

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH



MODEL OF FAITH

SAINT KATERI

Models of Faith

INSTRUCTIONS

To earn this patch, learn about Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Complete one activity from each section. Although you may want to add this page to your journal/scrapbook, you do not need to write out the answers. If you are working together as a group, have discussions and/or group activities. If you are working individually, include your family. If you are an older girl or boy, learn about Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and teach younger children.

Once earned, you may place this patch in the appropriate location on your uniform. Once you have learned about Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, your leader, advisor, or parent may order the patch for you by visiting the website, www.catholicreligiousrecognitions.org, and clicking on the link to the NFCYM Online Store.

PRAYER

Just like we can ask our friends and family to pray for us, we can also ask the saints to pray for special intentions. There are many prayers to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Check out www.levelllee.net.

Younger Girls: Find a prayer to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha or write your own—and say it every day for a week.

Older Girls: Make a novena (a prayer for nine days for a specific intention) to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

You can find a sample at www.catholicreligiousrecognitions.org.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Tribal information says Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was the daughter of a Mohawk chief and an Algonquin mother. At age four, she lost her parents and brother to a smallpox epidemic. Her mother was a Christian and Kateri Tekakwitha wanted to become a Christian too. The smallpox left Kateri Tekakwitha almost blind and very frail. A friend, Anastasia, taught her about God, and she prayed that the “Blackrobes” would come and baptize her.

At thirteen, Kateri Tekakwitha made a vow to God that she would never marry. She was finally baptized when she was nineteen. Kateri Tekakwitha’s life was difficult. She experienced cruelty by her tribe for her beliefs, and because of this, she was not permitted to practice her faith openly. She was given very difficult work to do for the tribe, but never complained and did what was needed.

In 1677, Kateri Tekakwitha’s friends arranged an escape for her to Canada where she completed her studies of the faith and received her first communion. She was now in a place where she was loved and wanted, and where she could serve God in peace. Kateri Tekakwitha did strenuous penance for the sins of her tribe and, in doing so, weakened herself. She died when only twenty-four years old. She is a great role model for young girls. Many miracles are attributed to Kateri Tekakwitha’s intercession.

LEARN AND TAKE ACTION

Create Your Own Activity

"Catherine Tekakwitha, so renowned today in New France for the extraordinary marvels that God has bestowed and continues to bestow through her intercession, was born an Iroquois in 1656 in a Mohawk village called Gahnaougé," Fr. Pierre Cholenec, SJ, Kateri Tekakwitha's spiritual advisor. We celebrate this special young woman's feast day on July 14.

What can you do to celebrate and make her feast day special?

Ideas: Native American celebration or prayer service.

First Native American Saint

After Kateri Tekakwitha died, suddenly the ugly pock marks she had almost all her life were wiped away from her young face. We believe, as those at her beside did long ago, that God was showing us all how very special this young Native American woman was to him and to our world. Now Kateri Tekakwitha is our first Native American saint. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha served her tribe with hard work and later with penance and prayer. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha had a great devotion to the cross and Jesus crucified, and while walking in the woods, would often lash sticks together to form a cross for prayer.

- What do you admire about Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?
- How can you be more like Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?

For All

Have an adult help you find a book on Saint Kateri Tekakwitha where you can read more about her life. See if you can find the answers to the following:

- Where was Saint Kateri Tekakwitha born?
- What is the difference between the Mohawk and Algonquin Tribes?
- By what other name is Saint Kateri Tekakwitha known?
- What does Tekakwitha mean?
- What are Blackrobes?

Older Girls

Find some books or a trustworthy website to do some research on Saint Kateri. Some good sites to begin with are www.catholic.org, www.katerishrine.com, <http://lily-of-the-mohawks.com>, or www.levillee.net. Use these questions to guide your research:

- What is Saint Kateri Tekakwitha's clan?
- With whom did Saint Kateri Tekakwitha live after her parents died?
- Where was Saint Kateri Tekakwitha buried?
- Why did Saint Kateri Tekakwitha decide to make a vow of chastity?

Saintly Service

- Choose a group that needs help and do a service project for them. Check out our website for ideas. www.catholicreligiousrecognitions.org.

Why Is It?

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is often pictured with a cross and a lily.

Why do you think those symbols are used to represent Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?

Catholic Identity Patch Program is a project of the
NCCGSCF and NFCYM.

