



# TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE NATIONAL CENTER

## Cross and Feathers

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

### CELEBRATIONS

#### Hope for the World: 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dominicans in the Americas

This is a year of jubilee! 500 years ago, in 1510, the first community of four Spanish Dominican friars responded to a call to preach the gospel in what was known as "the New World." They arrived at Espanola—today, Haiti and the Dominican Republic—just 18 years after Christopher Columbus had come upon this land. In that same year the Dominican community grew to be sixteen members. These friars were influenced by the spirit of renewal at Salamanca, Spain. On this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary Dominicans proudly celebrate a commitment to defend the rights of the Indigenous of the Americas. From the very beginning, Dominicans stood in solidarity with the native peoples, giving witness to the truth that the dignity of each person must be respected.

At the same time of the arrival of the Dominicans, Franciscans and secular priests came from Spain as agents of the Spanish crown. Among the secular priests was Bartolome de las Casas. Though not a Dominican at the time, he was present in the "New World" 500 years ago. The bold Dominican community preached the gospel and gave witness to justice when some Spanish priests were oppressing the indigenous people. However, Bartolome de las Casas underwent a conversion like Paul of Tarsus. Las Casas, a Spanish diocesan priest who owned land and slaves in Espanola, was transformed by the courageous preaching of Anton de Montesinos, OP in Advent of 1511. Inspired by the preaching and the witness of the Dominican community, Las Casas no longer espoused the power of the Spanish crown. He became a Dominican friar and dedicated his entire life to ministering with the oppressed in the Americas.

Las Casas, his preaching, his writings, and his life made a profound impact in our world. Set on fire by truth in his conversational

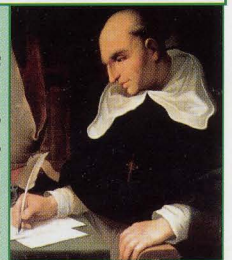
Pentecost preaching in 1514, he became "a zealous and virtuous friar." Repeatedly he defended the rights of the Indigenous peoples and denounced the oppression that was endorsed by the Spanish 'conquerors.' Las Casas wrote a *History of the Indies* and a treatise entitled *De Unico Vocationis Modo, The Only Way*. His written works and his life expressed his dream, his mission: to preach a nonviolent and peaceful evangelization in these indigenous territories, among these human beings who had been scarred by the presence of the Spanish soldiers.

Las Casas, with the other Dominicans made a significant difference in the Americas. They united in communal preaching. They engaged in, what we call theological reflection, with the Dominicans in Salamanca, Spain. These friars were visionaries. They approached their mission in the New World together through contemplation, study, and work with the native people. Their preaching was prophetic and impacted the whole Christian world.

To carry on the work of Dominicans among Native Americans in the United States the Dominican Leadership Conference affirmed a collaborative organization called "Las Casas." In this year of jubilee, the Las Casas board decided to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary by donating funds to all Dominicans who minister with Native Americans in the United States. The mission of Las Casas is to seek justice in the lives of Native Americans. Through generous donors Las Casas is able to provide support to our Brothers and Sisters.

United in spirit with the early Dominican community may we always have zeal for the gospel of justice and be a source of hope for the oppressed in our midst.

—Mary Therese Johnson, OP (Sinsinawa)



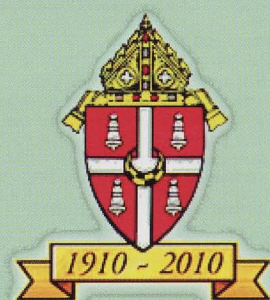
**Thank you Dominicans for 500 years of dedicated service!!**



#### The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM Celebrates Their 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe celebrated the courage and faithfulness of those ancestors who established their city and Church of Holy Faith in 1610. They left the security of Spain and Mexico to come to a land, considered desolate and remote, to colonize it. They marched through the desert

and hostile landscapes, hundreds of miles to arrive in Santa Fe. The difficulties and fears they faced must have been challenging for them. Yet, they had faith in God, established the city dedicating the first church to Our Lady of the Assumption, and asked for intercession in Heaven for their newly established city named Santa Fe- Holy Faith.



**DIocese of ALEXANDRIA**  
A Century of Faith, Hope and Love

Congratulations  
to the Diocese of  
Alexandria, LA.

