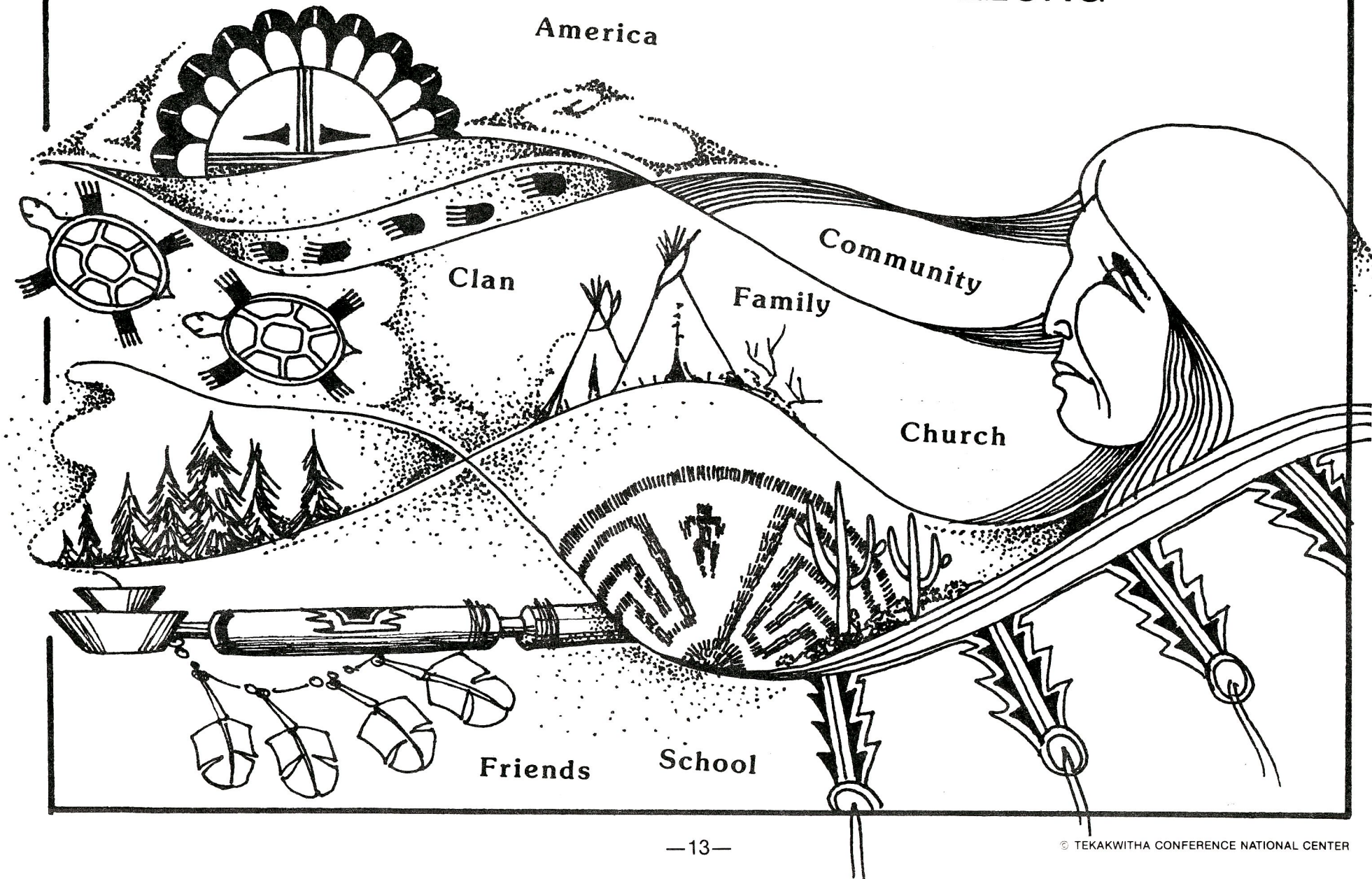
Family

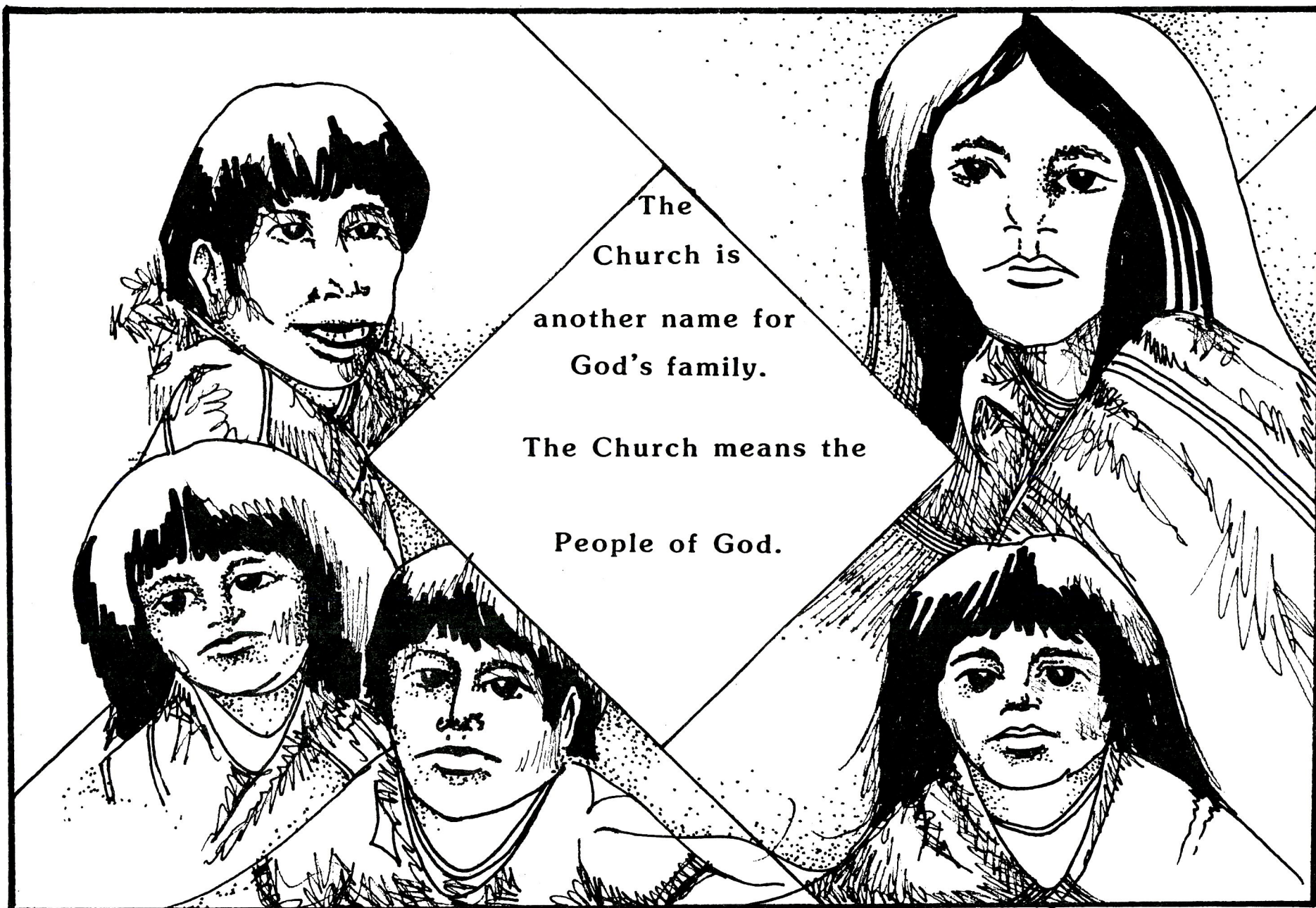
Community

Church

Friends

School



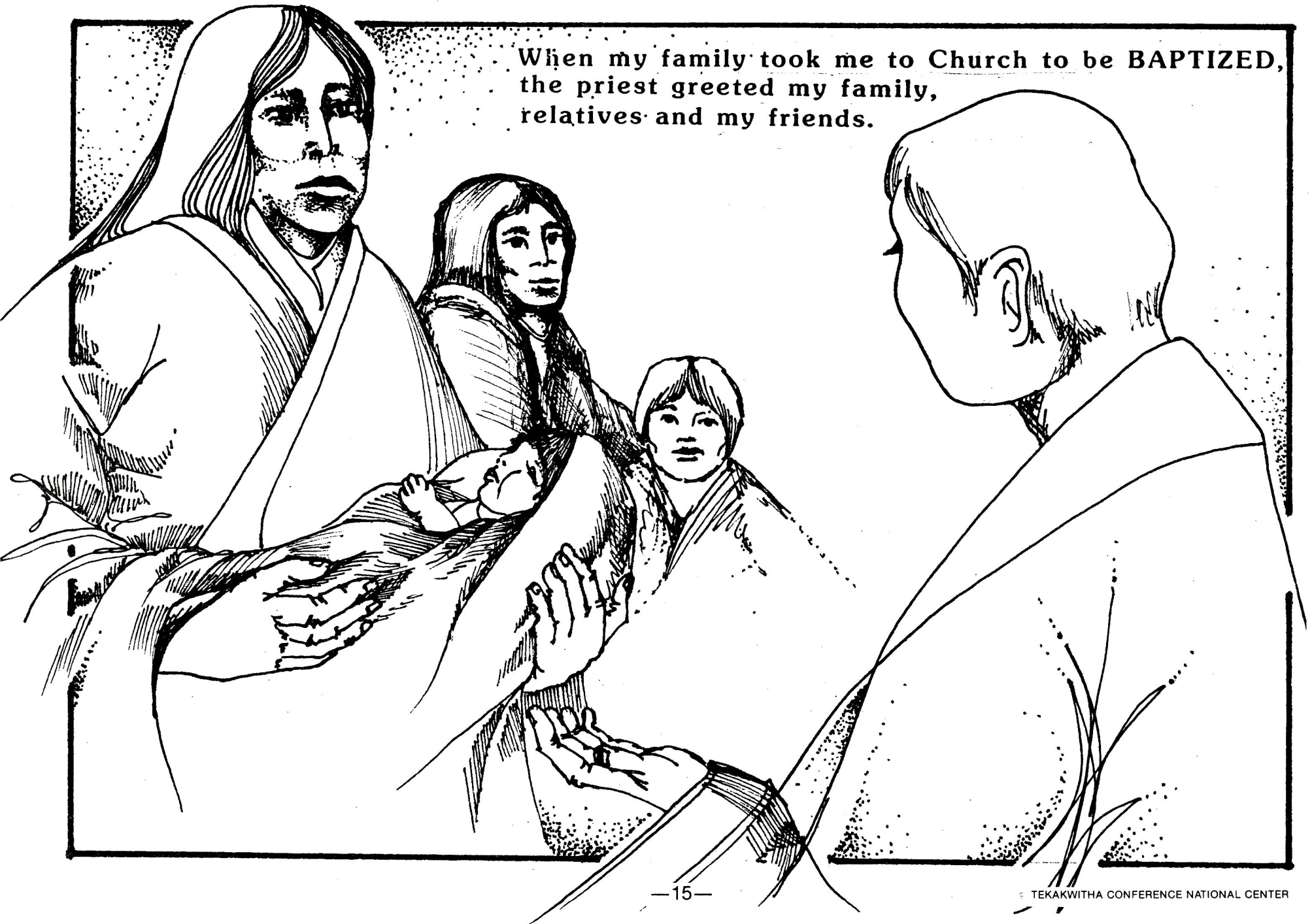


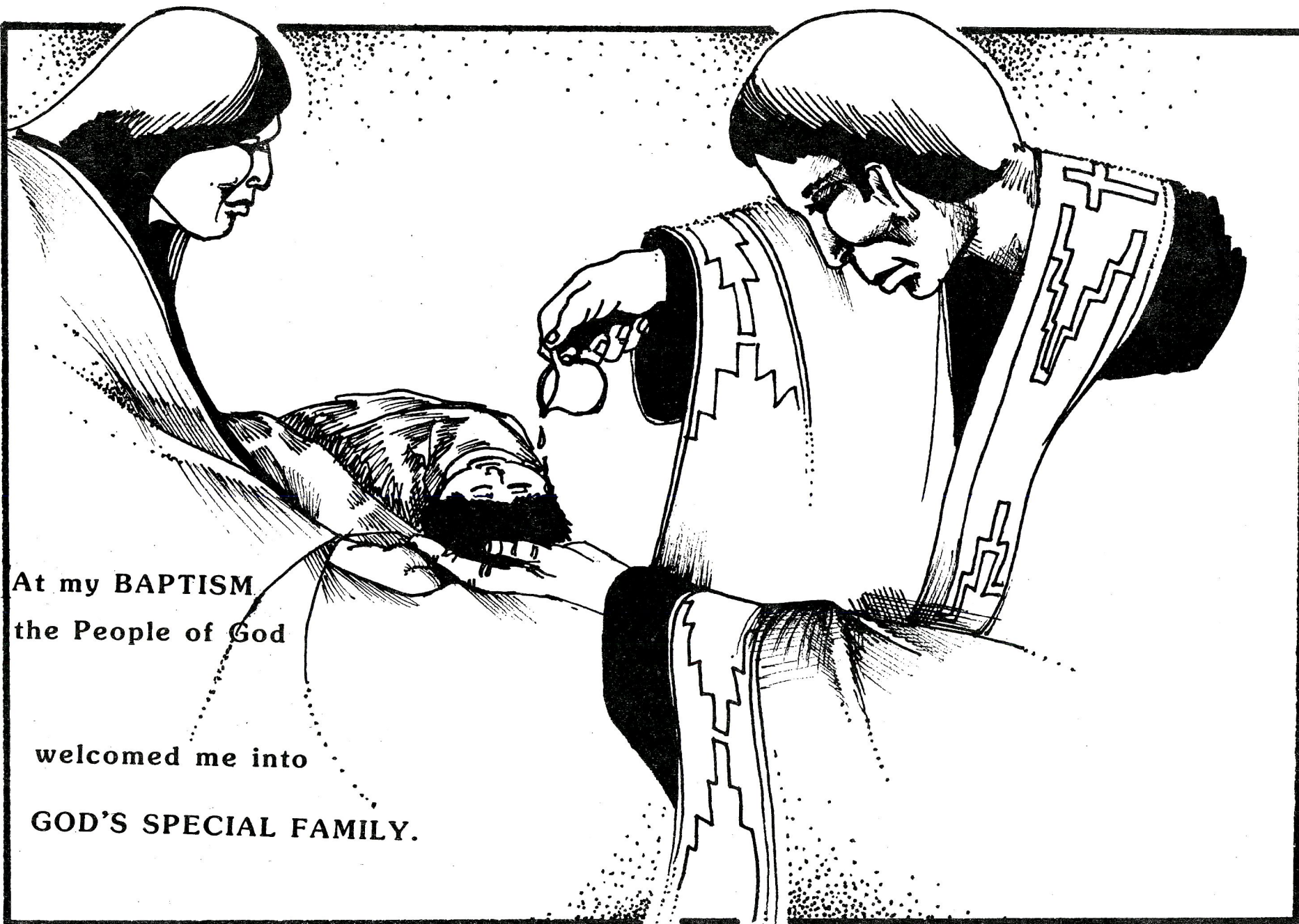
The  
Church is  
another name for  
God's family.

The Church means the  
People of God.



When my family took me to Church to be BAPTIZED,  
the priest greeted my family,  
relatives and my friends.





At my BAPTISM  
the People of God

welcomed me into

GOD'S SPECIAL FAMILY.





The Priest said to me,

"My dear child, the Christian  
Community **WELCOMES YOU**  
**WITH GREAT JOY.**

May you grow with them in this  
new life in the name of the  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



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