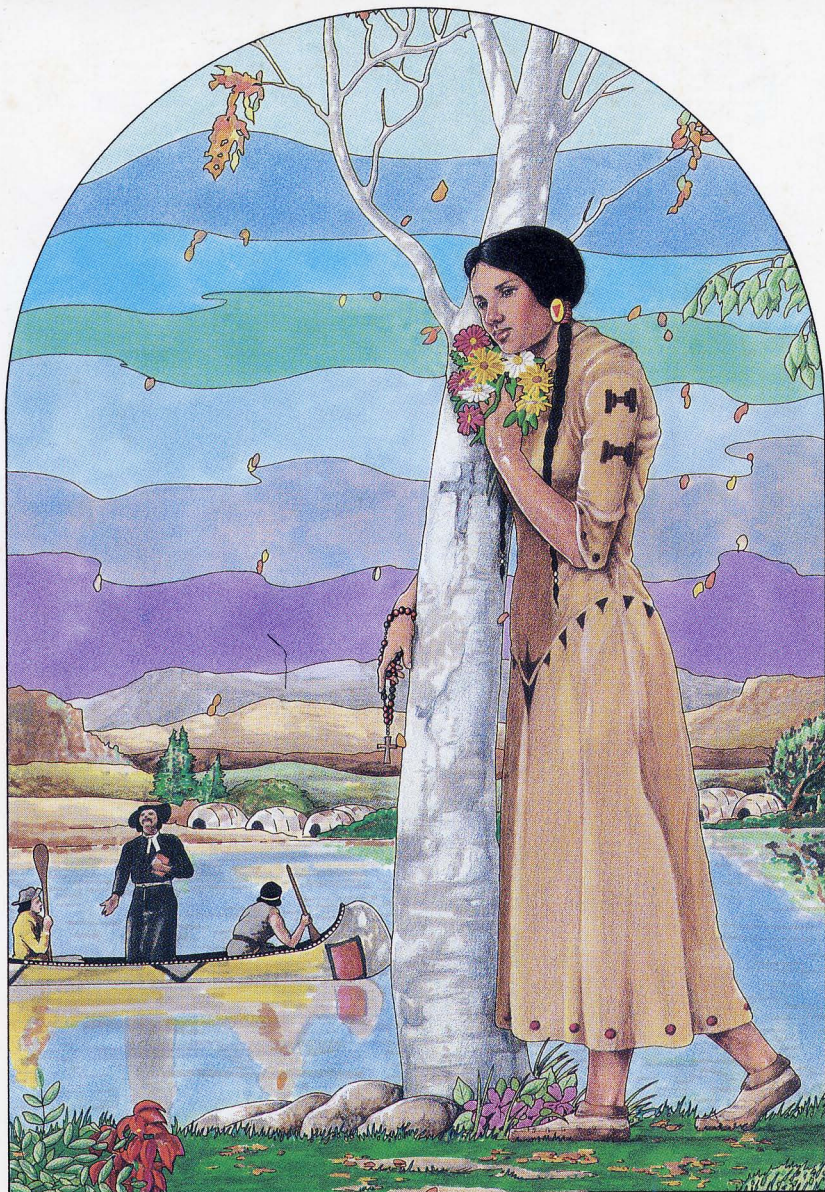
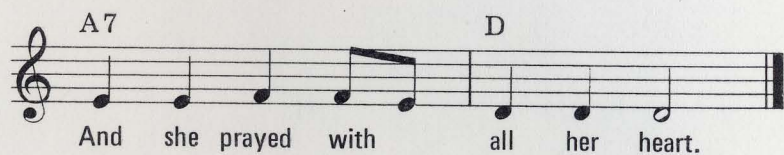
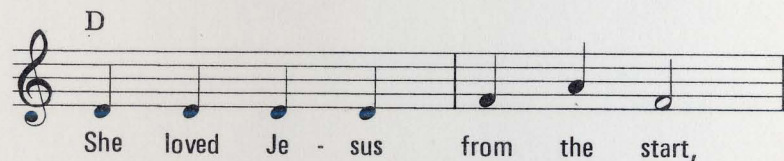
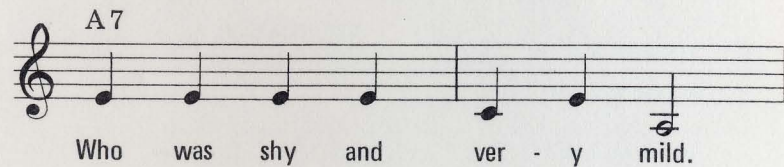
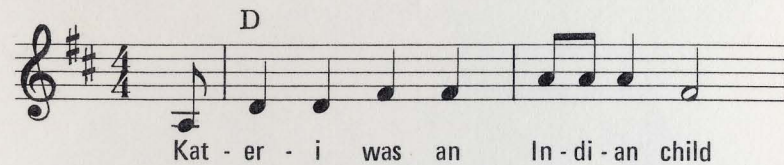


Saints Alive



Blessed Kateri Tekawitha

Kateri Tekakwitha



She was so kind and wanted to please,
Even when someone would tease.
She was brave and very good,
Loving others as she should.

Saints Alive

Carole MacKenthun, R.S.M.



Sadlier-Oxford

A Division of William H. Sadlier, Inc.
New York Chicago Los Angeles

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Nihil Obstat

Rev. John R. Mulvehill, M.A., S.T.D.
Censor Librorum

Imprimatur

✠ Bernard Cardinal Law
Archbishop of Boston
August 27, 1987

The nihil obstat and imprimatur are official declarations that a book or pamphlet is free of doctrinal or moral error. No implication is contained therein that those who have granted the nihil obstat and imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions, or statements expressed.

