

A SACRED JOURNEY: WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BLESSED KATERI

Please enjoy this historically significant event by showing these slides to many groups. Permission is freely given to copy any of the enclosed materials as long as the intent is to honor Kateri.

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FOR A SMOOTH PRESENTATION WHEN SHARING THIS SLIDE PRESENTATION:

I. Practice ahead of time in order to know material. There are 266 slides in this set.

II. Materials needed: 1. Carousels

Insert slides into carousels. Insert with slide number facing the higher number slots.

A. If the 140 slide carousel trays are used, two will be needed. Load slides #1 - 137 in tray one and slides #138 - 266 in the second tray.

B. If the 80 slide carousel is used, four are needed. Load slides this way for continuity:

1 - 59

60 - 137

138 - 195

196 - 266

(STOP CASSETTE TAPE WITH SCRIPT ON IT MOMENTARILY AS YOU CHANGE CAROUSELS.)

2. Slide projector

3. Viewing screen

4. Cassette tape player with adequate volume. Microphone in front of cassette speaker will boost volume.

5. Cassette tape with recorded script on it

6. Small lamp in order to be able to see and follow the written script.

Notice each appropriate circled slide number on the script. The words written next to it or words underlined in the script are clues to what is on a slide....as the next slide is to be shown, keep listening for the next signal for dropping that slide.

7. Electric extension cords with proper wall plugs.

8. Practice well. Enjoy.

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Color prints can be made from slides. You may do this by selecting a few slides, as the cost is a bit high. BUT be sure to select a good film developer, as all companies do not do this developing carefully.

A SACRED JOURNEY: WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BLESSED KATERI

① flowers

② print

The 1985 Annual National Tekakwitha Conference moved to the east coast of the United States for its August gathering. ③ LeMoyne College which incorporates 17 buildings, at Syracuse, New York welcomed some 2,000 Native Americans representing over 100 tribes in the United States, including Alaska, and Canada.

④ video

The Conference had come to upstate New York for a very special reason.

⑤ print

This was expressed in the theme: A Sacred Journey: Walking in the Footsteps of Blessed Kateri. A Pilgrimage would be made to the sacred places where Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha had lived and walked.

⑥

The participating Native Americans ranged from the elders who braved the hardships of traveling many miles to ⑦ families with very young children. ⑧, ⑨, ⑩

⑪ From many compass points in North America, ⑫ people came to make this Sacred Journey. ⑬, ⑭

⑮, ⑯, ⑰

Activities on the opening day included the unveiling of a new six-foot Blessed Kateri statue. The statue was created by Lawrence Epolito and was commissioned by the Kateri Circle of the local St. Lucy's Parish. ⑱ The St. Regis Knights of Columbus, from their Mohawk Reserve located on the St. Lawrence River in the US-Canadian borders, acted as honor guards.

⑲

⑳

The Grand Entry Procession, colorful with varied native dress and banners, ㉑ began outdoors on one of the college's large athletic fields. ㉒ It ended in the large meeting hall where other opening conference ceremonies took place. ㉓, ㉔, ㉕ slides

⑳ bus
The first day of the Sacred Journey in honor of Blessed Kateri started with the pilgrims boarding buses and heading some 120 miles eastward to their destination at Fonda.

㉖ people

There was great spiritual joy in the hearts of the travelers as they arrived at the National Tekakwitha Shrine. ㉗, ㉘ This Shrine is located 50 miles west of Albany, New York. ㉙ chapel
Kateri was baptized in St. Peter's Chapel on these grounds

47
on Easter Sunday in 1676. 4849

51
The village at that time was known as Caughnawaga. It was excavated by Fr. Thomas Grassmann, noted historian and archiologist in about 1950. Caughnawaga was the Lily of the Mohawk's home from about 11 years of age to about age 21.

53
Fr. Nicholas Weiss, Director of the Shrine, welcomed the visitors. 54, 55, 56
57
A prayer-drama, the Life of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha had been written especially for the occasion by Sarah Hassenplug. 58
59
Sarah and the cast of players are members of the Mohawk tribe, the same tribe to which Blessed Kateri had belonged.

60
A nourishing box lunch was procured. 61
A cool spot in the wooded picnic 62
grove provided a needed respite to eat, relax, and enjoy fellowship. 63
64-74 11 slides
75
was time again to experience more of the sacred grounds with one's fellowman. 76-80 4 slides
81
Several priests and bishops gathered to greet Archbishop Pio Laghi. 82
The personal representative of the Pope paid an unexpected visit to the sacred shrine.

83
Our Lady of Martyrs' Shrine at Auriesville, presently under 84
directorship of Fr. Robert Boyle, is located 5 miles east of Fonda on a hill high above the Mohawk River. This river served the Indians of this area as a means of transportation and as a source of food because of the abundant fish found in its waters. 85 sign
It was at Auriesville that Kateri Tekakwitha was born in 1656. The village was then called Ossernenon. 86 girls
As a child, Kateri walked upon these grounds.

