



TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE NATIONAL CENTER

Cross and Feathers

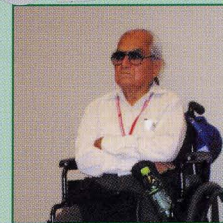
Affirming our faith as Native American Catholics
Under the Protection of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

1939—2009

Our 70th Anniversary



Eldest Female Attendee
Lydia Johnson Yakima, WA



Eldest Male Attendee
Diego Abieta, Laguna, NM



One of our two youngest toddlers
Lillian Smith (18 Months)



Mom and our youngest Infant in
attendance Jacob Arthur (6 months)



One of our two youngest toddlers
Evangeline Picotte-Jones (18 Months)



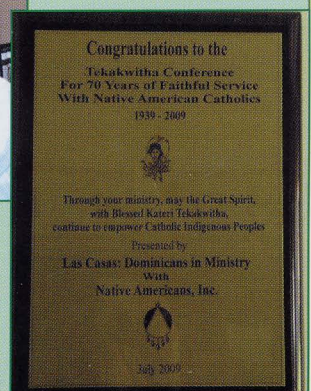
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha image crafted
with intricate beadwork by Joanne King
(Mohawk) from Akwesasne Reservation, NY.



The 2009 Blessed
Kateri Tekakwitha
Shrine with traveling
statue, relic and prayer
petitions..



This 70th
Anniversary Plaque
was presented to
the Tekakwitha
Conference by Sis-
ter Marilyn Winter,
OP, on behalf of Las Casas Dominicans in
Ministry with Native Americans during the
2009 Raleigh gathering.



TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE NATIONAL CENTER NEWS

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Blessed Kateri,

The theme for the 70th Tekakwitha Conference was "With Kateri We Spread God's Word". It was a common bond that brought the 2009 participants together in Raleigh, North Carolina from July 1st through the 5th.

During this event Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha was the primary focus for prayer, keynote speakers and workshops. The on-going hope-filled atmosphere was that our patroness will SOON be raised as the First Native American Saint in the Universal Church. Much gratitude and appreciation is expressed to our presiders, prayer leaders, homilists, keynote speakers and workshop presenters who helped us draw greater attention to our model, our 'saint'.

For a few decades Kateri Tekakwitha has been known as the patroness of ecology to foster care for the earth, the environment. With the Tekakwitha Conference members and staff there is a conscious birthing of an ecospirituality. This can be native spirituality lived out in our daily lives. Bishop Pfeifer states in a pastoral letter in : "Human life and all life as we know it, is dependent on "Mother" Earth for survival. Similarly, as we are coming to realize more and more, Mother Earth is dependent on her inhabitants for survival. In God's design a delicate balance, a "web of life" and mysterious interconnectedness exist among all forms of life impacting the ecology and environment of the earth. ... a spiritual bond holds all things together. To strengthen and renew this bond and interconnectedness, there is a need for a spirituality of the earth, an ecospirituality." (quotes from ORIGINS)

As a staff we have joined many other organizations to do our part in caring for the earth and environment by 'going green'. We are utilizing the internet to reduce use of paper and postage by voting on-line for board elections, and by sending membership renewal notices via e-mail. Many of our members send articles and photos electronically for the 'Cross and Feathers' which are shared with you and the tekconfnews emails which provides you with some current information. At this summer's conference, members returned their clear plastic name badge holders to be reused next year. Some who did not need/use their conference bag either left or returned them to the registration desk. For health and sanitary reasons we are unable to reuse the red lanyards. If you so choose, please bring your red lanyard next year to the conference and the exchange will be made at the time of registration.

Let us join together . " ... God's people are caretakers of this earthly garden. ... an ecospirituality draws on the word of God, ...which gives hope for the future while discerning and acting on the signs of the times in the present." (Bishop Pfeifer)

In Blessed Kateri.

Sister Kateri Mitchell



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sarah Snake (11), Vice-President
Victoria Blair (11), Secretary - Treasurer
Marcus Briggs-Cloud (11), Director
Pierre Solet (12), Director
Deborah Thomas (12), Director
Rufina Toledo (12), Director
Ronald Tso (11), Director
Catherine Vasquez (12), Director

Ex-Officio Members:

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap,
Episcopal Moderator
Fr. Wayne Paysse – Executive Director BCIM
Sister Kateri Mitchell – Executive Director



Thank you Rosa Holquin-Hernandez, Peter Little and Father Henry Sands for your three years of service on the Board of Directors.

The Tekakwitha Conference welcomes Cathy Vasquez, Rufina Toledo and Pierre Solet to the board of directors.

The Fall Board Meeting is scheduled for November 6-8, 2009, Albuquerque, NM



Farewell: With Regret, the Board of Directors accepted Connie Lee's resignation in mid-August. **We thank you** for your five year's of service as an elected board member. Connie, we wish you well and our prayers are with you.

