

DEPARTMENT of COMMUNITY AFFAIRS METALLING
P.O. Box 2000 11 Kent St. Charlottetown C1A 7N8

July 8, 1983

Rev. Henri Bechard Vice-Postulator The Kateri Centre P.O. Box 70 Caughnawaga, P.Q. J01 1B0

Dear Father Bechard:

I am writing to let you know how happy we were to have Father Tom Egan conduct another retreat for us on June 17, 18, 19. Please extend our special thanks to him. The retreat was a success and the people want more.

Please find enclosed picture of Premier James Lee, Chief Jack Sark and Corrinne Francis. Premier Lee presented one of the pictures I received from Father Robert Fleig, S.J. from St. Regis. I invited Premier Lee to attend the official closing of the Handicraft Basket Making Course, and suggested that he frame the picture of Blessed Kateri and present it to the John J. Sark Memorial School at Lennox Island. He agreed. He also read the material I had received from you on the life of Blessed Kateri and told the children to follow her example. Maybe you can put this in your next Kateri Issue.

Yours sincerely,

John Jae Jark

John Joe Sark



DEPARTMENT of COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ACTIONS
P.O. Box 2000 11 Kent St. Charlottetonin C1A 7N8

November 4, 1983

Most Rev. Bishop William Power Diocese of Antigonish 149 Main Street PO Box 1330 Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2L7

Dear Bishop Power:

My name is John Joe Sark, I met you at the Atlantic Liturgical Congress, which was held in Charlottetown on October 28, 29 and 30th., 1983.

At the Banquet which was held on Saturday, October 29th I had the opportunity of meeting you and discussing with you the interest I have and many of the Mic-Mac Indians have in relation to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

During the past year I have, with help from the Sisters of St. Martha, set up two retreats for the young mic mac people of P.E.I. I have also organized a mission, which will be held on Lennox Island on November 25, 26 and 27, 1983. Some Mic Mac Indian people from Big Cove, New Brunswick will attend our mission. It would be great if some Mic Mac Indian people from your Diocese could also attend, please tell them they are welcome, if they wish to attend our Mission.

I would like to organize a Maritime Blessed Kateria Conference from sometime next year, however I will need the cooperation of the Bishop and Priests who have Mic Mac Indian people living in their Doceses.

Please find enclosed newsletters which I have prepared for the Mic Mac People of P.E.I., a letter from Rev. Father George Courtlee, Paster at the Big Cove Reserve, and a schedule for our mission. Any assistance you can provide to us in regards to our proposed Maritime Blessed Kateri Conference would be greatly appreciated. We would like to have the first conference in Prince Edward Isaand, and if it is successful we will have it in a different province each year. I will also be contacting the Pastors in Maria, and Restiganche, Quebec, to see if we can bring all our

Page 2

Mic Mac and Malicite Indian people together for such a conference. I will be looking forward to hearing from you.

May Blessed Kateri smile upon you.

Sincerely,

John Joe Sark

John Joe Sark

My address is:

Johnston's River Charlottetown, RR 5, P.E.I. CIA 7J8

Dear Rev. Father Bechard.

I have been in Contact today with Rev. George Gutlee, Pastor at Big Reserve, he is planning to visit . Ametime this year. We will talk about a maritime Gordian Blessed Kateri Conference, which would be around July 6, 7, and eight and Could You suggest some possible sepeaker for your attend our Conference. and Could I would appreciate your prayers to Blessed Kateri for my full Conversion to Christ, and success in our efforts to bring our people to Him through Katere. May Blessed Kateri Simle Upan ayan.
your in Christ

John Jue Salk.

Plase answer soon.

Hal Hui



DEPARTMENT of COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AFFAIRS P.O. Box 2000 11 Kent St. Charlottetown C1A 7N8

October 19, 1983

Rev. Henri Bechard, S.J. Vice-Postulator Blessed Kateri Centre PO Box 70 Kahnawake, P.Q. JOL 1B0

Dear Father Bechard:

I was very happy to meet you at the annual Tekakwitha Conference. Did you enjoy the Conference. It sure was interesting.

We are planning to have a Blessed Kateri Weekend Mission at St. Ann's Church, Lennox Island on November 25, 26 and 27 Father Lawrence Smith will be preaching the Mission for us. Father Tom Egan introduced him to me at the Tekakwitha Conference.

Some mic mac people from the Big Cove Reserve in New Brunswick are interested in coming to P.E.I. for this mission.

Please do not forget to send me a first class relic of Blessed Kateria which will be used among the Mic Mac people of P.E.I. and shared with our non-Indian people at special events. Please find enclosed schedule for our upcoming Mission, wouldn't it be great if you could attend this mission with us, or even come to concelebrate the Mass on the 27th.

May Blessed Kateri smile upon you.

Yours sincerely,

John Jae Sark

John Joe Sark

February 9, 1983

Johnston's River Charlottetown, RR#5 P.E.I. C1A 7J8

Rev. Henri Bechard S.J. Vice Postulator Kateri Centre P.O. Box 70 Caughnawag PQ JOL 1B0

Dear Father Henri:

Please find enclosed a copy of our Diocesan News. There is an article on the Blessed Kateri Retreat which Father Tom Egan conducted for us on January 7 & 8, 1983. We appreciate your assistance in sending Father Tom Egan down to conduct our retreat which was a real success.