They  
celebrated their  
100<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary on  
August 6, 2010



# TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE NATIONAL CENTER NEWS

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Blessed Kateri,

The 71<sup>st</sup> Tekakwitha Conference 'Walk in Beauty with Kateri in the Land of Enchantment' is already one of pleasant memories, reconnecting with friends and making new ones from many parts of the world.



On behalf of the Tekakwitha Conference Board of Directors, the staff and the attendees, we express our congratulations and gratitude to the New Mexico Planning Committee for a ministry well done; to all liturgy celebrants and concelebrants; to all volunteers; keynote speakers; workshop presenters and leaders of prayer. We are all aware that it takes a great team of generous and loving people of service to provide an event that will nourish and nurture spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical growth for the well-being of all participants. A warm 'Thank You' to all!

As a conference we continue to protect the earth and our environment. For hygienic reasons, we do not collect lanyards and plastic name badge holders. But, we strongly recommend that you bring your lanyard and plastic badge holder next year, and reuse your own. You will receive your new name tag for 72<sup>nd</sup> Tucson Tekakwitha Conference at the registration desk. A number of people brought their last year's conference lanyards, plastic holders and conference bags. Thank you to all who are recycling.

Let us continue to 'walk in beauty' with Jesus and Blessed Kateri on Mother Earth. As we enter these last two months of 2010, we have much to give thanks for the many blessings received from a generous and loving God. On the other hand, there are many of our people faced with many challenges: unemployment, day to day survival, lack of health care, violence, abuse, prejudice, discrimination and injustice. As members of the Tekakwitha Conference and Kateri Circles, let us continue doing the work as Jesus' disciples by opening our eyes and ears to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need. Make a difference in their lives especially during the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. Because of you a sister and/or brother in Christ will find a friend who cares, hope in life, a renewed faith, and discover a reason to once again 'walk in beauty' with Jesus and Blessed Kateri.

Through the intercession of Blessed Kateri, let's help others enjoy the Happiest Thanksgiving and Merriest Christmas ever. Be God's instrument of peace, joy, love and hope for a Blessed New Year!

Blessings for a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Holy New Year to all,

*Sister Kateri Mitchell*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Ronald Tso (11), Chair**  
**Sarah Snake (11), Vice-Chair**  
**Catherine Vasquez (12), Secretary**  
**Victoria Blair (11), Treasurer**  
**Marcus Briggs-Cloud (11), Director**  
**Pierre Solet (12), Director**  
**Deborah Thomas (12), Director**  
**Rufina Toledo (12), Director**  
**Ex-Officio Members:**  
**Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap,**  
**Episcopal Moderator**  
**Fr. Wayne Paysse – Executive Director BCIM**  
**Sister Kateri Mitchell – Executive Director**

