

Catholic Identity Patch Program

MODELS OF FAITH

St. 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 brothers to a smallpox epidemic. Her mother was a Christian and Kateri Tekakwitha wanted to be 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.

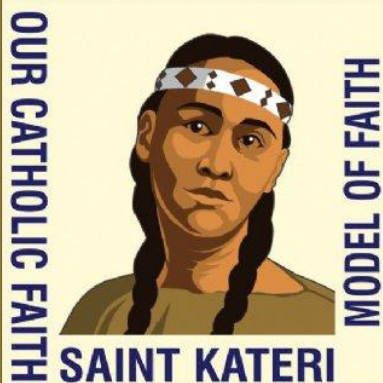
In 1677, Kateri Tekakwitha's friends arranged an escape for her to Canada where she completed her studies of the faith and received her first communion. She was now in a place where she was loved and wanted, and where she could serve God in peace. Kateri Tekakwitha did strenuous penance for the sins of her tribe and, in doing so, she 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.

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. Check out www.levillee.net.

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

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



INSTRUCTIONS

To earn this patch, learn about Kateri Tekakwitha. Complete one activity from each section.

Although you may want to add this 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 do a group activity. If you are working individually, include your family. If you are an older girl or boy, learn about 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 Kateri Tekakwitha your leader, advisor, or parents may order the patch for you by with visiting www.nfcym.org and clicking the "SHOP" link at the top of the page to access the store.

Saintly Service

Choose a group that needs help and do a service project for them.

Learn & Take Action

For All

Have an adult help you find a book to 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 she known?
- What does Tekakwitha mean?
- What are Blackrobes?

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 bedside did a 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?

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?

For 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, or www.leveillee.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?

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

**Catholic Identity Patch Program is a project of the
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www.NCCGSCF.org

NFCYM
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