Would you please send me Father Egan's address. Also enclosed are a few more pledge cards. The people of Lennox Island, are already asking for a follow on talks given by Father Egan in relation to Blessed Kateri.

Yours sincerely, John Joe Sark

John Joe Sark

Community Resource Officer

Enc. (2)

JJS/wf



Community Resource Division

DEPARTMENT of COMMUNITY AFFAIRS MEASURE P.O. Box 2000 11 Kent St. Charlottetown C1A 7N8

March 18, 1983

Rev. Henri Bechard, S.J. Vice-Postulator Blessed Kateri Centre Box 70 Caughnawaga Quebec JOL 1B0

Dear Father Bechard:

Please find enclosed the pictures you requested. Everyone who took part in the retreat, are requesting a follow-up, and we would appreciate an outline from you on how to conduct such a follow-up. Would it be possible for Father Tom Egan or someone from the Centre to conduct another retreat for us? We appreciate your generosity in this regard, and appreciate what you have done for us to date. I hope that this letter will find you and the staff of the Centre in the best of health.

Yours in Christ,

John Joe Sark

Community Resource Officer

JJS/mp Encl.



DEPARTMENT of COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AFFAIRS P.O. Box 2000 11 Kent St. Charlottetown C1A 7N8

October 31, 1983

Rev. Father Henri Bechard Vice Postulator Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Kateri Centre P.O. Box 70 Kahnawake, Quebec JOL 180

Dear Father Bechard:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 25, 1983 and for the first class relic of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. I have been talking with Sister Gemma Dunn and she has agreed to take care of Blessed Kateri's relic. Sister Gemma is a great person — the relic will be well cared for.

During the past weekend I have attended the Atlantic Liturgical Congress. There were approximately 1,000 delegates there from the Atlantic Provinces. I took the opportunity to sepak with Most Reverend Bishop Faber MacDonald from the Diocese of Grand Falls, Newfoundland. He is very interested in what we are doing in regards to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

I sat alongside Most Reverend William Power, Bishop of the Diocese of Antigonish, N.S., during the banquet on Saturday evening. He is very interested in Blessed Kateri Takakwitha and he said that he will be contacting Rev. Father Morris who is the pastor of the Eskoni Reserve. This is the largest Indian community in Nova Scotia. He is very excited about our idea of having an Atlantic Regional Blessed Tekakwitha Conference sometime next year.

Father Bechard, we would really appreciate your presence with us during the Blessed Kateri Mission which will be held on Nov. 25, 26 and 27, 1983. Your presence would add so much to our Mission, especially on Sunday. Thank you very much for your kindenss to us.

May blessed Kateri smile upon you.

Yours sincerely, John Joe Sark

John Joe Sark.

Oct 25/83

Dear John Joe, Sark

You must realize by now that I am not a very good correspondent. Only yesterday, I turned in the material for the English and French Recember Kateris. When I prepare these issues, I do very little letter writing. Now I shall slowly begin preparing the Easter issue.

I do enjoy receivaxysmring your letters. Heartfelt congratulations on your wonderful work: your newsletter, your spreading of devotion on all sides to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, your work among your people with the blessing of Bishop MacDonald. The idea of a retreat by Fr. Smith whom I met at the Tekakwitha Conference is excellent.

I have heard from the missionary at Big Cove, where your people are also established. They too have great devotion to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

You will soon be getting the First Class Relic of the Lily of the Mohawks. I generally ask the pastor of the reserve to be responsible for it and to see that it is turned over to his successor when the time comes. I think that your idea of leaving it at the convent with the Sisters is very good.

Your will soon receive the requested copies of <u>Kateri</u>. I'm enclosing farms subscription forms. And also prayer pledge forms. Do not press the people to subscribe, if they wish to do so, well and good!

Concerning your notes on the martyrdom of St. John de Brebeuf and his companions at Midland, I wouldn't worry too much. This is the story os practically every nation where Christianity was established. As far back as the third century, Tertullian wrote that the "blood of martyrs was seed of Christians!" It happened all over Europe, in Asia and Africa and in the South Pacific.

Well J_0e , my best to you and to your family with a special blessing for you all,

Your friend in Christ,



KATERI TEKAKWITHA

Comment aider la cause ?

Dire un Pater chaque jour afin d'obtenir les miracles exigés pour la Canonisation de Kateri.

Lire sa vie; en parler à vos amis.