**The Fall Board Meeting is scheduled for  
November 5-7, 2010, Phoenix, AZ**

**Tekakwitha Conference National Office  
will be closed:**

**November 25 & 26**  
Thanksgiving Holidays

**December 24 – January 3**  
Christmas through the New Year Holydays & Holidays

Cross and Feathers  
Vol. 29 No. 1

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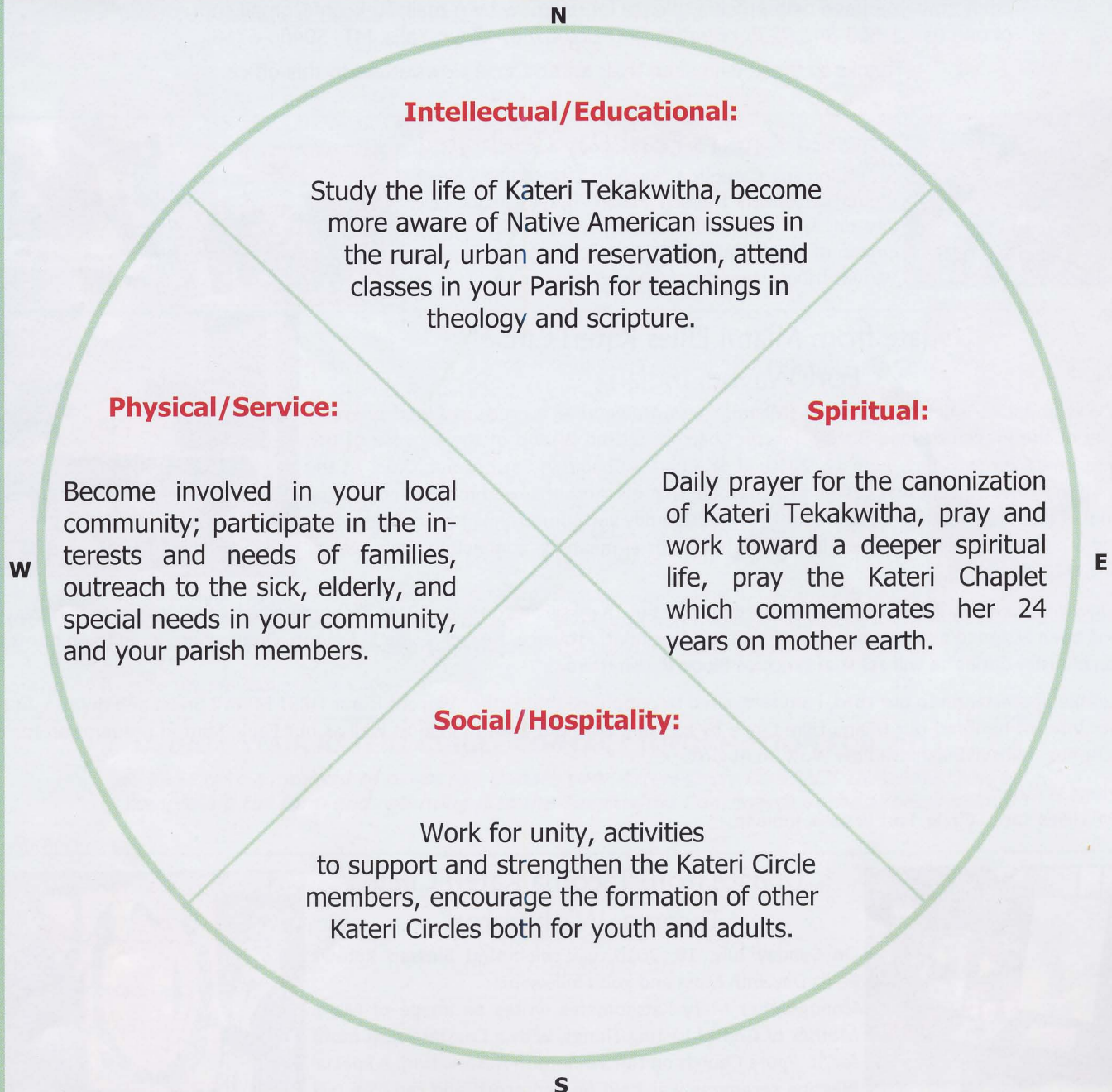
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# KATERI CIRCLE NEWS

- 1. A Kateri Circle is a group of Women and Men and/or Youth of all cultures within a parish/mission who want to belong to a prayer circle/group** for the purpose of learning and promoting the saintly life of the Tekakwitha Conference patroness Kateri Tekakwitha, a young Mohawk/Algonquin woman of the mid-seventeenth century.
- 1. HOW can we start a Kateri Circle?**  
**Kateri Circles begin** when two or three, and more, gather and want to form a group for spiritual support, and who want to form a small community of faith for prayer, learning and outreach to the local community.
- 3. WHO can start a Kateri Circle?**  
**Person(s)** willing to pray, learn more about our patroness Kateri Tekakwitha, study the faith, and serve others.



## **Activities:** In your local community and Parish

1. Visit a homebound person and pray the Kateri Chaplet with them
2. Take one of the elders out for an outing during the Christmas season
3. Bring a surprise /a Christmas gift to a person who lives alone
4. Enjoy a "coffee break" with a new friend
5. Invite someone who lives alone to your home for Thanksgiving.



