



TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE NATIONAL CENTER

Cross and Feathers

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

VOCATIONS

What is Vocation?

- 1) A particular occupation, business, or profession; calling
- 2) A strong impulse to follow a particular activity or career
- 3) A divine call to God's Service or to the Christian Life
- 4) A function or station in life to which one is called by God: the religious vocation; the vocation of marriage.

What can it mean for you?

Whatever we have decided as an occupation, business or profession may be our calling. We have chosen to do so because of the amount of income we can make, availability of jobs in that field or we just enjoy that type of work.



Deacon Sidney Martin
Acoma

We are called by God, to vocation of Christian life whether we are single or married. As single people we may be called to the life of priesthood or brother, sister and permanent deacon.

We are initially interested or inspired in following that particular career because we may have experience or been mentored in that field of work. Some occupations and professions lead us to a divine call to God's Service or to the Christian Life by the way it centers on the principles of ministry or ministerial service, such as, social services, health/medical fields, religious education, and actual church lay or ordained ministry.

Most permanent deacons are called to the vocation of married life and still serve in the ministry of a cleric and continue to work in the secular world. We as Catholic Christians are called and encouraged to live accordingly to our vocation, so what's yours?

Submitted by:
Deacon Sidney Martin

If you have a calling or vocation to religious life, contact your Diocesan Vocations Director.

TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE NATIONAL CENTER NEWS

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friends of the Tekakwitha Conference,

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God..." (Jn1:1) is a wonderful scripture quote to remind us of our spiritual journey as we begin this New Year. Together, let us walk with greater faith, hope and trust in our God Almighty, and more respect for all of God's creation especially care for Mother Earth.



2012 has a number of important events on the horizon. This is another election year for the Tekakwitha Conference Board of Directors in Regions 1,3,4,6 plus a Region 2 nomination for a Member-at-Large. The present board members are eager to represent you and are looking forward to seeing you at the next Kateri Tekakwitha Regional Gathering during the 73rd Annual Conference in Albany, New York. Remember, you must be part of the change that you want to see. The board takes into consideration your input and assesses the impact it may have for the entire membership and for the organization as a whole as we continue to move into the future. Please be a part of the discussion during our annual gatherings.

A number of you suggested that the conference have Facebook besides our website. It is now up and running so you are invited to become part of the Kateri Tekakwitha Family.

Yes, in the beginning was the Word who is God to whom we continue to give honor, glory, praise and thanksgiving. With the recent long-awaited news about the required First Class Miracle to further the cause of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, we rejoice and give thanks that the miracle has been approved. There are a couple of very important final steps that continue to need our prayers. That is, Word of Approval from the Cardinals who serve in the office of Causes of Saints and if approved by the Cardinals, the word of approval will be placed in the hands of Pope Benedict XVI. We pray that Kateri Tekakwitha will then be placed on his list for canonization. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are closer than ever before! Let us pray like we have never prayed! An announcement by our Holy Father would be one of the greatest gifts and events in the life of the Catholic First Peoples of North America because we would have our First Native Saint.

In Christ through Blessed Kateri, we pray

Sister Kateri Mitchell

Sister Kateri Mitchell
Executive Director

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

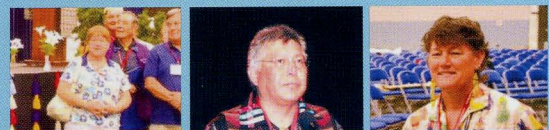
2011/2012

Executive Officers:



Pierre Solet Tasha Smith Cathy Vasquez Rufina Toledo
Chair Vice-Chair Secretary Treasurer

Directors:



Debbie Thomas Ronald Tso Christine Keffer

Board Goals - 2011-2012

1. Develop a strong Youth Program for each Annual Conference and at the local levels
2. Challenge to all adults to bring a new conference attendee to each annual conference
3. Invite new members to join local Kateri Circles
4. By 2013 increase Tekakwitha Conference Membership by 10%

Next Board of Directors Meeting – March 2-4, 2012
In Albany, New York

Clarification

There are many questions and/or concerns about a new Kateri Prayer that has been published.

The new prayer is NOT a Canonization Prayer, rather is the new translated Prayer for the Feast of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha on July 14th.

For your information the following prayer is the one that now appears in the New English Translation of the Roman Missal which the Church began using on the First Sunday of Advent.

*O God, who desired the
Virgin Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
to flower among Native Americans
in a life of Innocence,
grant, through her intercession,
that when all are gathered in your Church
from every nation, tribe and tongue,
they may magnify you
in a single canticle of praise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

In Recognition of Native Americans

August 26, 2011 | By Victoria Donohoe, For The Inquirer

This week, one of the quietest on the regional gallery calendar, let's take a vacation from the usual and ask: Why is an artist's rendering of a revered Mohawk Indian on display at a large new Roman Catholic high school in Royersford, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania?

We're talking history here, and a long and tortuous history at that. The image of Kateri Tekakwitha by the late Robert F. McGovern at Pope John Paul II High School, which opened last year, is placed there in recognition of the fact that a Native American town once existed in Royersford, established in the late 17th century by the Susquehannock Indians, a breakaway tribe of the Iroquois.

For a long time, there has been another signal that the Indian site existed. It's passed every day by thousands of motorists traveling to and from Pottstown and Reading via Royersford: the big green-and-white sign marking a road called Mingo, a variation of Minques, an unflattering word meaning *treacherous* that the local Lenape gave the Susquehannocks, who became their overlords by hijacking the beaver-skin trade from them.

Yet these Royersford Susquehannocks apparently had some friends among the Lenape, and that angered the powerful Seneca, one of the five nations of the Iroquois confederacy.

For the rest of the story visit [The Philadelphia Inquirer online at http://goo.gl/reJ16](http://goo.gl/reJ16)



An image of Kateri Tekakwitha by the late Robert F. McGovern has been presented to Pope John Paul II High School.



This beautiful Kateri Stole was designed by Maureen Biebrich, Mohawk, who is a member of the Many Nations Kateri Circle in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL.

The embroidery was done by Vicki Gardiner of Tuttle, Oklahoma, and the final sewing was completed by Maureen and our Circle friend, Edna Varner.

Reverend John McEvoy, Pastor of St. Anne's, Ruskin, FL was the first celebrant to wear the stole while he presided over the Native American Mass on September 24, 2011.

Contact Maureen Biebrich at [813-641-8803](tel:813-641-8803) for more information.

facebook

Tekakwitha Conference is now on Facebook!

Follow our page to stay up to date on events happening in Kateri Country

[Find us at Facebook.com/TekConf](https://www.facebook.com/TekConf)

Earn 4 Continuing Education Credits early in 2012!

SAVE THE DATE!

The Anne and Henry Zarrow
School of Social Work
Sponsors:

Chief Wilma Mankiller Symposium:
Honoring the Spirit and Legacy of
Oklahoma's Social Work Pioneers

In the Community Room,
School of Social Work, Norman, OK
Saturday, January 28, 2012

CONFERENCE 2012

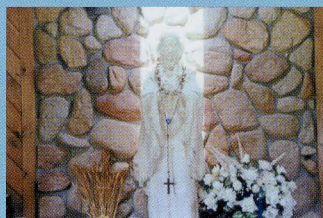
Please join us for a pilgrimage to Kateri Country in Auriesville her birthplace and Fonda her Baptismal place.



July 18th-22, 2012

Airport
Holiday Inn

205 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



Fonda, NY



Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs



Auriesville, NY