Welcome: The Board of Directors has **appointed** Debbie Thomas for a 3 year term to fill the vacancy on the board. The Board Members decided that the person with the next highest votes in this past summer's election would be invited to fill Connie Lee's seat.

Cross and Feathers
Vol. 28 No. 1

This Newsletter is published four times a year:
November/December, January/February, March/April, May/June
Articles/photos for publication must be received the first week of the month prior to publication (e.g. April for May).

Please send via e-mail or mail to:
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Vol. 28 No. 2 next issue Jan/Feb 2010

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ISSN 1538-1021

Editor/Articles compiled by: TCNC Staff
Layout by: Tekakwitha Conference Staff
Artwork by: Gus Antone
Printing by: Printing Center USA

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KATERI CIRCLE NEWS

CARING FOR MOTHER EARTH KATERI CIRCLE ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH CITRUS SPRINGS, FL

Two Kateri Circle Members Honored this Year!

Congratulations to James "Lone Wolf" Strickland (Cherokee/Choctaw) who received Altar Server of the Year award for our Parish at St. Jude Cathedral. The award was presented by our Bishop, Robert Lynch March 29, 2009. James is a graduate of the Withalcoochie Technical Institute and will continue to pursue his career in Carpentry at WTI.



James Strickland



Samantha Korsiak

Congratulations to Samantha "Sami" Korsiak, a 2009 graduate of Crystal River High School who has been on the Honor Roll all four years of school, and has received scholarships from the William Bleakley Memorial and from the American Cancer Society's ROCK (Reaching Out to Cancer Kids). Sami will be pursuing her health care degree at Santa Fe College, Gainesville.

Both Sami and James have been active parish and Kateri Circle members, and we are so proud of them, and pray the Spirit's continued blessings on all their endeavors!

Submitted by Gail Rando.

Updates from the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Our Lady of the Lake's Parish Youth Group came to learn about Kateri Tekakwitha and Native Ministry.



The Youth Group came to work for a week. They each painted a wooden cross to take home and put in the woods. They have pledged to say the Prayer of Kateri.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious feast.

Submitted by Debra Gutowski.



CONGRATULATIONS TO A NEW KATERI CIRCLE AND WELCOME TO THE KATERI TEKAKWITHA FAMILY

**Holy Eagle Feather Kateri Circle,
Tacoma, WA
September 29, 2009**

Congratulations!!!!!!

Mark Thiel Receives Sister M. Claude, OP Lane Award from Society of American Archivists



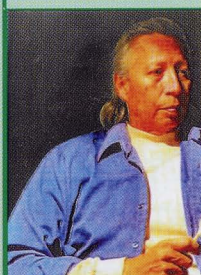
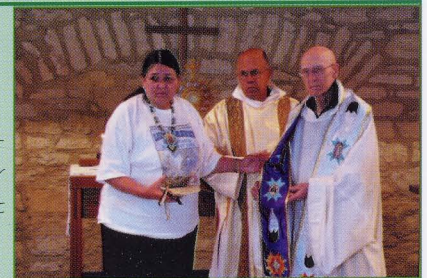
Mark Thiel, an archivist at Marquette University, received the 2008 Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award during a ceremony on August 29, 2008, at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco.

Thiel's exhaustive work on the five-volume *Guide to Catholic-Related Records About Native Americans* in electronic format garnered the award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of religious archives. Thiel collected the information for more than 25 years from over 1,000 repositories in 43 states and 15 foreign countries.

For more information visit www.archivists.org.

Lily of the Mohawks
Kateri Circle, Peosta,
Iowa

Mini-Tekakwitha Conference was held September 29-October 2, 2009 at New Melleray Abby.



Titus Frenchman

Titus Frenchman of Dewey, Oklahoma, led the Pow Wow on October 1, 2009. Frenchman is a full blood Lenape (Delaware Indian). He is head of the Delaware Elder's Council of Oklahoma.



KATERI CIRCLE NEWS

Updates from the Nez Perce Kateri Circle., Lapwai, Idaho



L-R: Fr. Dat Vu, Fr. Mike Fitzpatrick, Rev. Wayne Paysse and Fr. Les Kish. Fr. Mike and Rev. Paysse are wearing beaded medallions presented by Sacred Heart Kateri Circle president Elizabeth Attao.

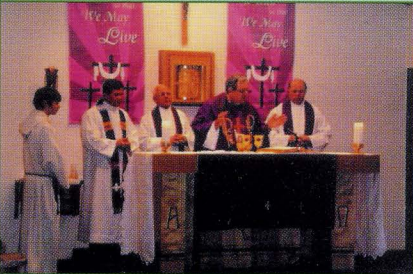
The Reverend Wayne Paysse and Fr. Mike Fitzpatrick visited at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Lapwai, ID on March 7, 2009. Rev. Paysse is the Executive Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, Washington, DC. Fr. Mike Fitzpatrick is from St. Andrews Mission, Mission, OR. In addition to their visit to Lapwai, ID, they visited parishes on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation at DeSmet, ID and the Umatilla Reservation at St. Andrews Mission, Mission, OR.

