

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Lily of the Mohawks

Tekakwitha was the daughter of a Christian Algonquin mother and a non-Christian Mohawk Chief. She was born in 1656 on the south bank of the Mohawk River in a village called Ossernenon. When she was four years old, a smallpox epidemic claimed the lives of her parents and baby brother. Tekakwitha survived the disease, but her eyesight was scarred and the disease left her weak the rest of her life. In 1670, St. Peter's Mission was established in Caughnawaga (Fonda, NY). In 1674, Father James de Lamberville took charge of the mission. Tekakwitha met Father de Lamberville a year later and told him of her desire to become baptized. In 1676, April 5, she was baptized and given the name Kateri. In August, 1677, Kateri fled her village to go and live at Sault St. Louis, St. Francis Xavier Mission near Montreal. Two months later she arrived at the Sault with the help of friends. On Christmas Day, 1677, Kateri received her first Holy Communion. On March 25, 1679, Kateri pronounced her vow of perpetual virginity. Her whole life was devoted to teaching prayers to children and helping the sick and aged until she was struck with an illness that was to claim her life. On April 17, 1680, she died at the age of 24. Her last words were: "Iesos konoronkwa." "Jesus, I love you." Fifteen minutes after her death, before the eyes of two Jesuits and Indian friends, the ugly scars on her face suddenly disappeared. On January 3, 1943, she was declared Venerable by Pope Pius XII. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II on June 22, 1980.

(Adapted HIGHLIGHTS OF LIFE OF BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA by Sara Skanaieah, Syracuse, NY)



VISION



The purpose of the Tekakwitha Conference is the evangelization of Native American Catholics.



GOALS



- To unify Native American Catholics while respecting tribal differences.
- To empower Native American Catholics to live in harmony with their Catholic and native spirituality.
- To promote and maintain on-going communication and involvement between tribes, the Tekakwitha Conference, and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in America.
- To pray for the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, to share the story of her life, and to follow her example of holiness.
- To encourage the development of local Kateri Circles.
- To cooperate with local, regional, and national groups to realize this vision.



CONFERENCE LOCATIONS



1977-78	Rapid City, SD
1979	Yankton, SD
1980	Denver, CO
1981	Albuquerque, NM
1982	Spokane, WA
1983	Collegeville, MN
1984	Phoenix, AZ
1985	Syracuse, NY
1986	Bozeman, MT
1987	Phoenix, AZ
1988	Bozeman, MT
1989	Fargo, ND
1990	Tucson, AZ



HISTORY



- 1939-1946 • Advisory group of priests to Bishop Aloysius Muench, Fargo, North Dakota
- 1946-1976 • Northern Plains support group of missionary priests
- 1977 • Revitalization of Conference
• Membership open to Catholic Native Americans and those in ministry with them
- 1979 • Legally incorporated
• Listed in National Catholic Directory
- 1980 • Beginning of national movement
• National Center established in Great Falls, Montana
- 1983 • Beginning of international movement
- 1987 • Pope John Paul II's visit with Native American Catholics in Phoenix, Arizona
- 1989 • First Lay Native American Executive Director
• 50th Anniversary of Tekakwitha Conference
• Recipient of National Council of Catholic Evangelization Pope Paul VI Award

**Tekakwitha Conference
is governed by a
National Board of Directors.**

TEKAKWITHA NATIONAL CENTER

- Publishes a quarterly newsletter
- Provides Native American Catholic resource materials for sale
- Promotes and produces Native American Catholic cultural audio and video tapes
- Sponsors annual Summer Institute for Native Ministry Preparation.
- Sponsors annual Basic Directions Orientation Training for those in ministry with Native American Catholics
- Publishes Native American Catholic religious education materials
- Maintains a reference library of the Catholic Church's ministry in Native American communities.
- Hosts Annual National Tekakwitha Conference

Information on trainings, National Conference, resources and membership available upon request.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

Annual Membership Dues \$10.00 (Includes newsletter subscription for one year (January 1 - December 31). Enclose your membership dues of \$10.00 with this form.

Current mailing address: (Please print or type)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

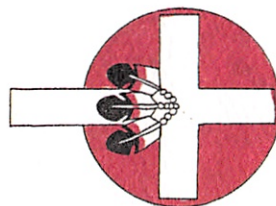
Country: _____

(Canadian members, please pay in U.S. funds)

Telephone Number () _____ Home

() _____ Work

Please mail to: Membership
Tekakwitha Conference National Center
P.O. Box 6759
Great Falls, MT 59406-6759
Telephone 406/727-0147



TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE NATIONAL CENTER

A growing unity within Native American Catholic Communities with the special protection of Blessed Kateri

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TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

Voice Presence Identity
of
Native American Catholics



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Lily of the Mohawks

Born at Auriesville, New York, 1656

Baptized at Fonda, New York, 1676

Died at Caughnawaga, Canada, April 17, 1680

Declared Venerable by Pope Pius XII, January 3, 1943

Beatified by Pope John Paul II, June 22, 1980