Trouver un abonnement de deux dollars à la revue "Kateri". Depuis trois siècles, les Pères qui s'occupent de répandre la dévotion à la bienheureuse Kateri Tekakwitha accusent réception des lettres qui leur sont adressées par ses dévots. C'est à mon tour maintenant de vous remercier de l'intérêt que vous lui portez, de vos prières pour hâter sa canonisation et de votre généreuse offrande pour aider sa Cause.

av. I turned in a material for the

L'été s'en va et l'automne s'annonce. Avec la fin des vacances, un peu partout, l'activité reprend son élan. Dans nos efforts pour hâter la canonisation du Lys des Agniers, il doit en être de même. Déjà vous avez fait preuve d'initiative et d'allant. De tout coeur, je vous remercie, mais comme je l'ai maintes fois écrit la Bienheureuse le fera beaucoup mieux que moi.

Plus que jamais, je compte sur vos prières et sur votre active propagande en sa faveur. Ne laissons pas cette Cause trafner de longues années. Tout votre dévouement sera amplement recompensé car le coeur de Kateri est un écrin de perles fines, vous n'aurez qu'à puiser pour y trouver toutes sortes de bienfaits spirituels et temporels.

Cordialement vôtre dans le Coeur de Jésus,

le vice-postulateur,

Henri Béchard S.J.

"Tout témoignage authentique d'amour que nous donnons aux saints, par sa nature tend et aboutit au Christ, qui est la couronne de tous les saints." (Vatican II.)

MISSIO SANCTI FRANCISCI XAVERII, A. D. 1688 FUNDATA Kahnawaké (Québec), Canada C.P. 70 — JOL 1B0

EXPECTS TENS OF THOUSANDS

Ontario Town Prepares For 1984 Visit By Pope

MIDLAND, Ont. (CP)
When Pope John raculous healing powers and devoted to Je-Paul makes the first papal visit to Canada in 1984, he will come to a suit martyrs whose plight is familiar to anynadian history in shrine credited with mione who studied Ca-

outdoor mass at the Martyrs' Shrine in this On that September day, of thousands of worshippers from North America are expected to flock to a two-hour town, better known as a centre for summer vaens

ready begun clearing an eight-hectare area, cut into the side of a hill Organizers have alabove the shrine, to per-



POPE JOHN PAUL II



school

mit those attending the mass a clear view of the

CLA 7JO

the site will hold 193,000 worshippers, there is no way to determine how large the throng of visitors will be. Rev. Jim Farrell, director of the shrine, says although

"People we have spoken to in Europe say you really have to just wait and see," Farrell says. When the Pope decided to return to Canada — he was here before being elected Pope — he requested a visit to the imposing shrine, a tribute to five Jesuit martyrs can-

Displayed inside the shrine, credited by the Roman Catholic Church with having special healing powers, are crutches said to have been left by people crippled when

lometres northwest of Toronto, the pontiff will spend an While in Midland, on Georgian Bay about 130 kiafternoon at Ste. Marie Among the Hurons, the reconsructed headquarters of the Jesuits until 1649 hey entered the shrine.

Ste. Marie was a permanent central mission set up by the Jesuits in 1639, and one of several such settlements established to convert the Huron Indians to

esuit mis-Today it still houses the grave of the ma most school children, St. Jean de Brebeuf sionary tortured to death by the Iroquois in I BURNED AT STAKE

Brebeuf, one of Canada's patron saints, was stoned, slashed with knives, forced to endure a collar of red-hot

tomahawks and a "baptism" of boiling water before he

Juflinching until the end, Brebeuf was burned at the stake. His heart was then eaten by the Iroquois, who believed that by ingesting the heart of a brave man, they 71th his courage. would be instille.

priest Jerome Lalemant, captured with Brebeuf and The grave is also said to contain the remains of Jesuit murdered a day later.

Garnier, who was murdered near Collingwood, Ont., in 1650. After the Ontario Jesuit mission was abandoned in Visitors to the church also can see a display of tiny 650, their bones were returned to Quebec and the rest of ragments of bone from Brebeuf, Lalemant and Charles their remains buried

The pontiff also will visit the Church of St. Joseph, the original church built by the Jesuits at Ste. Marie, de-"The church itself may house the crippled and those too old to be able to handle the crowd," Farrell said. clared a place of pilgrimage in 1644.

"We expect His Holiness will be able to yiew the church

itinerary, while lay people and area residents have been organized to handle security and other details for the mass. Farrell said a co-ordinator has been appointed by the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops to set the Pope's and visit with the infirm before he begins the mass."



Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, MONDAY, JULY 11, 1983

VOL. XCVI, NO. 159

30 CENTS

Dear Friends of Blessed Kateri,

Just a reminder to you that we will be having another Blessed Kateri Retreat Weekend at Camp Goeland on June I7, I8, I9, and will stay overnight Friday and Saturday. On Sunday we will travel to Lennox Island to attend Mass. This will close our Blessed Kateri Retreat Weekend.

As you are aware, I attended the Blessed Kateri's Beatification Paul Ceremonies conducted by Pope John/II in Rome a couple of weeks ago. This was an exceptional privilege to have been in Rome for this happy occasion.