Pastor Fr. Les Kish and Parochial Vicar Fr. Dat Vu, who serviced the three Catholic Churches in Lewiston, ID, plus Sacred Heart in Lapwai, accompanied the two visiting priests while they were in Lapwai.

The purpose of the visit to Lapwai, within the Nez Perce Reservation, was for Rev. Paysse to meet members of the church community and for people to meet him. Fr. Mike renewed acquaintances and met new people and friends. A mass was held in the Sacred Heart Church by the four priests, followed by a lunch in the parish hall.



L-R: Fr. Dat Vu, Rosa Yearout-Vice President Pastoral Council, Fr. Mike Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Attao-President Nez Perce Kateri Circle, Rev. Wayne Paysse and Fr. Les Kish.



Rev. Paysse presiding at Mass held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Lapwai, ID, on March 7, 2009.



Priscilla Arthur of Lapwai, ID, holding her son Jacob. Jacob was blessed by the four priests with a healing prayer. Jacob was born on January 26, 2009 with several health problems.

Submitted by Victor Sisson

Walk In My Moccasins

Ride in my Canoe
See the things I do.
The way I see them.
Walk in my moccasins.

Look in my tepee
Then I'm sure you'll see
Everything I am.
Take a look around
You came to our town.
You took our life away.
We had our language,
We had our home.
But the white man came.

Walk in my moccasins

See the reservations.
Home of Moon gods sons.
Now all littered white.
See the wide river;
Food for my whole tribe.

It was ours before
Watch the tall corn grow.
A gift we gave you.
Now we can not grow it.

Walk in my moccasins.

Listen to them talk
They call us red man.
But our skin is gods gift.
See all my sons in ties
But you still hate in side.
The feathers I hold
Their symbol you have killed.
Make them live again.

Walk in my moccasins.

Pegi Lee Gilmore
91st Kateri Circle Member



"Walk in My Moccasins", was written by Pegi Lee-Gilmore when she was about 15 years old. Pegi is a member of the 91st Kateri Circle in Birmingham, AL.



The 91st Kateri Circle, Birmingham, AL Celebration for the Feast of Blessed Kateri at St. Patrick's Parish. July, 2009.



Kateri Circle News

Avery Cardinal Dulles, SJ 1918-2008



A Mass in Cardinal Dulles' honor, with Bishop Hubbard of Albany, NY officiating, was held at 2 p.m. at the Coliseum Church on the grounds of the shrine.

Cardinal Dulles, who died on Dec. 12 at the age of 90, was the first American to become a cardinal without first becoming a bishop.

The interment followed directly afterward. In recognition of Cardinal Dulles' military service during World War II, the casket was escorted by a pair of Naval officers.

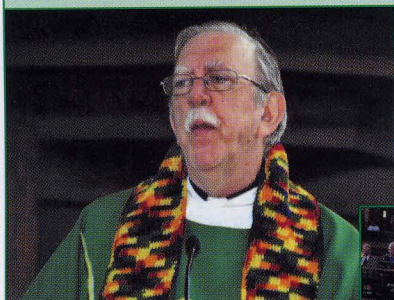
Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J. was brought to his final resting place on June 1, 2009, at the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, N.Y.



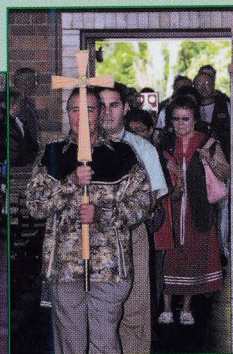
Some members of the St. Regis Parish Kateri Circle were present for the interment.

Submitted by Michael Schweigert

Blessed Kateri Feast Day Auriesville, NY July 12, 2009



(Above) Fr. Peter Murray, Director of the Martyrs Shrine, Presided at the Feast Day Liturgy

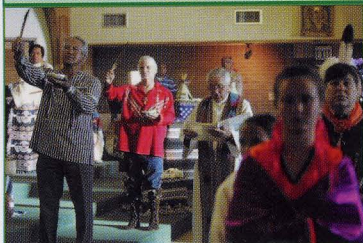


(Above) Anne Scheuerman, Lector for the Mass

Photos submitted by Michael Schweigert

Members of the St. Regis Parish Kateri Circle

Updates from Holy Family and St. Charles the Roch Kateri Circles in Louisiana



Peter Verdin and Pierre Solet are smudging and Fr. Roch Naquin is saying prayers in the four direction during the 15th Annual Native American Liturgical Celebration of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.



The 15th annual Native American Liturgical Celebration of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha was held at the Family Catholic Church in Dulac, LA, on July 10, 2009. Rev. Wayne Paysse presided at the Mass. A congregation of nearly 500 people were in attendance to

honor the life of Blessed Kateri. The celebration was organized by Holy Family Kateri Circle and St. Charles the Roch Kateri Circle.

Clergy and other Mass attendees said the religious service held great importance because it gave them an opportunity to embrace their Catholic faith while honoring their Native American heritage.