87
The Mohawks moved to another village site after an outbreak of smallpox occurred here.

88 center
Kateri was considered a saint by her people from the moment of her death. Her Cause of Canonization was introduced in the late 1800's. In 1943, Pope Pius XII declared her Venerable.

Pope John Paul II declared her Blessed in 1980. The National Kateri Center at Auriesville, led by Fr. Joseph McBride, serves as the headquarters in the United States for promoting her cause for Sainthood. (89) (90, 91, 92) Chapel

(93) A panel presentation on the Spirit and Message of Blessed Kateri (94) was conducted in the large Coliseum Church, which has a seating capacity of 6,000. (95)

(96) In the late afternoon a Liturgy in honor of Blessed Kateri was celebrated. (97)

(98) Concelebrants included native and non-native priests. (99-103) 5 others. (104) There were many visiting Bishops. (105, 106)

(107) Mass began with special prayer over the people by a Native Deacon. (108) The Epistle was read by Bernice Lazore of St. Regis. The main celebrant was His Excellency Most Reverend Pio Laghi, Apostolic Pro Nuncio from Washington, D.C. (109) The Archbishop in his homily spoke of Kateri's steadfastness in living her faith. (110) He also referred to speeches made by Pope John Paul II during his September 1984 pilgrimage to Canada. In these talks the Pope had spoken of the need of Native Americans to express their culture in the liturgies. He also endorsed the right of the Native American to determine his own destiny. (111)

(112) Prayer petitions reflecting the needs of mankind were given by various (113) conference members. (114, 115, 116) Native American music was provided by Sr. Kateri Mitchell (117) and Steve Pollock. (118) The Sacred Liturgy continued as priests and congregation (119) raised their hearts and souls to God as a Christian Community during the Holy (120) Sacrifice of the Mass. (121, 122)

(123) After the Mass, the graceful Pueblo Eagle Dancers from New Mexico (124) paid homage to the Lord with a reverent dance. (125, 126, 127)

(128) The Sacred Journey continued to Kahnawake Mohawks Reserve. (129) The village is located 6 miles southwest of Montreal in Canada. (130) A look at the (131, 132) handicrafts of the reserve Mohawks shows their creativity in working with beads, (133) (134) (135)

leather and the use of materials found in nature. (136, 137)

(138) The village of 5,000 residents includes an infirmary and the Kateri grade school. (139) The Kateri statue in the front yard of the school is the work of (140) Emil Brunet, who studied in Paris. In the background is the St. Francis Xavier Mission Church. (141) It was built in 1845 on the edge of the beautiful St. Lawrence River. (142) The religious complex includes a rectory and surrounding walls dating back to (143) 1717. (144)

(145) Within the St. Francis Xavier Mission Church is the tomb of Blessed (146) Kateri Tekakwitha. It was with great solemnity that both the clergy and the (147) congregation participated in the Mass in honor of Blessed Kateri. (148) Fr. George (149-152) Mathieu was the main celebrant. The Kahnawake Mohawk Choir sang parts of the Mass (153) in their native tongue, as they have done for many years. Fr. Mathieu, Fr. Michael (154) Galvan, and Fr. Collieris Jordon gave the last blessing at the end of Mass. (155) It was with reluctance that the pilgrims left the Church that contains the holy (156) virgin's tomb. (157)

(158) Life at the St. Regis Reserve 100 miles southwest of Kahnawake is (159) idyllic. A channel of the St. Lawrence River with Cornwall Island near-by comes to the very edge of the village: the mighty river force is slowed down to a gentle (160) flow. This side channel gives privacy to the community from commercial shipping and industry generally found on and along the river. (161-167) 7 slides

(168) The North American Indian Traveling College on Cornwall Island is a cultural center, which works to preserve the Native American Heritage.

(169) For this occasion, the Traveling College gave a Thanksgiving address, called "The People":

(170)

We who have gathered together see that our cycle continues

(171)

(172)

We have been given the duty to live in harmony with one another

(173)

(174)

and other living things.

(175)

maple

(176)

council house

(177)

We are grateful and give thanks that this is true.

(178)

(179)

We also give greetings and thanks that our people still share the

(180)

knowledge of our ceremonies and culture and still are able to

(181)

pass it on. (182-185) 4 slides

(186)

We have our elders here and also the new faces that are coming

(187)

(188)

towards us, which is the cycle of our families; for all this

(189)

man

(190)

we give thanks and greetings to mankind in mind, health, and

(191)

(192)

spirit.

(193)

In the reconstructed village on a large plaque was written a Prayer

for Wisdom:

"Oh Powers that be, make me sufficient to my own occasions. Teach me to know and to observe the rules of life. Give to me to mind my own business at all times and to lose no good opportunity of holding my tongue. Help me not to desire unnecessary things, nor to welcome cheap praise: to distinguish sharply between sentiment and sentimentality. When it is appointed for me to suffer, let me, so far as may be humanly possible, take example from the bear, well-bred beasts, and go away quietly to bear my sufferings by myself. May I always be a good friend. (195) scene

May I view the passing show with an eye constantly growing keener, a charity broadening and deepening day by day. Help me to win. If I win, I may; But - and this, Oh Powers, especially - if I may not win, make me a good loser."