Copyright © 1987 by William H. Sadlier, Inc. All rights reserved.
This book or any part thereof, may not be reproduced in any form, or by any means, including electronic, photographic, or mechanical, or by any sound recording system, or by any device for storage and retrieval of information, without the written permission of the publisher. Printed in the United States of America.

William H. Sadlier, Inc.
11 Park Place
New York, New York 10007

ISBN: 0-8215-9743-4
123456789/987

Credits

Designer: Julane Jones
Illustrators: Lian Feagans,
Gershom Griffith

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Instructional Television of the Archdiocese of New York for the *Saints Alive* videos from which these booklets were derived.

Executive Producer: M. Irene Fugazy, S.C.
Producer: Betsy Walkup
Associate Producer:
Mary Ellen McGovern, S.C.
Director, Editor, Camera:
Kathy Lombardi
Video Artists: Rae Owings and
Gloria Kamen
Songwriter and Host: Mary L. Walker

Kateri Tekakwitha

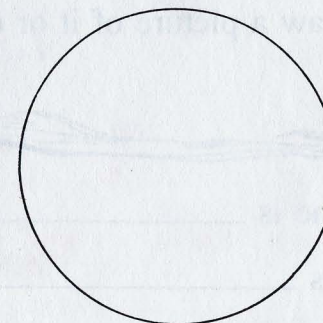
Kateri Tekakwitha is called the “Lily of the Mohawks.” The Mohawks are native Americans. Theirs was the fiercest of the “five nations” of the Iroquois. They lived in central New York State.

When Kateri was young, she was taunted and made fun of by her people because she was a Christian.

This is the story of how she continued to believe and have courage, even when others were very unkind to her.



In the circle below, draw a face that tells how you feel when someone calls you a name.



When I am teased I feel

Tekakwitha was born in what is now Auriesville, New York, in 1656. Before this time there had been a war between two Indian tribes. The chief of the Iroquois, a fierce warrior, captured Tekakwitha's mother. He soon married her and they lived a happy life.

Soon they had a baby girl whom they named Tekakwitha, which means "she who moves forward." Tekakwitha's mother was a Christian and wanted her child to be raised as one also. Her husband refused, since he did not believe in Jesus.



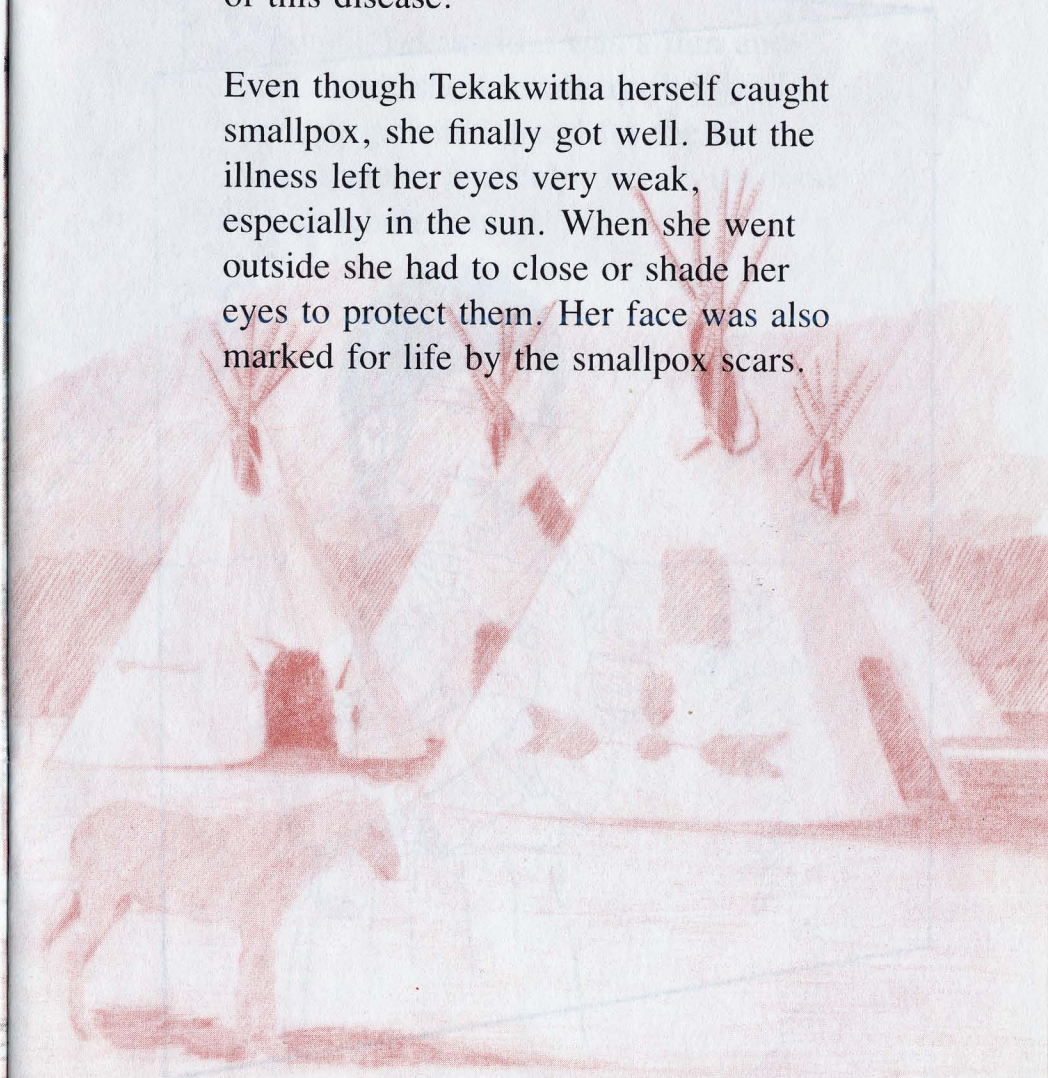
Find out what your Christian name means. Draw a picture of it or decorate it below.