Blessed Kateri's Beatification is a reminder to all of us that we are a people with great gifts, which will never be lost in the sea of time, because in our midst Blessed Kateri a North American Indian has been formally recognized by the Church, who in herself has a historic reality and rememberance. Like Blessed Kateri we have great gifts which we can offer to the Church. The Church is not just a building, it is made up of people like you and me, the building part of the Church is where we worship together and where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. It is for this reason that the place of worship is sacred. We are all members of the Roman Catholic Church, and share with people all around the world a common faith, a great faith, which was given to us by the Son of God, who suffered and died so that our sins would be forgiven.

Before Christ died he gathered together his Apostles and instituted the First Mass. This took place on Holy Thursday and is commonly known to all christians as the Last Supper. This was the beginning of the Holy Eucharist, which is celebrated every Sunday. He commanded his apostles to offer Mass in rememberance of him. As Roman Catholics we can share in that Holy Communion Sunday, which is actually the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. When Blessed Kateri realized that in the crude little wooden chapel built by the missionaries, there was present in the form of bread and wine the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, nothing could keep her away from praying before the altar where Jesus was present. This crude little chapel was a palace in the eyes of Kateri.

Although she was very holy and personally very close in spirit to Jesus, she continued to make sacrifices such as kneeling in the snow and praying for hours, and sleeping on thorns at night etc. She would always, when able, do hard work in the fields, look after children in the village, and care for the sick and the dying. Blessed Kateri although very healthy in mind and spirit, was not physically healthy, because she never really recovered from the effects of small pox, which made her very ill and almost blind. She also lost her mother and father to this dreadful disease, and was tormented by her aunt and uncle because she wanted to become a christian like her mother.

Wouldn't it be great if we could again bring to life that great value of sharing with one another, which was such a great tradition in our father, grand-father and great-grand father's time. This sharing gave us strength, honesty, and dignity, we could hold our heads up high because we were at peace with each other and our Creator. Did you know that your ancestors were so honest that there wasn't a word in the Mic-Mac language for stealing. With this kind of strength our ancestors didn't need to rely on booze or drugs to have a good time, they had each other, and had great respect for the feelings of each and everyone whom they came in contact with.

It would be great if all Mic-Mac Indian young and old would read and think about the life of Blessed Kateri, and pray to her to intercede for us to Jesus, so that we may lead a life pleasing to God, She will show us the dangers of the present sexual pervasiveness. She will show how drugs and alcohol have stripped away the dignity and strength of so many of our people, and have put many of our people in a state of confusion, which doesn't allow us, if we are parents to teach our children to respect the feelings of others, and show us the way of sharing the great strengths which enabled our ancestors to survive. To teach our children right from wrong, we must know right. from wrong, and the best teachers is our own example. All parents are teachers. Your children will follow your example, whether 'it is right or wrong. A parents love cannot be replaced. We must always remember that there is a great attachment by our children to their parents. And parents, your love for your child can never be replaced, even if your child is taken from you, your child will always want your love, so why don't you really love them, so that they won't be searching for something they know is missing, that is your love.

Parent's should respect their children, and children should respect and love their parents. This type of family love will bring back the great values which our ancestors had and cherished. So please ask Blessed Kateri to help and pray for us. She knew the deep love which can and does exist between children, adults and parents. Please share your gifts with your neighbors. And remember that everyone is equal in the House of God, on Sunday especially, when we gather together to worship.

May Blessed Kateri Smile Upon You.

Yours Sincerely,

John Joe Sark

for

The Blessed Kateri Committee

P.S.

It would be great if we can make this newsletter a on-going thing. If you have anything to share, please send it to Sr. Gemma Dunn - Lennox Island!

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha News Letter # 3

July 11/83

Dear Friends of Blessed Kateri:

I would like to extend on behalf of the Friends of Blessed Kateri our warm thanks to Father Tom Eagan who took time out of his busy schedule to conduct another retreat for us. It was great to have Father Egan talk to us as Indian people, because he is knowledgable about our Indian heritage, like us he longs for the day when our traditional heritage can be combined with our long established Catholic Heritage. Thank you Father Tom Egan.

Like aboriginal people all across North America, many of us are still searching for our true identity, and our place in today's Roman Catholic

Church.

We are Mic Mac Indians, the original settlers of Prince Edward Island, and members of the great Algonquin Nation. For thousands of years we have looked upon Prince Edward Island as our home, a place where our Creator wanted us to live.

The French writers Champlain and Lescarbot, called our people "Sourquios". It wasn't until 1693 that we were given the name Mic-Mac, which means allies because our people were faithful allies of the French all throughout the English and French Wars in Canada. Our own people used names such as "O MOG", for Indians of Cape Breton "LISTOGO JOEG" for those of Restigouche, a and "EPEGOITNAG" for the Indians of Prince Edward Island.

As Father Tom Egan has said "The Mic Mac Indian people have a long heritiage within the Roman Catholic Church".

In 1610 Grand Chief Membertou a very powerful Medicine Man of the Mic Mac Tribe, decided after years of observing the Jesuit Missionaries, that he would become a Christian. There must have been quite a battle going on within his soul because a Medicine Man was probably one of the most powerful and wisemen of the tribe. He must have been guided and touched by the Great Spirit to be able to see many of his own cultural values present in the new religion being taught by the missionaries. In 1610 Grand Chief Menbertou and twenty of his braves were baptized into the Catholic Church.

