



Tekakwitha Conference

*The Voice, Presence and Identity of Indigenous Catholics
under the Protection of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha*

Dear Friends of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,

We are excited about your interest in forming a Kateri Youth Circle. It is a great way to get to know about our first Indigenous Saint in North America. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is a wonderful example for our young people of all cultures. The following contains a Packet of Information to form a Kateri Youth Circle.

Local parishes/missions have groups called Kateri Circles consisting of members who try to emulate the life of our Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, a young Mohawk-Algonquin woman who was canonized in the Roman Catholic Church on October 21, 2012 in Rome, Italy, by Pope Benedict XVI.

The Kateri Youth Circles exist under the auspices of the Tekakwitha Conference and are encouraged to abide by the guidelines as established by the Tekakwitha Conference. Each Youth Circle must register with this Tekakwitha Conference National Center and pay annual Kateri Circle membership dues of thirty dollars (\$30.00) to receive a Certificate of Recognition and Poster image of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

Kateri Youth Circles may add specific items to the national guidelines pertaining to your own local parish/mission. The circle is then recognized as an organization in your parish/mission by the parish leadership and/or council.

May the inspiration and guidance of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha be with each of you as form your Kateri Youth Circle.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please call us:

1-844-483-3900 or e-mail: tekconf@gmail.com.

Blessings through the intercession of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,

Sister Kateri Mitchell
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NATIONAL KATERI YOUTH CIRCLE CONSTITUTIONS

The purpose of the Kateri Youth Circles is to promote understanding and appreciation for Indigenous cultures and spirituality within the Universal Catholic Church.

It is recommended that each local Kateri Youth Circle implement the following goals:

- 1. Work towards a greater awareness and affirmation of Indigenous values and spirituality.**
- 2. To help yourself and others understand the struggles of Indigenous Peoples with the early missionaries of the Catholic Church and the traditional ways of life of the people.**
- 3. Share and promote the vision of the Catholic Church in North America through a process of inculturation to include your Indigenous culture and spirituality in the Mass and prayer services.**
- 4. Pray for the Tekakwitha Conference members and all Catholic Indigenous People.**
- 5. Pray to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha for healing of family members, guardians, friends, local communities and all people and countries throughout the world.**



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Prayer

*O Saint Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks,
Your love for Jesus,
so strong, so steadfast,
pray that we may become like you.*

*Your short and painful life
showed us your strength and humility.
Pray that we may become
forever humble like you.*

*Like the bright and shining stars at night,
we pray that your light
may forever shine down upon us,
giving light, hope, peacefulness
and serenity in our darkest moments.*

*Fill our hearts, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
with your same love for Jesus
and pray that we have the strength and courage
to become one like you in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Prayer by Harold Caldwell

**CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF
KATERI YOUTH CIRCLE MEMBERS**

1. Youth Circle members are encouraged to learn to pray in the language of their ancestors, including singing traditional songs.
2. Youth Circle members are encouraged to pray the St. Kateri chaplet representing Saint Kateri's 24 years of life and to learn the prayer responses for the celebration of Mass.
3. Youth Circle members are to be actively involved in ministry such as readers, prayers of intercession or as altar servers.
4. Youth Circle members are to be involved in local Indigenous gatherings.

NATIONAL KATERI YOUTH CIRCLE GUIDELINES

This Kateri Youth Circle is organized under the guidance and support of the Tekakwitha Conference and the official name shall be:

_____ Kateri Youth Circle.

WE PROMISE:

- To pray to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and the Kateri Chaplet, to learn about her life and that of her tribe and heritage, and to follow the example of her call to holiness.
- To imitate the way of Jesus who taught us how to love, to forgive and to share our life with others.
- To reach out and help those in our local community.
- To actively participate in the youth activities of the Annual Tekakwitha Conference or in the local Mini-Tekakwitha Conference.

- I. **OBJECTIVES – Kateri Youth Circles will promote the goals of the National Tekakwitha Conference in the following manner:**
 - A. **SPIRITUAL**
 1. Work toward personal holiness by prayer and examples of good deeds.
 2. Pray to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.
 3. Pray the Kateri Chaplet, Novenas or other prayers.
 - B. **SOCIAL:**
 1. Work on community needs or projects.
 2. Participate in helping the elderly or families with small children.
 3. Work with local parish lay ministers and clergy.
 4. Encourage and support the formation of other Kateri Youth Circles.