My name is _____

It means _____

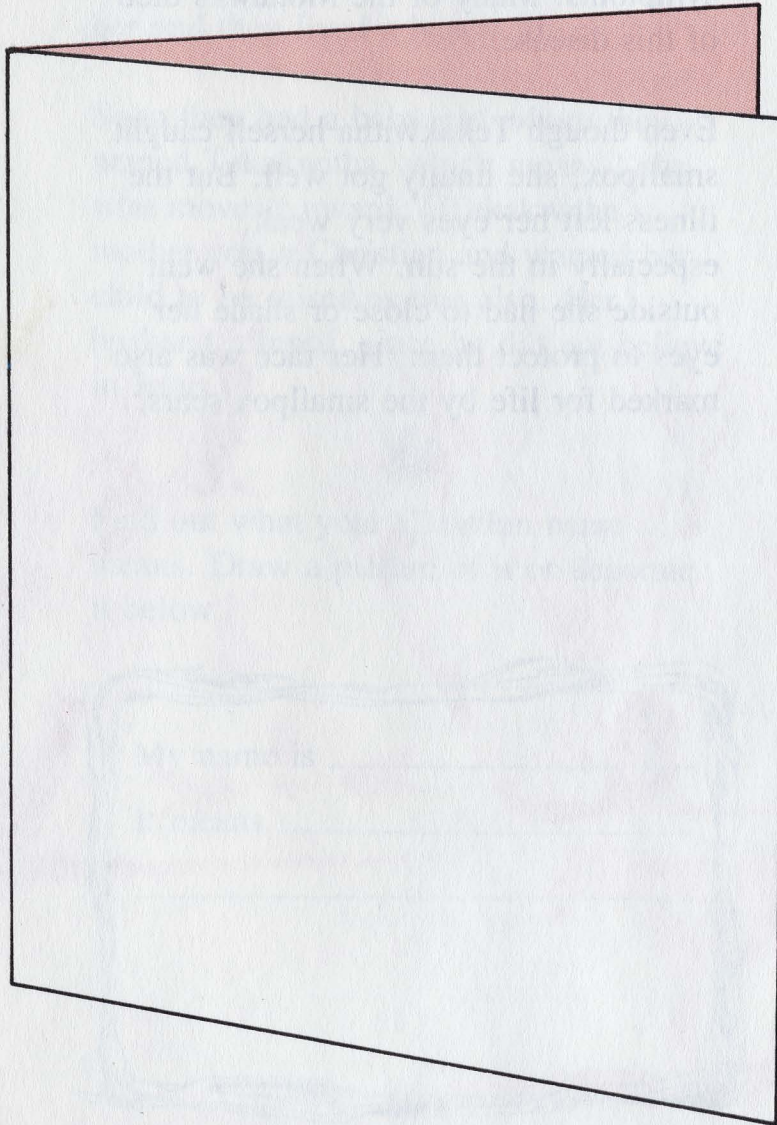
When Tekakwitha was still very young, her mother, father, and brother all died of smallpox. Everyone called this disease the "Purple Devil" because of the deep red rash and violent fever that were its symptoms. Many of the Mohawks died of this disease.

Even though Tekakwitha herself caught smallpox, she finally got well. But the illness left her eyes very weak, especially in the sun. When she went outside she had to close or shade her eyes to protect them. Her face was also marked for life by the smallpox scars.