Like Blessed Kateri, Grand Chief Membertou and his braves had to go through alot of instruction in the Christian religion, before the Jesuits would agree to baptize them. Baptism, Confession and Holy Communion were not given out automatically by the missionaries, they wanted to be sure that our people understood what being a Catholic Christian was all about.

Our Annual Saint Ann Sunday Celebration is really a rememberance of Grand Chief Membertou's Baptism it is believed that he was one of the first Indians to be baptized in Canada. The French missionaries convinced the Mic-Mac Indians to accept St. Anne as their Patron Saint, this they did with great faith and reverance for the grandmother of Jesus Christ. Because of our peoples great respect for their elders it wasn't difficult for them to adopt Saint Ann as their Patron Saint.

As Mic Mac Indian people with a very long history of being Roman Catholics, we must sit down together and take a fresh look at our Mic Mac Heritiage and discuss with leaders of our Church how we can put some of our traditional values and customs into our Roman Catholic Mass.

We all know the sad story of our people who have been put on reserves so the white settlers could take our land, I won't go into that subject now I will save it for our next newsletter. However, the Non-Indian leaders who devised the reserve system policy and took away our freedom, also took

part of our soul, they helped to kill the spirit of many of our people, that is something that still affect us today. We were told that we were no good, that our Culture should be destroyed etc. This made some of us ashamed of being Indian.

We must never be ashamed of who we are if God wanted us to be white men, he would not have created us as Indians. He gave us the same dignity that he gave all men, so hold your head up high and be proud that you were

born Indian.

However we must look at the world with a positive attitude, and get back to the basics of our Culture, sharing, respect for all that God has created, see God in everything that he created, respect for each other and most of all respect for our elders, the sick and our children who will be our future leaders, let us enable them to hold their head up high with the dignity of their ancestors, and as children of Christ.

St. Ann Sunday will be held on July 24 this year. We will need the support of all Blessed Kateri's Friends in order to make this Celebration successful. If you would like to help this year, please contact Chief Jack Sark, Debbie Francis, Margaret Sark, Mrs, Jack Sark, Charlottee Bernard

Mary Catherine Lewis.

During our blessed Kateri Retreat I noticed that almost everyone except myself, are very good singers, please keep this up because when you sing

in praise of God it is like praying twice.

There will be a choir practice at 6.30 P.M. at St. Ann's Church Lennox Island July 16 and 23. I would like to combine each of these practices with

a meeting with the Friends of Kateri.

Mrs. Jack Sark, Charlotte Bernard, Irene Labobe and other Friends of Blessed Kateri have been organizing the choir for the weekly Sunday Mass. Please join and support them in their efforts to make our worship more colourful and meangingful to all of us.

May Blessed Kateri smile upon you.

Sincerely yours, John Joe Sark

Blessed Kateri Committee

P.S.:
We would appreciate hearing from you in this newsletter.

rest faith and reverance for the grandmother of Jesus Christ. Because ur peoples great respect for their elders it wasn't difficult for them a dopt Saint Arn as their Patron Saint.

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so the white settlers could take our land, I won't go into that subject no I will save it for our next newsletter. However, the Non-Indian leaders

BLESSED KATERI KEKAKWITHA NEWSLETTER

4

August 24, 1983

Hello, everyone!

I have just returned from the national Tekakwitha Conference which was held at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, August 10-14. I would like to give special thanks to Most Rev. James MacDonald for making this trip possible for me.

There were about 2500 Indian people at this Conference from all across North America. His Excellency, Archbishop Pio Laghi, Apostolic Delegate to the United State of America, was the main celebrant at the opening liturgy; he also delivered the homily.

Evening Prayer: Benediction of Blessed Sacrament and Homily. Main celebrant was His Eminence, John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Most Reverend George H. Speltz, Diocese of St. Cloud, was the main celebrant for the closing liturgy. Most Rev. John F. Kenny, Diocese of Bismark and Episcopal Moderator for the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Conference, delivered the homily.

It was great to see all the Indian people, young and old, at this Conference, to celebrate our "Living Together In Our Creator's Love and Truth". I had the same warm feeling with the other Indian people that they were not strangers to me, I felt that I had somehow known them for a long, long time.

I also met Father Tom Egan, who asked that I say hello to all his Mic Mac friends. I also met up with Father Henri Béchard. I was very happy to meet these people because they have been so kind to us, especially in our Blessed Kateri retreats.

There were eight workshops conducted during the length of the course. I attended the workshop on Native Spirituality, which was conducted by Father Edmund Savilla and Father Matthew Fox.

Father Ed Savilla is a native American priest of the Diocese of Santa Fe, an Isleta Oneida/Queshan Indian. He is currently in ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Taos, New Mexico.

Father Matthew Fox is the founder and co-director of the Institute for Creation Centered Spirituality at Mundelein College, Chicago, Illinois. In the fall of 1983 the program will move to the College of the Holy Names, Oakland, California. An internationally known lecturer and writer, Father Matthew Fox holds a doctorate in Spiritual Theology from Institute Catholique de Paris. The following is taken directly from an article written by Father Matthew Fox. This article will open up briefly what Creation centered theology is all about.

"Ed Savilla and I conducted a workshop together this past summer at the Tekakwitha Conference entitled 'Native Ways and the Christian Creation-Centered Ways'. Following one of the sessions a beautiful Navajo woman turned to her parish priest who was sitting next to her and started beating up on him. She said: 'Why did I have to come all the way to Spokane to hear this? All my life I have had this split in me between my native ways and my Christianity. Now I know the split has been between my native ways and St. Augustine.' Numerous other Native peoples spoke up about being healed in a similar fashion by the experience. The fact is that most native peoples - like most of the rest of us - have never heard that there was and is a creation-centered spiritual tradition in the West. Much less in the Church.

While we have all suffered from this cover-up and forgetfulness of what is in fact the oldest tradition in the Bible, perhaps no group has suffered as deeply from it as have the Native Americans. In a deeply moving and powerful book that the author rightly calls 'an essay on spiritual history', Frederick Turner traces the history of America from the point of view of the Native American, beginning with the landing of Columbus. His main thesis in Beyond Geography is found in the sub-title, 'The Western Spirit against the Wilderness'. The author is convinced that what brought on the genocide against Native peoples was a 'deep spiritual pathology that was imbedded in a Christian spirituality that was negative toward nature and toward the wilderness. Western culture repressed the mystery of the wilderness and then projected it onto 'savages' that had to be eliminated. The compulsion to 'redeem the savage' was a convenient excuse for the combination of fear and desire that drove the conquerers. The author, in his concluding chapter, offers a sobering critique of a western spirituality that ignores its creation tradition when he says: 'The threat was ultimately not a military one,' meaning the threat the Native Americans still posed to the President of the United States in 1890. One wonders how many of the threats we still respond to with military imagination and expenditures in our time, whether from Central America or from Russia or from liberation movements anywhere, are indeed not threats that are 'military', but ultimately are threats to a dualistic spirituality we refuse to let go of.

"2. One way to grasp the Four Paths of Creation Spirituality and to communicate them in a Native American context is by utilizing the mandala of the Four directions of the Universe. Path One, the Via Positiva, the God of Light, the Befriending of creation and of the pleasure of creation, corresponds to the Southern direction, the way of sunshine and light.

"Path Two, the Via Negativa, the God of Darkness, the befriending of darkness and nothingness, the letting go and letting be, corresponds to the Northern direction, the way of cold winds and long nights that demands courage and stamina. Path Three, the Via Creativa, the God of birthing and break-through, the befriending of creativity, corresponds to the Eastern direction, the way of the rising sun, the new dawn, the ever-new day. Path Four, the Via Transformativa, the God of New Creation, the befriending of Justice and Compassion and Celebration, corresponds to the Western direction for the sun sets in the West and calls people to their spiritual maturity which is also a calling to beginning anew, to prophetic awakening and being agents of a new creation.

"3. With good reason does Ed Savilla suggest that the Native peoples can teach Westerners 'humility' in relating to the cosmos and to our non-two-legged brothers and sisters who share this planet with us. I am convinced that it is here that the primary healing must take place in our civilization, a healing that will precede all other kinds of healing. Turner talks about the 'anthropomorphizing' of reality that a religion that cuts creation out has brought about. We see its logical conclusion in the arrogance toward nature that so-called 'interior secretary' James Watt represents. Fundamentalist religion is a religion without a cosmos that reduces all creatures to human proportions and thereby distorts humanity's proportions, rendering us much punier than we, in fact, are. The Native sense of worshipping in a circle because the cosmos which is a circle is mirrored in all worship heals such arrogance. The Native sense that the center of a worshipping circle is not human ego, but the universe itself - a belief that the Israelites shared when they believed the Temple was the center of the universe - this heals and effects healing. Ed's beautiful way of reminding us that all spirits are present to sing 'Holy, Holy, Holy' where persons truly worship - all this is part of the rich liturgical legacy that Native peoples bring in a prophetic way to the rest of us. Religion and science separated three centuries ago in the West. But today, thanks to Einstein, the cosmos is becoming a place for mystery and awe once again. Native peoples can hasten this deep healing between religion and science, for their spirituality never lost the cosmos in the first place."

This was a great workshop and confirmed what I believe and what Indian people believe about creation and our Creator.

Father Fox has told us that "we are part of our universe". After God created all other life, He created humans in His own image, man and woman, you and I, our children, our relatives and our elders.

We are made up of the same materials as the other animals that live on the earth, and we must remember that we have to share the universe with them, as well as with the

rivers, the stones, the trees and mother earth who is the one who nourishes all life.

Although we share the earth equally with the non-human, two-legged animals and all God's creation, we are different because God has made us in His own image. All the other animals are not creative. God has made us co-creators with Himself. Although He has created us from nothingness, He has given us a very important gift, we are co-creators with Him, and we must not lose this creative spirit. When we lose this creativity, when we fail to see God's beauty in the trees, the rivers, the grass, Mother Earth, and especially each other, in all humans, our lives will become dull, our worship of God becomes dull, we then forget how to use God's creative gift which He has given us. We must be creative and use art, poetry, song and dance in a way which is creative and pleasing to God; our God is a happy God, He wants His people to be happy.