- II. **EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS:**
 1. Attend meetings/gatherings of your Kateri Youth Circle.
 2. Help with the activities of your Kateri Youth Circle.
 3. Participate in community service or outreach projects.
 4. Help with fund raising activities.
 5. Attend the Annual National Tekakwitha Conference or local Mini-Conference and encourage other members to attend.

- III. **MEETINGS – AGENDA:**
 1. Opening Prayer, Kateri Chaplet, song (Gospel, Inspirational)
 2. Time for spiritual and intellectual growth (guest speaker, film/video [inspirational, life of saint or other], discussion of current events affecting your community, etc.)
 3. Old Business
 4. New Business
 5. Social Activity
 6. Closing Prayer
 7. Next meeting date, place and time

RITE FOR COMMISSIONING KATERI YOUTH CIRCLE MEMBERS

Introduction:

The Kateri Youth Circle of *(Name of parish/mission/school)* draws its members from our local Catholic parish family. These members of the Youth Circle pledge themselves to support of each other in walking the spiritual path taken by Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Walking on this sacred path involves growing as role models, developing their own spiritual life, and fostering in themselves and their peers a positive self-awareness. As our youth take this sacred path, they seek the prayers and spiritual companionship of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. The decision of our youth and all of us that are gathered here is the special blessing that God's Holy Spirit continues to give through Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Call:

Let those who have chosen to pledge themselves to walk the sacred path shown us by Saint Kateri Tekakwitha come forward.

(Call each youth member by name to come forward)

Prayer of the Community:

Heavenly Father, you are blessed through your Son in all of your Saints. At a young age, you touched Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and invited her to walk in the sacred path of your Son, Jesus. She became an example to all around her as a person living out of your Holy Spirit. Today, the invitation you gave to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is again being received by these young people. Through the prayers of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha may your Holy Spirit strengthen them to faithfully walk the sacred path that led her to Eternal Life to be with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Commitment of Kateri Youth Circle Member:

Leader: (Announce name of youth member, Do you pledge yourself to walk in the path taken by Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and reflecting on her example and asking for her prayers?

Youth: I do.

Leader: Do you pledge yourself to take whatever opportunities are available to you for your own spiritual growth, and to help provide such opportunities for your peers?

Youth: I do.

Leader: Do you pledge yourself to work toward the development of a positive mental outlook toward yourself and others so as to promote each person's growth in self-esteem?

Youth: I do.

Leader: Then I, on the part of this Community of Faith, gratefully accept your willingness to accept God's Call to walk the sacred path taken by Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Your willingness to walk this spiritual path among us promises to be a great blessing for both us and your peers.

Commitment of the Parish/Mission/School:

Leader: Dear members of our parish family, all of us form one body in Christ. It is a special joy when our younger members experience the invitation of God for a special work in their lives. Today, these youth are responding to the call to live a life after the example of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. To walk in the sacred path taken by Saint Kateri is not easy. We know that Saint Kateri Tekakwitha herself suffered much as she followed the Word of God and the Spirit of God in her life, and daily gave her life over to Jesus. As these youth pledge themselves to a similar walk, they need our personal support and prayer.

(Name of parish/mission/school) Do you promise to support and pray for our youth?

Parish: We do.

Sign of Commission:

Leader: (Name of Kateri Youth Member, receive this as a sign of your commission to walk in the sacred path of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha as a member of the (Name of the Kateri Youth Circle). This sign carries with it the pledge of our own personal support and prayers for you in your path to spiritual holiness.

Blessings: (with outstretched hands)

All: O Saint Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks, Your love for Jesus, so strong, so steadfast, pray that we may become like you. Your short and painful life showed us your strength and humility. Pray that we may become forever humble like you. Like the bright and shining stars at night, we pray that your light may forever shine down upon us, giving light, hope, peacefulness and serenity in our darkest moments. Fill our hearts, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha with your same love for Jesus and pray that we have the strength and courage to become one like you in Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF KATERI YOUTH CIRCLES

To receive a Kateri Youth Circle Certificate and Saint Kateri Poster

Please fill out the information below and include a

\$30.00 Annual Kateri Circle Membership Fee

Mail to:

Tekakwitha Conference National Center

Kateri Youth Circles

2225 North Bolton Avenue

Alexandria, LA 71303-4408



Name of Youth Circle: _____

Parish/Mission/School: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Name of Leader/Youth Minister:

Leader/Youth Minister Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

E-mail:

Is the Youth Circle attached to an active Adult Kateri Circle: _____

Other information about your Youth Circle: (Names of your members, activities,
youth liturgies, fundraising etc...)

Members:

Outreach Activities:

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha inspire, guide, protect and walk with us.