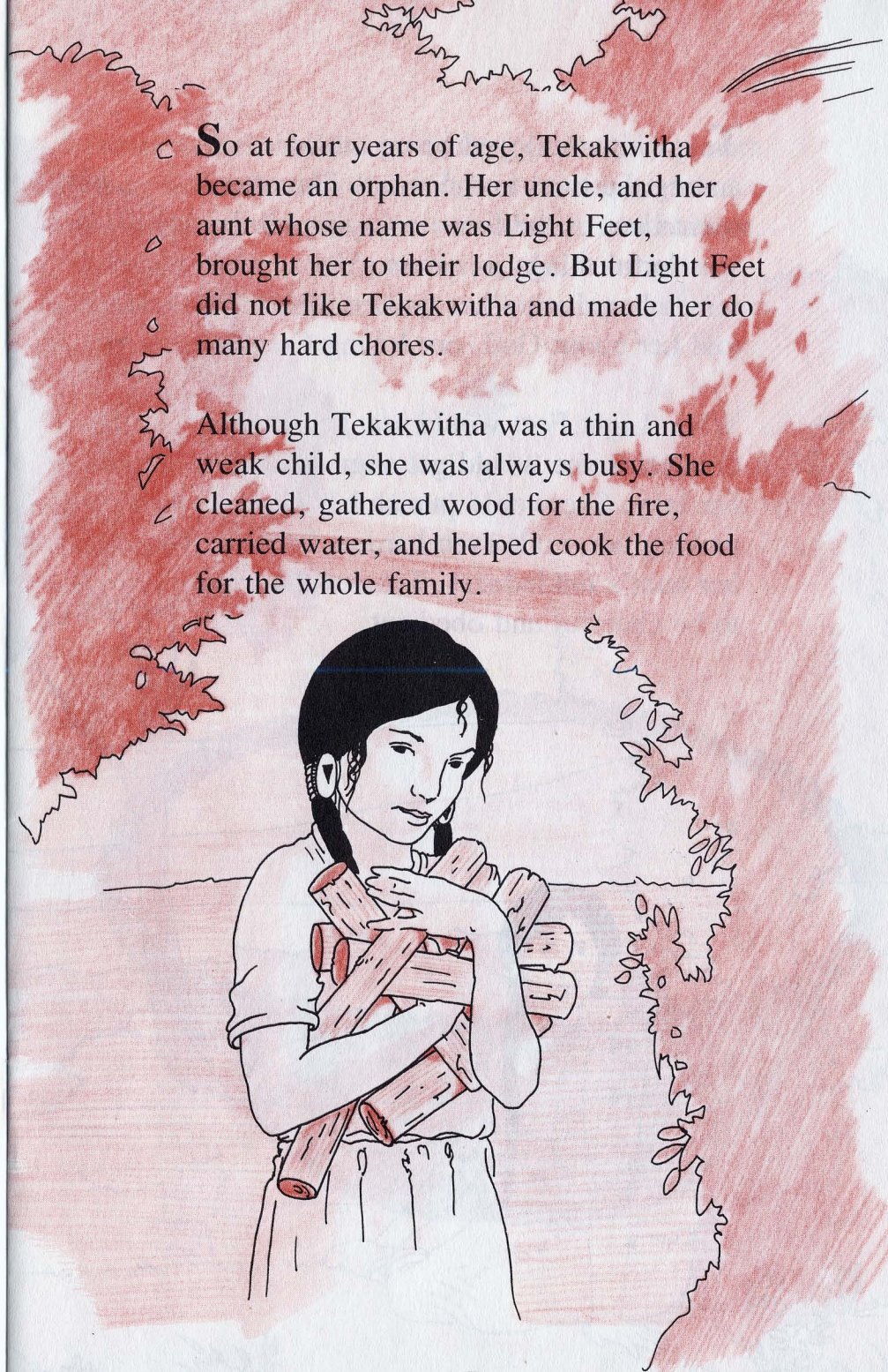


Design a get-well card for Tekakwitha in the space below. Decorate it with Indian symbols. Write a cheerful message to her!



So at four years of age, Tekakwitha became an orphan. Her uncle, and her aunt whose name was Light Feet, brought her to their lodge. But Light Feet did not like Tekakwitha and made her do many hard chores.

Although Tekakwitha was a thin and weak child, she was always busy. She cleaned, gathered wood for the fire, carried water, and helped cook the food for the whole family.



Tekakwitha enjoyed being outside among the trees and flowers. She often spent time in the forest enjoying all the wonderful things in nature. She remembered what her good mother had told her about God, our loving Creator.

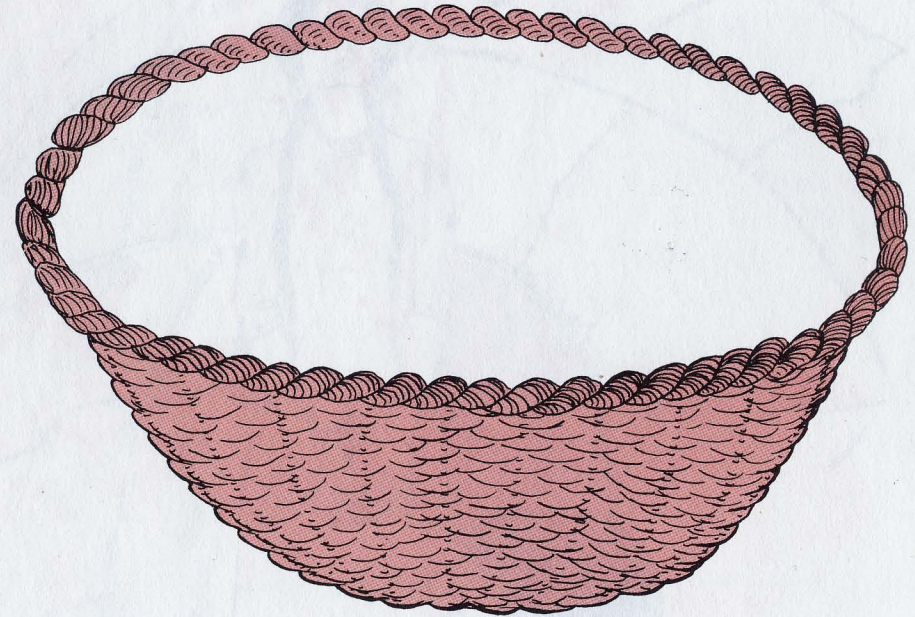
When Light Feet would see Tekakwitha doing this she would get angry and call her lazy. She would punish her by making her work even harder. In spite of her aunt's unkindness, Tekakwitha tried to be cheerful and obedient.



Tekakwitha was very good working with her hands. She mended furniture and painted bracelets, necklaces, and baskets. Despite her poor eyes, she became very skillful in sewing and weaving.



Fill the basket with good words that describe Tekakwitha.

