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BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE, AURIESVILLE, NEW YORK 12016

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Betty Kisela had a vision....

The Story of the Kateri Indian Rosary

Since childhood, Elizabeth (Betty) Kisela was fascinated with Indians, the American Indians.

Her dad, Lawrence Viau, had a army buddy, who would visit their home frequently. Early in his life Billy Dopson lived among Indians, dressed like them, and had some very colorful stories to tell. Betty would read books, listen to the radio, watch movies and TV about Indians, and cry! Cry, to learn how the white man mistreated the red man. She vowed to someday do something about it.

Her greatest childhood idol was Sacajawea, the Indian maiden who served as a guide for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. She even adopted her name and asked her friends to call her Sacajawea.

One day in 1972, Betty was deeply in prayer when she came upon a booklet in her parish church, St. Linus, in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, a southwest suburb of Detroit. It was entitled, "Make Mine Moccasins", a story of Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks. Betty read it, closed her eyes and said a prayer to Kateri. She experienced a warmth and love radiating throughout her body like never before in her life. That little booklet instilled in her a deep love for Kateri. Betty sought out all the information she could about Kateri, and she was "hooked" on her. As Father McBride would say, "Once you meet Kateri, she grabs you and never lets you go!" From that day on, Kateri was constantly on Betty's mind. She would ponder, what can I do for her? How can I honor her? On April 16th, the eve of Kateri's then Feast Day (Kateri died on April 17, 1680), Betty was praying to Kateri with several of her medals spread before her. Suddenly, Betty felt Kateri's presence, and listened to her message. "If you want to honor me, do it for my Rawennio (God), for my people, for all the people who love God and my people. Make me a rosary, an Indian rosary!" "But how, what my dear Kateri?" "Don't worry, Betty, it will all come together for you. But, make it simple and pleasing to God." Betty recalled

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