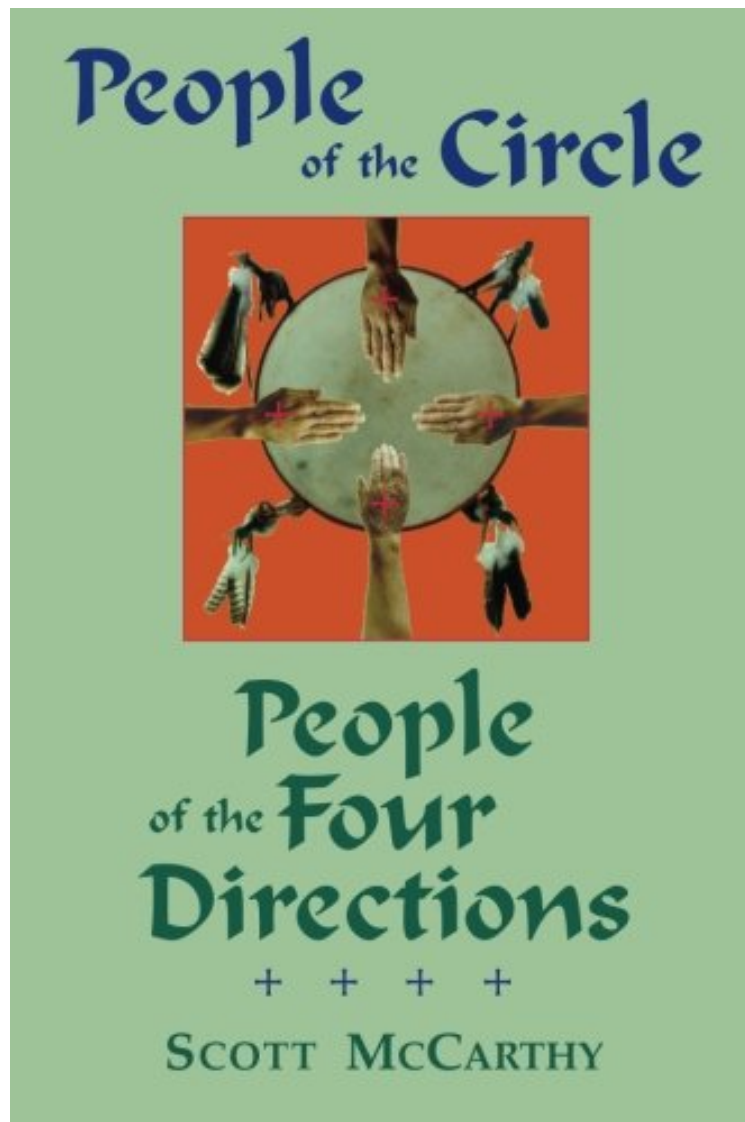


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People of the Circle, People of the Four Directions: A Gathering of Native American Prayers, Rituals, and Traditions

Fr. Scott McCarthy

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Fr. Scott McCarthy : People of the Circle, People of the Four Directions: A Gathering of Native American Prayers, Rituals, and Traditions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised People of the Circle, People of the Four Directions: A Gathering of Native American Prayers, Rituals, and Traditions:

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Explores the common spiritual symbols of the Native People
Midwest Book Review
In *People Of The Circle, People Of The Four Directions*, Scott McCarthy explores the common spiritual symbols of the Native People of North and South America. Drawing on poetry, stories, ceremonies, and ethnological studies, McCarthy provides examples of the use of circles, the four directions, and the number four (both individually and in combination) as common themes running through all Native American cultures. An invaluable, highly recommended contribution to Native American studies, *People Of The Circle, People Of The Four Directions* will encourage a sharing and understanding between the different Native American cultures and broader Eurocentric American culture as they interact and sometimes collide. 13 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Gathering of Native American Prayers, Rituals, Traditions By Sharon Hermes
Within these 685 pages the author presents countless "Ceremonies and Lifeways" of the native peoples of North, Central, and South America as seen through the writings of scholars, ethnologists, teachers, personal observers, and the People themselves. Categorized by cultural area, cross-referenced alphabetically and by tribe, and followed by McCarthy's comments, they illustrate the recurring themes of the circle, the cardinal directions, the number four, and the appearance of these symbols in vastly different times and places. In the thought-provoking introduction, the conclusion, and extensive list of sources and recommended books, readers are encouraged to explore the sacred ways within their own and other cultures, to enter more deeply into a dialogue and a sharing of this spiritual nourishment to recognize the interconnectedness in all creation, and to be open to the Spirit's activity within it all. A great reference book and source of inspiration.

People of the Circle, People of the Four Directions explores the common spiritual symbols of the Native People of North and South America. Drawing on poems, stories, ceremonies, and ethnological writings, Scott McCarthy gives examples of the use of circles, the four directions, and the number four, both individually and in combination, as common themes that run through all the Native cultures of the Americas. The ceremonies and lifeways presented here will encourage a sharing and understanding between cultures, as cultures meet, sometimes colliding, sometimes entwining. Without a sense of the Creator's presence, it would be difficult for many human beings to comprehend life. Picture the following scenarios: A Spanish soldier or Franciscan friar sometime shortly after the invasion of Mexico and an Aztec merchant: As they "size up" each other, what are the religious symbols that each wears to express a particular spirituality? A mid-nineteenth-century settler living in Wyoming greets some Cheyenne visitors at his homestead: What might be the content of their individual prayers later that night? Prayers for understanding, protection? Modern-day tourists passing through the Black Hills area, visit Bear Butte State Park (a huge mountain rising above the plains that was, and is, an ancient place of worship for several tribes) and are surprised to see and hear Sioux and Cheyenne vision questers praying and singing as they are sequestered among the bushes, trees, and rocky mountain ledges: Some are praying, others are simply enjoying the outdoors. Do they share any aspects of spirituality?

From the Back Cover
A Gathering of Native American Prayers, Rituals, and Traditions. People of the Circle, People of the Four Directions explores the common spiritual symbols of the Native People of North and South America. Drawing on poems, stories, ceremonies, and ethnological writings, Scott McCarthy gives examples of the use of circles, the four directions, and the number four, both individually and in combination, as common themes that run through all the Native cultures of the Americas. The ceremonies and lifeways presented here will encourage a sharing and understanding between cultures, as cultures meet, sometimes colliding, sometimes entwining.
About the Author
Born in London, England, Scott McCarthy received a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts from St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1974. Over the years he has attended numerous Native ceremonies throughout North and South America. He currently serves as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Carmel Valley, California, and as director of the diocesan Native American ministry.