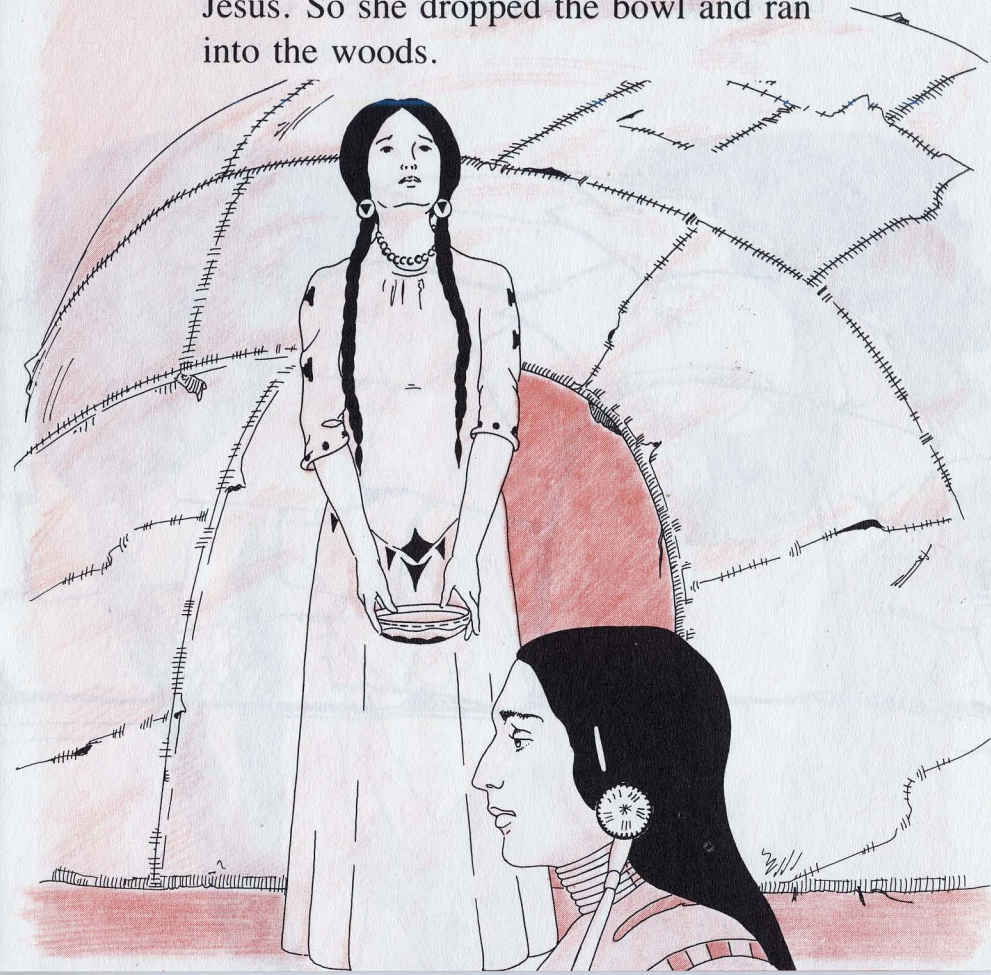


Tekakwitha wanted with all her heart to become a Christian. Whenever the French Jesuit priests, or “Blackrobes” as they were called, came to her tribe, she tried to talk with them. She knew that the missionaries could tell her more about Jesus. But Tekakwitha’s family would not let her talk to the Blackrobes. They did not want her to become a Christian.



Tekakwitha’s uncle and aunt wanted her to get married. They invited a handsome brave to dinner one evening. Light Feet told Tekakwitha to give him the bowl of porridge. When an unmarried Indian girl gave a bowl of porridge to a man, it was a sign that she agreed to marry him.

Tekakwitha knew that she was being tricked. She did not want to get married. She only wanted to give her life to Jesus. So she dropped the bowl and ran into the woods.

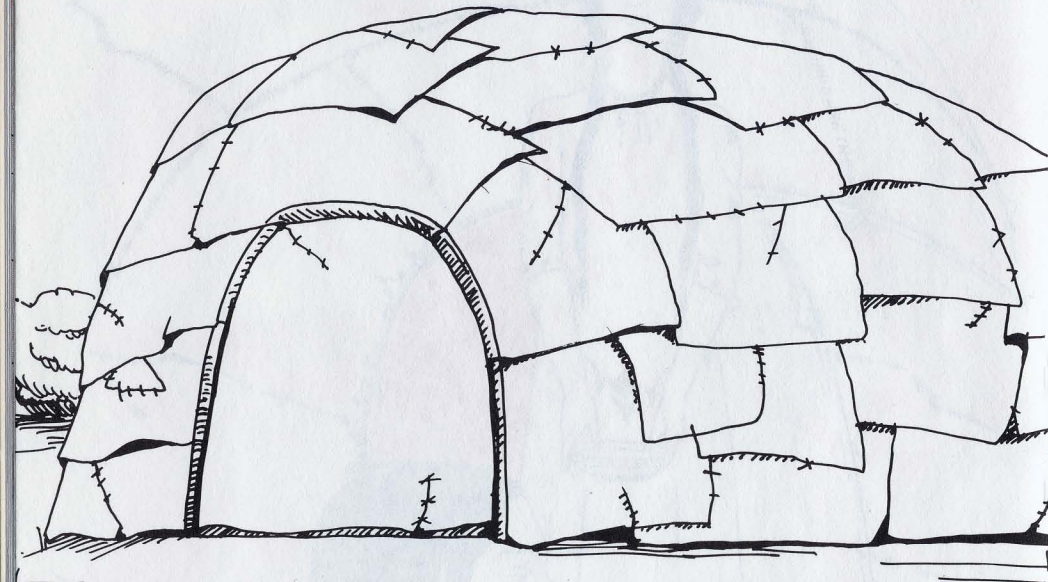


Light Feet punished Tekakwitha because she had disobeyed her. She made her niece work harder than ever.

Tekakwitha never complained. She tried to be very patient and to do what she was told.