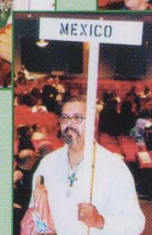
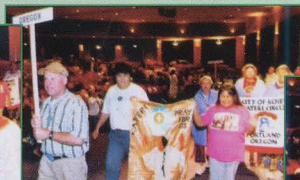
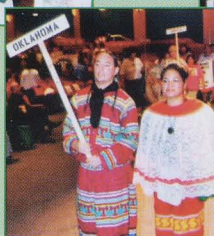
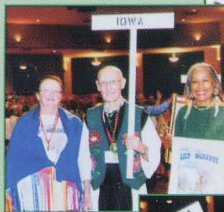
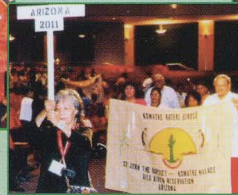
## CONFERENCE 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

# Welcome



## Opening Prayer

## All Nations Grand Entry





# CONFERENCE 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

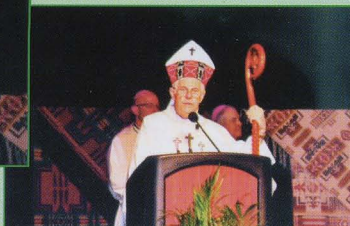
## Liturgies



**Most Reverend  
Armando Ochoa**  
Diocese of El Paso, TX



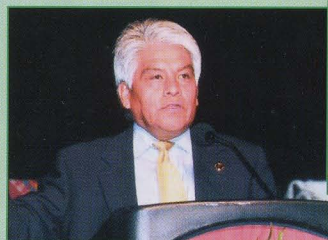
**Most Reverend  
Charles Chaput,  
OFM, Cap.**  
Archdiocese of Denver, CO



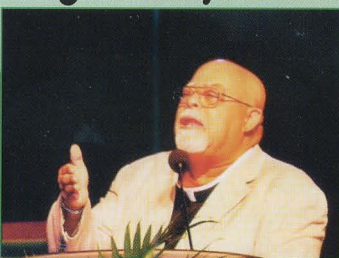
**Most Reverend  
Michael Sheehan**  
Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM



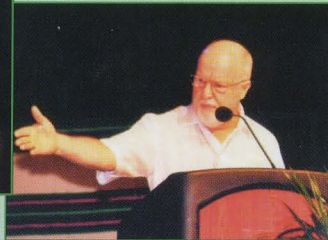
## Keynote Speakers



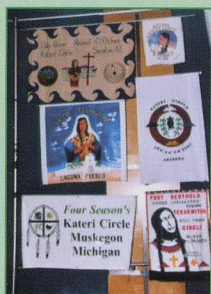
Regis Pecos



Reverend Stephen Hickman



Reverend Richard Rohr



## Kateri Circle Banners





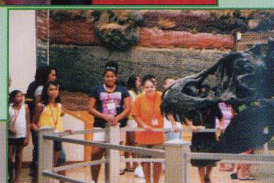
# CONFERENCE 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

## Workshops

Photos compliments of  
Anne Scheuerman , Tracy Hall  
& Herman Ray



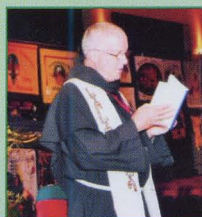
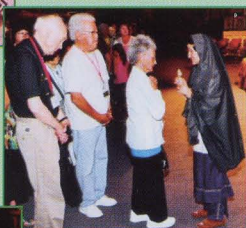
## Listening, Learning and Participating



## Healing



## Blessed Kateri Presentation by Theresa Steele



## General Assemblies



## The Kateri Shrine



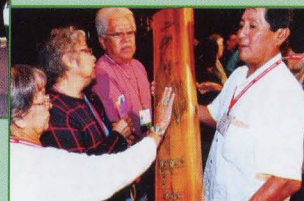
## Meditation Room



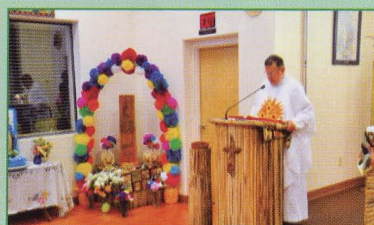


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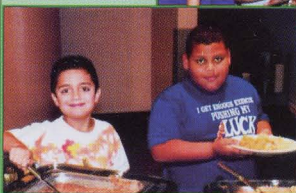
## *Transferring the Blessed Kateri Statue*



The Kateri Statue arrived safely  
in Tucson, Arizona



Meals



Enjoying Friends

