

# APACHE STRONGHOLD

POB 766 SAN CARLOS, AZ 85550



October 3, 2021

Dear Rev. Barber,

We want to send you greetings that we are celebrating with you the good news that you have been asked to travel to the Vatican conference to speak to the meeting at the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences on coalition-building and bridging religious communities in order to end poverty. Our prayers go with you to protect you and we will pray that the Creator will give you the words you need to speak to them. Keep us in your prayers in our struggle to protect our religious freedom and to save Oak Flat. We would ask if you could on our behalf to ask for Pope Francis and the Vatican to renounce the Doctrine of Discovery. This evil theology that came from the Vatican undergirds the United States' legal system's argument for their right to our lands and the repression of our religion. If Pope Francis truly wants to stand with the global poor and denounce unbridled capitalism's repression of human beings and Mother Earth as he states in his recent encyclical, then he should renounce the theology within the Doctrine of Discovery that was used by this capitalist world system to dispossess indigenous people of their lands and dehumanize human beings. The Doctrine of Discovery has been the basis for how the U.S. Government has created its policies that have brought us to this point to struggle to save sacred sites throughout the United States.

Our prayers are with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendsler Nosie Sr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wendsler Nosie Sr.  
Apache Stronghold