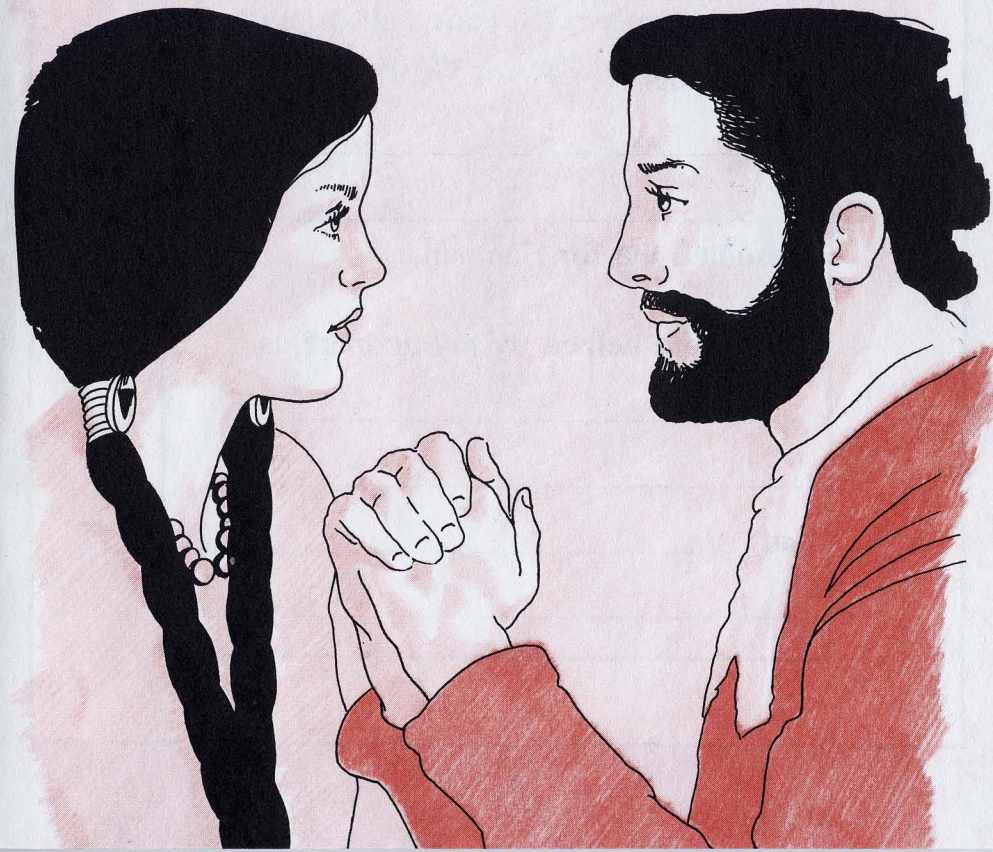


On the lodge below write a prayer that Tekakwitha could have said to Jesus during this difficult time.



Soon the Blackrobes visited Tekakwitha's village again. They knew that Tekakwitha loved Jesus very much and wanted to become a Christian.

At first Tekakwitha's family would not let her be baptized, but at last they agreed. So when Tekakwitha was twenty years old she was finally baptized. She had waited so long for this special day. She was so happy! She received the name Kateri, the Indian name for Katherine.





Ask your parents to help you finish this page. Decorate it with colorful signs to remind you of your Baptism.

I was baptized into the Church at

_____ (parish)

on

_____ (date)

The name of the priest or deacon was

My parents

_____ presented me for Baptism.

They were helped by my godparents

_____ and _____

After Kateri Tekakwitha was baptized, her family and friends tried to shame her into abandoning her religion. Mohawks, they told themselves, feared nothing more than being ridiculed and made fun of. They would taunt and make fun of Kateri and her “white people’s religion.” Even the children were encouraged to hiss and throw stones at her for being “a dirty Christian.”

Kateri had no one among her people to help her or to take her side. Yet she always had faith in Jesus and prayed for courage to be strong, even though the unkindness of others saddened her deeply.



Fill in the Kindness Coupon with something you could do for someone who is teased at school or in your neighborhood.

KINDNESS COUPON

TO: _____

I will: _____

FROM: _____

Kateri Tekakwitha wished that she could live with others who practiced the Christian faith and loved Jesus as she did. She decided to escape to a Christian settlement.

One day when no one was watching her, she went to the water's edge and got into a canoe. She paddled out into the river. She prayed that she would have a safe journey. Day and night she traveled across the dark waters.

When her uncle realized that she was missing, he tried to chase her. But Kateri was too fast. She arrived in Canada at the village of the Blackrobes after many days of travel.



Here is a rhyme that Kateri could have sung while she was traveling in her canoe.

Paddle, paddle, paddle away!
Paddle upstream while I pray.

Paddle, paddle, paddle away!
I'll find my Christian friends
someday.



Now you write a short rhyme about a time when you were traveling to some special place. You may illustrate your poem if you wish.

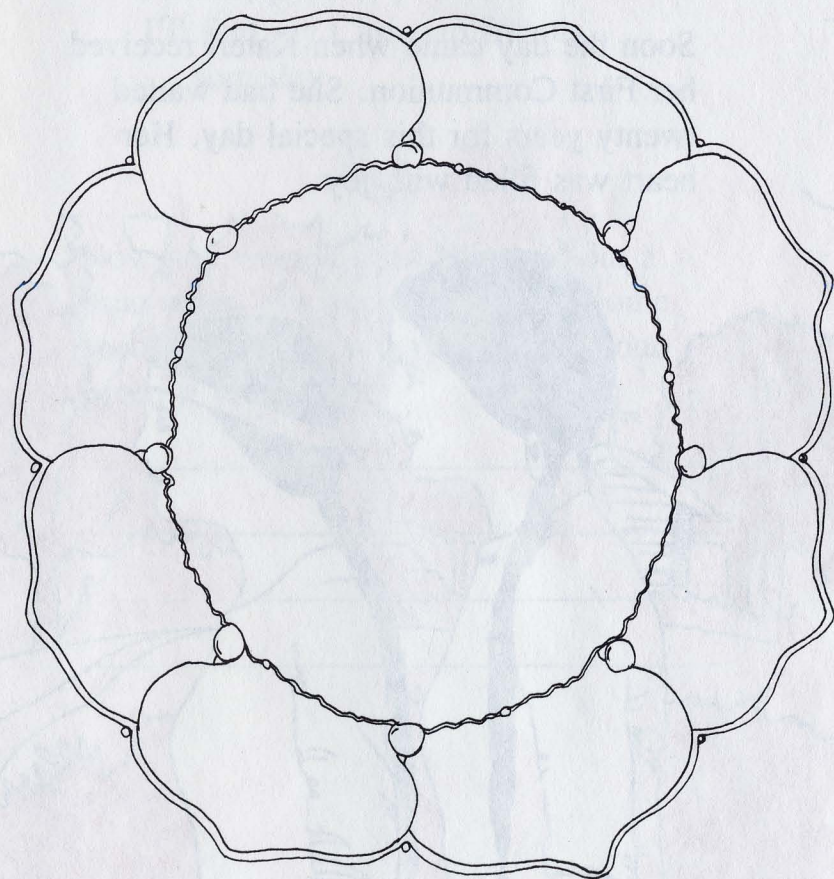
Kateri was so happy to be with other Christian Indians. A girl named Mary Teresa became a close friend. Kateri and Mary Teresa enjoyed going to church and praying together. They also shared some of their secret thoughts with each other.