Every human baby that is born into this world is an original blessing from God. All creation gives praise to God at such an important event, because human life is so precious, God is in us and we are in Him, and we share in the glory of God.

Long before Christianity, the Native peoples of North and South America have been able to see God in everything that God created, and that we are on an equal footing with the animals om Mother Earth and that we have to share the earth with all God's creatures. That is why our ancestors told the deer that they would have to kill so that they could live, but that the beauty of the deer would live on in the clothing that they made out of its skin, and that all of its parts would be used by the person who killed it, and then this person would offer up thanksgiving to God, for the use of the deer.

How wonderful it is that our Creator has prepared Mother Earth two billion years before He created man. He created the water, the air and the forests with animals, the berries, and all the food that He has so abundantly prepared for us.

Do we actually realize how beautiful and alive a tree is An average tree gives out through its leaves approximately two thousand pounds of water a day, and through that process it purifies and cools the air for us.

So with that, I must say that we must respect all life, if we don't then we must expect God's justice to come upon us. If we burn our land with too much fertilizers and pesticides, our land will refuse to produce, we will poison our waters with nitrates and other poisons which cause cancer, we are being punished for destroying creation.

Father Matthew Fox has told us that thousands of acres of land are barren because the big agricultural business has poured too much chemical fertilizer on the land.

Mother Earth has been hurt, and she has refused to grow food for these greedy companies.

When God created us in His image, to be co-creators with Him, He gave us a great responsibility in regards to creation itself, in His justice. Humankind will have to face His justice if we destroy his creation. When we harm Mother Earth, when we keep taking from her without thanks or without putting back organic matter, all human life suffers; when we poison her, we poison ourselves and the other animals.

A nuclear bomb is capable of destroying creation on earth. If we are attacked by a nuclear bomb, the earth will be bathed in total darkness for three days. The animals will go totally blind, their life will be threatened. The insects will grow in size and numbers, spreading deadly radiation to everyone that they bite; our lives will be in great danger, if we survive the blast. Some of the greatest sins of our times

-6-

is the destruction of God's creation, but do we go into the confessional and say, Bless me, Father, I have poured harmful pesticide into the rivers and killed the fish, three times?

When we realize the beauty of God's creation and the fact that all of us are made in the image of God, then God's power will again return to the human race. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to teach us, so let us all pray to the Risen Lord so that His Spirit will heal and guide us throughout our life long journey. And let us not forget that real healing comes when we are willing to forgive each other, and forget about the hurts we have received.

Many years ago when the missionaries arrived in this country, they promptly began their duties of bringing the Gospel to our people. One day while on their way to the Chapel, they met two Indian braves, they told the braves that they came to save their souls and that their Great Book would show them the way to salvation.

After a brief conversation with the braves the missionaries moved on, at this point one of the braves put his fingers against one of his nostrils and blew his nose. Just like old Dan Mitchell used to do it. One of the missionaries put his hand in his pocket pulled out a handkerchief and blew his nose, and put his handkerchief back in his jacket. The two braves were watching all this, one of them nudged the other and said, "These black robes mean business, they save everything."

May Blessed Kateri smile upon you.

Sincerely yours,

John Joe Sark,

Blessed Kateri Committee

John Jae Jark

P.S. In the last Newsletter I said that I would talk about the Reserve and the lose of our land - maybe I will write about this in our next newsletter.

BLESSED KATERI WEEKEND MISSION

St. Ann's Church -- Lennox Island November 25, 26, 27, 1983

Overall Theme: "DISCOVERING JESUS"

Friday Night: WHO IS JESUS FOR ME?

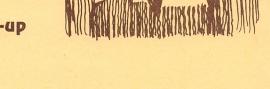
7 - 8 P.M. Rev. Lawrence C. Smith, S.J.

8 P.M. Mr. Joseph A. Nicholas

8:30 P.M. Mr. Lawrence LaCoote

9 - 9:15 P.M. Break

9:15 - 10:30 P.M. Prayer and Meditation and Sum-up



Saturday Morning: WHERE IS JESUS FOR ME AND WHAT EFFECT DOES HE HAVE IN MY LIFE?

9:30 A.M. Mass of Our Blessed Mother

10 - A.M. Mr. Joseph A. Nicholas 10:30 A.M. Mr. Lawrence LaCoote

11 - 12 Noon Rev. Lawrence C. Smith, S.J.

Saturday Afternoon: SPECIAL SESSION FOR TEENAGERS

2 - 3 P.M. Introductions and Why are you here? -- Mr. Joseph A. Nicholas

3 - P.M. "Secret Place Meditation" -- Rev. Lawrence C. Smith, S.J.

3:30 - 5 P.M. Sharing and Story-Telling -- Mr. Lawrence LaCoote

Saturday Evening: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE INDIAN AND CATHOLIC?

