## Kateri Tekakwitha

Lily of the Mohawks

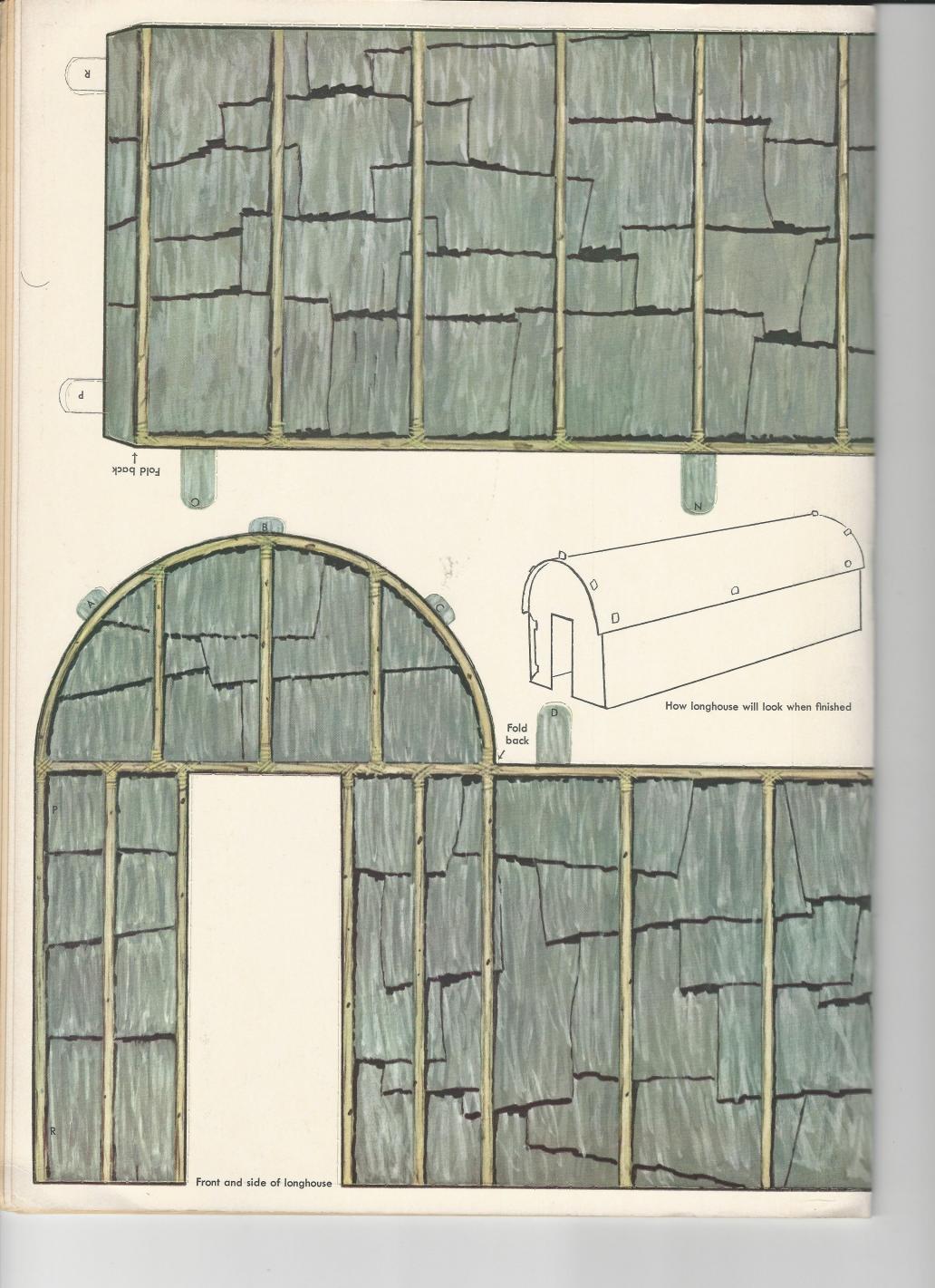


A Guild Story-Punchout Book for Catholic Boys and Girls

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Roof of longhouse



← Fold forward



## KATERI TEKAKWITHA Lily of the Mohawks

Tekakwitha was an Indian girl who lived long, long ago. She liked to take care of her baby brother. She loved him very much. Sometimes she would sing Indian songs to him, and sometimes she would play with him.

Tekakwitha lived with her mother and father in a house that was very big and very long. The Indians called it a longhouse. Many families lived in each longhouse.

Tekakwitha's father was the chief of a Mohawk tribe. He was very cruel to his enemies. But Tekakwitha's mother was a Christian. She taught her little daughter to be kind.

Once Tekakwitha's baby brother was very sick. Her father asked some medicine men to cure him. The medicine men used magic, but their magic did not work, and Tekakwitha's brother died. Her mother and father died from that sickness, too.

Then Tekakwitha went to live with her uncle and aunt. Her uncle loved his little niece. He and Tekakwitha took long walks in the sunny afternoons. At night, Tekakwitha and her uncle sat near the dancing fire and he told her stories of brave Indians. But Tekakwitha's aunt did not like her. She made the little girl do most of the hard work.

Tekakwitha had a friend named Anastasia. Anastasia was a Christian. She taught Tekakwitha how to make the Sign of

the Cross. Then she taught Tekakwitha some prayers. She told the little girl about Jesus and Mary, His Blessed Mother.

Once some missionaries came to Tekakwitha's village. She thought, "Now I can become a Christian. I will ask my uncle if I may be baptized." At first, Tekakwitha's uncle said no. But she prayed for many years that he would change his mind. Finally he said, "I know you want to become a Christian. I do not like these missionaries, but you may do as you wish." Tekakwitha was very happy. When she was baptized, she received the Christian name of Catherine. The Indians called her Kateri. Now her name was Kateri Tekakwitha.

Kateri heard about the Saint Francis Xavier Mission. The mission was a place where many Christian Indians lived. Kateri wanted to live there, too. Some Indians, called braves, helped her get to the mission. The priests at the mission were very glad to see Kateri. She helped the other Indians with their work, and she was always kind to everyone. Every day, she went to every Mass in the chapel.

Sometimes Kateri would go hunting with the other Indians. On one hunting trip, she made a chapel. She went there often during the day to pray. One spring, Kateri became very sick and died. Many Indians thought she was a saint. Today, the Church calls her Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. This means that Kateri lived a very holy life. Perhaps some day we will call her Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

## A GUILD PRESS BOOK

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