Soon the day came when Kateri received her First Communion. She had waited twenty years for this special day. Her heart was filled with joy.





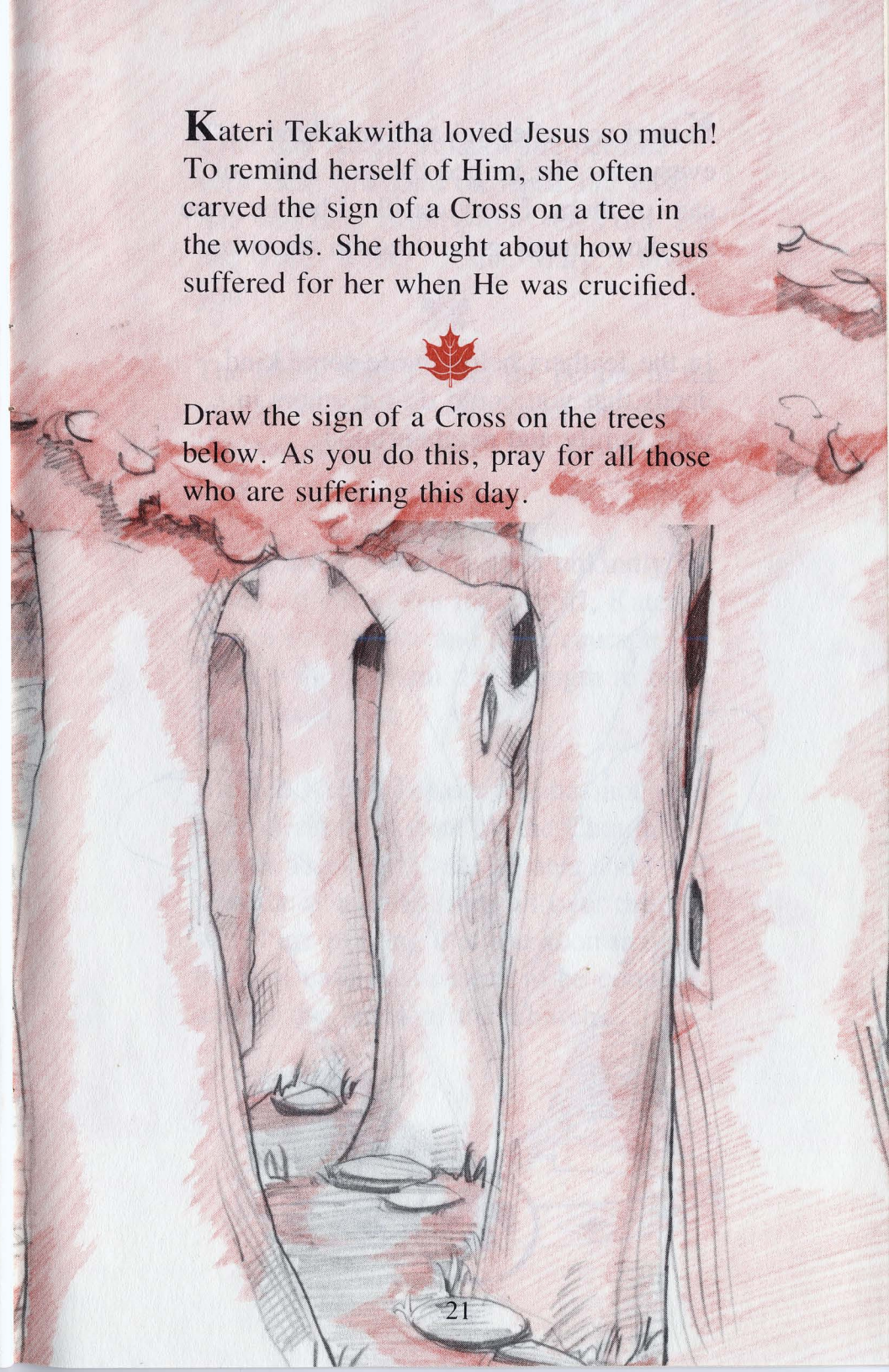
Draw or paste a picture of your best friend in the center of the flower. Write some of the special things you do together in the petals.



Kateri Tekakwitha loved Jesus so much! To remind herself of Him, she often carved the sign of a Cross on a tree in the woods. She thought about how Jesus suffered for her when He was crucified.