(196)
At Fonda, at Auriesville, at Kahnawake, and again at St. Regis,
(197) delicious meals were served by volunteers who welcomed the pilgrims. (198) These hosts
will be gratefully remembered for their kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness.

(199) The many months of planning, the donation of food, the cooking, and the serving
(200) surely was a virtuous work of Christian goodness and a labor of brotherly love. (201) (202-206) 5 slides

(207) On the St. Regis Church grounds is a special statue of St. Joseph.
It stands on the very spot where, in answer to prayers to the Saint, a spring flood
(208) in 1935 that threatened the Church suddenly halted. Close-by is the rectory, a
(209) comfortable historical home. The present St. Regis Church was built in 1791
and replaced a former edifice, which had been destroyed by fire. (210)

(211) The interior of the Church is simple, yet lovingly cared for. (212) A
bronze plaque highlights special events in the life of Kateri. Upon her canonization,
the plaque will be brought up to date.

(213) Alma Ransom, known for her warmth and humor, gave a brief history of
(214) the Reserve. (215) A hymn in Mohawk was sung by the young People's Choir. (216-218) 3 slides
(219) McDonald, with her little sister standing by her side, sang her favorite song. It
was sung in memory of her grandfather, Alex Mitchell, who for so many years was
associated with the Conference.

(220) print
With the closing of the service at St. Regis, the traveling part of the
Sacred Journey in honor of Blessed Kateri was completed. There was sadness that
this journey had ended. Yet, there were prayers of thanksgiving to Kateri for
having been able to visit Kateri country and to have walked in her footsteps.
There were other prayers of thanksgiving that this pilgrimage, which seemed so
impossible even to consider, had been safely and successfully completed. Gratefulness
and thanks were expressed to all who helped in the planning and carrying out of this
journey. The total fruits will be known only when the pilgrims get to heaven and find
themselves in the presence of Kateri.

(221)
At LeMoyne College in Syracuse, the remainder of the Conference
(222,223)
agenda continued.

(224)
(The Conference Community participated in a Communion Service, which was
(225)
conducted by Native Deacons.

(226)
Iron Eyes Cody of "Keep America Beautiful" came to the Conference. (227)

(228)
Meetings were held to discuss areas of concern to the Native American
(229)
in his daily life. These areas included social justice, native spirituality, and drug
abuse.

(230)
The traditional Pow Wow is a time of friendship and sharing. (231,232)
(233)
special dances are demonstrated. (234)
Here is seen some traditional hunting and social
(235,236)
dancing of Eskimos. (237)
Also is seen the graceful Eagle Dance. (238)

(239)
Sometimes at the Pow Wow certain people are honored. (240)
Beginning on the
left is President of LeMoyne College, Fr. Frank Haig. Master of Ceremonies is
Bill Merchant. Next is the Director of the Tekakwitha Conference, Fr. Gilbert
Hemauer. Tom Constantino, patron and a promotor of the Kateri Cause, made a
generous donation to the Native America Scholarship Fund of LeMoyne College. The
college has an established Native American Studies Program. Working to preserve
our natural environment and known to all Americans is Iron Eyes Cody. (241)
Fr. Tom Egan
is the pastor of St. Regis Church. He is also a writer. (242)
Msgr. Paul A. Lenz is
Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions located in Washington, D.C. (243)

(244)
Sometimes awards are given for outstanding work. The Kateri Circle of
St. Lucy's awarded handcrafted plaques to Agnes Sunday and to Sarah Hassenplug. (245)
However, a special award was given Fr. James Carey, Pastor of St. Lucy's Church. (246)
He
received a traditional Mohawk hat and a letter of recognition and appreciation.

(247)
The Pow Wow continued with all sharing in the cultural dances of the
various tribes present. (248-255) slides

(256)
As the Annual National Tekakwitha Conference was drawing to a close,

Regional caucuses were held. Reports were given and recommendations were made.

(260) The Kateri Circle of Syracuse, who hosted the Conference, received high praise for the excellent work they had done in providing for the needs of the conferees. As representative of the group, Peg Bova received an appreciation award.

(261) Every departing family who had made the Sacred Pilgrimage took home a special gift from the tribe of Kateri. During the winter months, the Kateri Circle and their friends had woven over 2,000 small baskets. In each basket was placed a packet of soil from the National Tekakwitha Shrine at Fonda, where Kateri had walked and had been tested for her Faith and had "come off true." This gift would forever be a reminder of a "Sacred Journey taken walking in the Footsteps of Blessed Kateri."

(262) The journey to Ossernenon, the land of her birth; to Cayghnawaga, the place of her Baptism; to Kahnawake, the site of her tomb, and to St. Regis Reserve where she has always been revered by her fellow tribesmen.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, we pray that you soon be honored as St. Kateri Tekakwitha, first Native American Saint. (266) 11/12/20