

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



NATIONAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE CANONIZATION OF
SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA AND
SAINT MARIANNE COPE

26 JANUARY 2013

SOLEMN EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

NATIONAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE CANONIZATION OF
SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA AND
SAINT MARIANNE COPE

His Eminence

DONALD CARDINAL WUERL

Archbishop of Washington

Principal Celebrant

His Excellency

MOST REVEREND CHARLES J. CHAPUT, O.F.M. CAP.

Archbishop of Philadelphia

Homilist

Their Excellencies

CONCELEBRATING ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

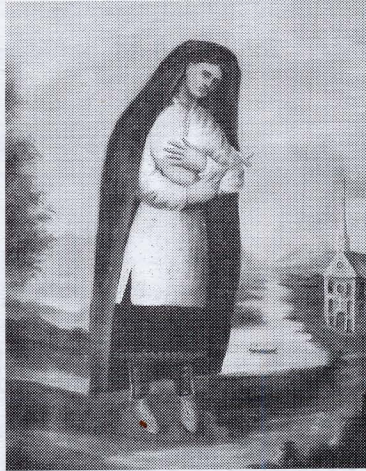
CONCELEBRATING ABBOTS AND PRIESTS

ATTENDING DEACONS

26 JANUARY 2013

2:00 PM

SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA



Catherine Tekakwitha was born in 1656 in that part of the American Continent which is today the State of New York. Her parents were native Indians. Her father, an Iroquois, was pagan; her mother, an Algonquin, was a devout Christian. When she was four years old, Catherine lost her parents and her only brother to an epidemic of smallpox. She too contracted the disease and, although she survived, her face was left severely pockmarked.

Finding a home in the family of her uncle, a chief of the tribe of Agniers, more commonly known as the Mohawks, she was brought up in that tribe. While living among the Mohawks, she received instruction in the Faith and was baptized in 1676 by Father Jacques de Lamberville, one of the devoted Jesuit missionaries committed to the evangelization of the Indians. After becoming a Christian, Catherine soon became a model of youthful piety.

Unfortunately, she was a target of harassment and persecution at home because of her faith and her determination to live in virginity. On the advice of the missionaries, who thought she should move to friendlier surroundings, she came to live among the fervent Christian Indians of the settlement known as the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, near present-day Montreal. Here she made great progress in a short time along the road of holiness. And here she died on 17 April 1680, widely known and esteemed by all as a saint. Her last words: "Jesus, I love you".

This young Iroquois woman, whose life was sustained by her Christian faith and by an ardent love of Jesus present in the Eucharist, found in Jesus Christ the strength to withstand the hostile pressure of the non-Christian culture in which she lived and to keep with heroic fidelity the vow of virginity which she pronounced on 25 March 1679. She was beatified on 22 June 1980 and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on 21 October 2012.