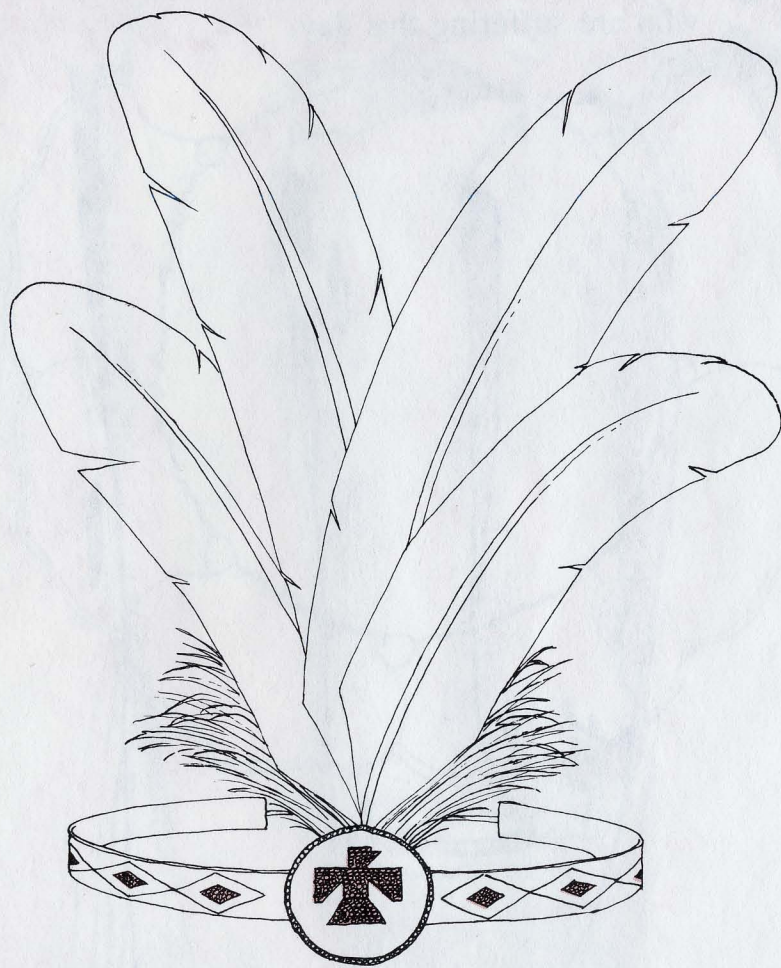
Draw the sign of a Cross on the trees below. As you do this, pray for all those who are suffering this day.



Kateri was cheerful and very kind to everyone. She helped the sick and took care of them. Everyone liked her because she did so many good deeds in the village.



In the feathers below write some kind deeds that you could do for others in your family and neighborhood.



One day Kateri Tekakwitha became very sick. She died on April 17, 1680. She was only twenty-four years old. Her last words were, "Jesus, Mary, I love you!"

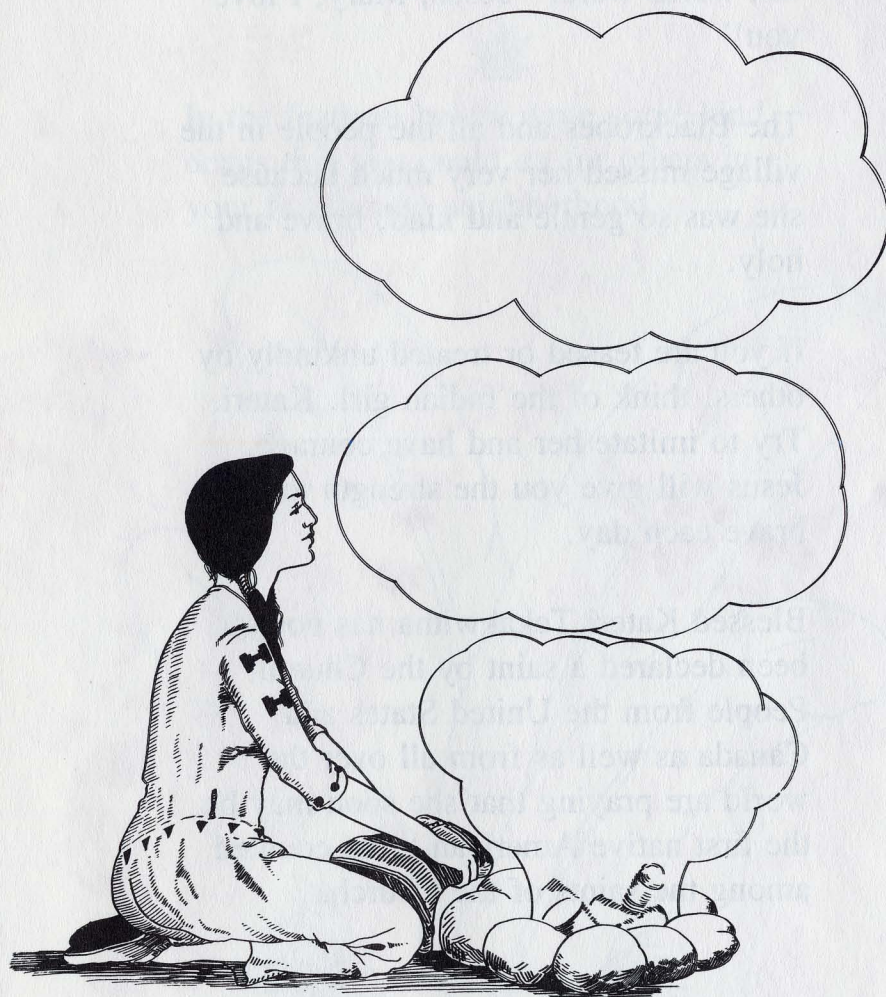
The Blackrobes and all the people in the village missed her very much because she was so gentle and kind, brave and holy.

If you are teased or treated unkindly by others, think of the Indian girl, Kateri. Try to imitate her and have courage. Jesus will give you the strength to be brave each day.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha has not yet been declared a saint by the Church. People from the United States and Canada as well as from all over the world are praying that she soon may be the first native American to be counted among the saints of the Church.



In the smoke signals write some important facts that you have learned about Kateri Tekakwitha's life.



Note: This booklet may be used with the Sadlier Saints Alive Video, "Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha."

Prayer to Kateri Tekakwitha

Kateri Tekakwitha,
Lily of the Mohawks,
teach me to have courage
and to be patient
when others tease me.

May I follow your example
and be kind to everyone,
even those who call me names.

Protect also those who are blind
or who, like you, have poor eyesight.

Amen.

My patron saint is

My saint's feastday is



Sadlier

A Division of
William H. Sadlier, Inc.
New York
Chicago
Los Angeles

ISBN: 0-8215-9743-4