7 - 8 P.M. Filmstrip on Belssed Kateri and

Videotape: "Brebeuf's Dream" from Shrine of N.A. Martyrs

Midland Ontario

8 - 8:30 P.M. Sharing: What Indian People in my life are holy People?

Who inspires me? Why?

8:30 P.M. Break

8:45 P.M. Sum-up -- Rev. Lawrence C. Smith, S.J.

9:15 P.M. Penance Service (with opportunity for Confession)

and Benediction

Sunday Morning: 11:00 A.M. Mass for Sunday

Concelebrated by

Most Reverend Bishop James MacDonald

Rev. Lawrence Smith, S.J. and Rev. Robert MacDonald, Pastor.

Date

I the undersigned pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the miracles needed for Kateri's canonization are obtained.

Name Sarah Zen-
Street or Box Boy 7, Site 2
City or Town Big Core
Province or State $\mathcal{N}.\mathcal{B}$ Zip or Zone Code $\mathcal{E}OA$ $\mathcal{Q}LG$
Country

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I the undersigned pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the miracles needed for Kateri's canonization are obtained.

Name albert Knockwood
Name albert Knockwood Street or Box Scatelfort Indain Reserve
City or Town Mt. Stewart P.O.
Province or State 1.E.D. Zip or Zone Code COA, to
Country

Date NOC 30-82

I the undersigned pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the miracles needed for Kateri's canonization are obtained.

Name Gloria Blinaid
Street or Box 21
City or Town Mt. Stewart,
Province or State PEQ Zip or Zone Code $COAITC$
Country Canada

Date Dec 30 - 82

I the undersigned pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the miracles needed for Kateri's canonization are obtained.

Name Darren Knockwood
Street or Box
City or Town Mt. Slewart
Province or State DES Zip or Zone Code COA-TIC
Country Canada
Country Canada

Date Nov. 17, 82

I the undersigned pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the miracles needed for Kateri's canonization are obtained.

Name Lucy Knockwood
Name Lucy Knockwood Street or Box Scotchfort Indain Resource
City or Town Mount Stewart P.O.
Province or State PED Zip or Zone Code $Cocine to$
Country

Date 10 /12 /8 2

I the undersigned pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the miracles needed for Kateri's canonization are obtained.

Name Ablisti Blemen
Street or Box
City or Town Bry Sou D
Province or State Zip or Zone Code
Country

Date Dec 10/82

I the undersigned pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the miracles needed for Kateri's canonization are obtained.

Name Jungeline Jadio
Street or Box Boy 7 Site 2
City or Town Scatchfart
Province or State P & D Zip or Zone Code COA 170
Country Canada

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Date

I the undersigned pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the miracles needed for Kateri's canonization are obtained.

Name Joyce Levi
Street or Box Box 7, Lite 2
City or Town Big Cove
Province or State MB: Zip or Zone Code EOR 220
Country

Date

I the undersigned pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the miracles needed for Kateri's canonization are obtained.

Mahalla Louis	
Name // Colored	
Name Michelle Lewi Street or Box Box 7, Site 2	
City or Town Big Cove.	
Province or State MB. Zip or Zone Code EOA	260
Country	



TRANSMITTAL SLIP

rebuttal.

DEPARTMENT of COMMUNITY AFFAIRS P.O. BOX 2000 CHARLOTTETOWN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND TELEPHONE/ (902) 892 - 3561

FROM:	got ga Sank
COMMENTS:	
P	lease find enclosed on
article	which appeared in our
local	papers and my

BELITTLING TO NATIVE PEOPLES

Press coverage upsets Sark

An Island Micmac Indian says a recent news report on the Pope's visit to Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ont. was biased because it portrayed the Indian people as murderers and savages.

John Joe Sark of Charlottetown, who calls himself a "concerned Micmac" says the story re-inforces the negative image of the Indian people portrayed in history books.

"It belittles the Indian people of Canada and makes them feel the inferiority in which those of European descent have been keeping them for many centuries."

The story transmitted by The Canadian Press Monday outlined preparations by the town of Midland for Pope John Paul II's visit in 1984.

MISSIONARIES

Martyrs' Shrine is dedigated to Jaquita miggione



JOHN JOE SARK

in 1649 by Iroquois Indians. The Pope expressed an interest in visiting the shrine during his 1984 visit.

Monday's news report de



POPE JOHN PAUL

whole story, Mr. Sark says.

"It could have been more balanced...there were many Indians who lived at the same time and in the same area who suffered and died with the martyrs because they took the faith," he said.

Blessed Kateri Tekakawitha, an Iroquois beatified in 1980 by Pope John Paul II, lived in that area at that time.

The Iroquois who committed the tortures were a group within themselves, he said; but this is not portraved in history.

There were no murders in the Maritimes when the Indian people there became Christian, he said; they also "held and practised the faith in the absence of the missionaries."

Mr. Sark says the Pope, in his travels, has encouraged peoples of the world to preserve their culture and would not approve of the "one-sided article" carried by The Canadian Press.