



Tekakwitha Conference

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

Dear Friends of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,

Your interest in forming a Kateri Circle is indeed a wonderful way to further evangelization and to deepen a greater love for the first Indigenous Saint in North America. The following information contains a Kateri Circle Information Packet for Youth.

Local parishes/missions have groups 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.

The Kateri Circles exist under the auspices of the Tekakwitha Conference and are encouraged to abide by the guidelines as established by the Tekakwitha Conference. Each Circle must register with this National Center and pay annual Kateri Circle membership dues of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to receive a Certificate of Recognition and Poster of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

Kateri Circles may have guidelines on a local parish/mission level. The circle is then recognized as an organization in your parish/mission by the parish leadership and/or council.

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

If you should have any questions and/or concerns, please call us: 1-844-483-3900

Through the intercession of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha we pray,

Sister Kateri Mitchell
Executive Director

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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 of Indigenous values and spirituality.
2. To help 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 inculturating North American Indigenous culture and spirituality into the Mass.
4. Pray for the Tekakwitha Conference membership and for all Catholic Indigenous People.
5. Pray to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: for healing of family members, guardians, friends and local communities.



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Prayer

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

*Your short and painful life
showed us your strength and humility.
Grant 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 you same love for Jesus
and grant us your strength and courage
to become one like you in Heaven.
Amen.*

Prayer by Harold Caldwell

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CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF KATERI YOUTH CIRCLE MEMBERS

- 1. Youth Circle members are to learn to pray in the language of their ancestors, including singing traditional songs.**
- 2. Youth Circle members are to recite the prayers of the Mass along with the parishioners at church/mission.**
- 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 involved at 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, 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.**

I. OBJECTIVES – Kateri Youth Circles will promote the goals of the National Tekakwitha Conference in the following manner:

A. SPIRITUAL:

- 1. Pray to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.**
- 2. Work toward personal holiness by prayer and examples of good deeds.**
- 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 new Kateri Youth Circles.**

II. EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS:

- 1. Attend meetings 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 or help other members to attend.**

III. MEETINGS—AGENDA:

- 1. Opening Prayer, Kateri Chaplet or song.**
- 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. Closing Prayer**
- 6. 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 your own development as a young Christian leader, offering your life as role model for other youth and your peers to follow?

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.

Blessing: (with outstretched hands)

All: O Saint Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks, Your Love for Jesus, so strong, so steadfast, grant that we may become like you. Your short and painful life showed us your strength and humility. Grant 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 grant us your strength and courage to become one like you in Heaven. Amen.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF KATERI YOUTH CIRCLES

To receive a Kateri Youth Circle Certificate and Kateri Poster
Please fill out the information below and include a
\$25.00 Annual Kateri Circle Membership Fee

Mail to:
Kateri Youth Circles
Tekakwitha Conference National Center
2225 North Bolton Avenue
Alexandria, LA 71303-4408

Name of Youth Circle: _____

Parish/Mission/School: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____

Sponsors Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Email: _____

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

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

Members:
