



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 Circle, it is indeed a great 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 adults.

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

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 Tekakwitha Conference National Center by paying a minimal fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) to receive a certificate of recognition and a poster image of St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

Kateri Circles may add specific items to the national guidelines pertaining to your local parish/mission. The circle is then recognized as an organization in your parish/mission by the parish leadership and/or council as part of the National Tekakwitha Conference Family.

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

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please call 1-844-483-3900 or email: tekconf@gmail.com.

Through the intercession of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha we pray,

Sister Kateri Mitchell, SSA

Sister Kateri Mitchell, SSA
Executive Director

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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



Vision Statement

The Tekakwitha Conference is the Voice, Presence and Identity of Indigenous Catholics of North America under the protection and inspiration of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

Our Mission Statement

**As members of the Tekakwitha Conference
Inspired by Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,
a young Mohawk/Algonquin woman of the 17th century,
renew our faith and reaffirm our baptismal call
as followers of Jesus to proclaim the Good News.
We pray with faith and hope for the continued intercession
of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha in the lives of all Peoples.**

We strive to:

**Reinforce Catholic identity
Affirm pride in our cultures and spiritual traditions
Promote healing through forgiveness and reconciliation
Advocate for peace and justice in our Indigenous communities
Build stronger catechesis that is meaningful
to Indigenous Catholic People
Nurture the relationship between Indigenous people
and the Catholic Church
Empower Catholic Indigenous People
as leaders within our communities and Church.**



KATERI CIRCLES

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

Kateri Circles both adult and youth exist under the auspices of the Tekakwitha Conference. Circles must register and pay annual dues of thirty dollars (\$30.00) as a Kateri Circle Membership Fee with the Tekakwitha Conference to receive a Certificate of Recognition and Poster Image of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Kateri Circle members are encouraged to abide by the following guidelines as established by the Tekakwitha Conference.

GUIDELINES

1. To promote Tekakwitha Conference Individual Membership among Indigenous peoples and other cultures.
2. To develop the spirit of the Tekakwitha Conference by assisting Indigenous people to express themselves and their beliefs within the developing Indigenous Catholic Church, in both Roman Catholic ways and traditional Indigenous ways.
3. To help develop catechetical resources to fit local needs, assisting Indigenous people to educate their children in Indigenous Catholic ways, and to share these methods with the Tekakwitha Conference.
4. To encourage Indigenous Catholic leadership in various ministries needed to meet the needs of the local community and the universal Church.
5. To share the story of St. Kateri's life and to follow the example of her holiness.
6. To work for unity and to encourage and support the formation of other Adult Kateri Circles and Youth Kateri Circles/Groups.
7. To become knowledgeable about Indigenous issues, especially topics relevant to a reservation (reserve) community and urban concerns related to our own moral, intellectual and spiritual growth.

KATERI CIRCLES

1. WHAT is a Kateri Circle?

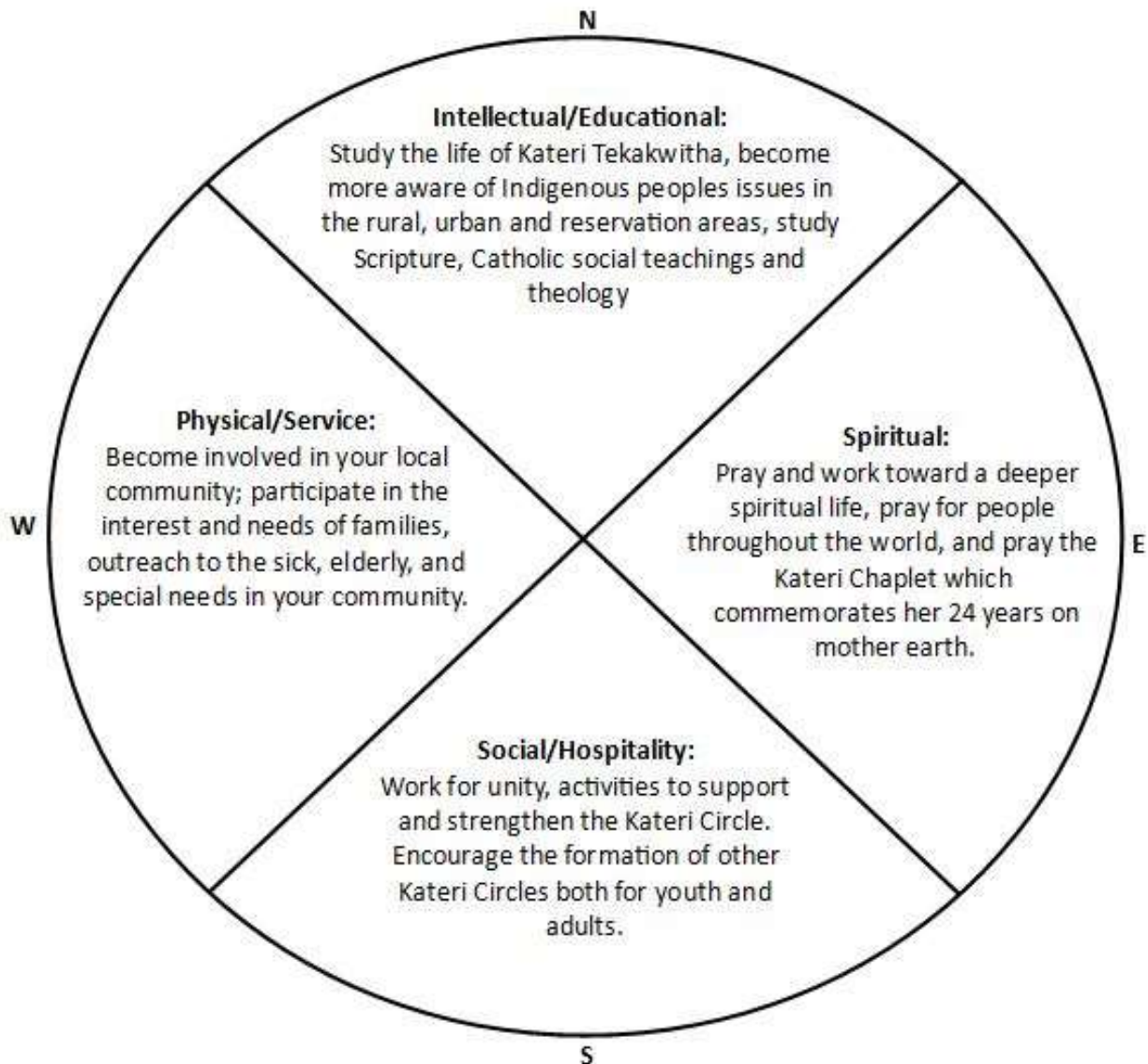
A Kateri Circle is a group of Women and Men and/or Youth of all cultures within a parish/mission who wants to belong to a prayer circle/group for the purpose of learning and promoting the saintly life of the Tekakwitha Conference patroness Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, a young Mohawk/Algonquin woman of the mid-seventeenth century.

2. HOW can we start a Kateri Circle?

Kateri Circles begin when two or three, or more, gather and want to form a group for spiritual support, and who wants to form a small community of faith for prayer, learning and outreach to the local community.

3. WHO can start a Kateri Circle?

All Person(s) willing to pray, learn more about our patroness Kateri Tekakwitha, study the faith, and serve others.





RECOGNITION OF KATERI CIRCLES

We would like to recognize all Kateri Circles with a certificate especially designed by Gus Antone.

Please complete form and return to:

Tekakwitha Conference National Center
Adult Kateri Circles
2225 North Bolton Avenue
Alexandria, LA 71303-4408

NAME OF CIRCLE _____

PARISH _____

ADDRESS _____ APT# _____ PO BOX _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

CONTACT PERSON _____

ADDRESS _____ APT# _____ PO BOX _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT PERSON _____

ADDRESS _____ APT# _____ PO BOX _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

ALTERNATE E-MAIL _____

How often does your Circle meet? _____

How much of your Circle is spent in prayer and spiritual development? _____

Special Events: _____

If your Circle does Fundraising, What kind(s)? _____

PLEASE LIST ALL KATERI CIRCLE MEMBERS WITH COMPLETE ADDRESSES AND TRIBAL AFFILIATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

1. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

2. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

3. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

4. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

5. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

6. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

7. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

8. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

9. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

10. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

11. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

12. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

13. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

14. Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____
Tribe/Nation: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

* TO LIST ADDITIONAL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTACH AN ADDITIONAL SHEET.



CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

This Kateri Circle is organized under Parish/Mission:

The official name shall be:

- I. **OBJECTIVES** - Our Kateri Circle will promote the Vision and Mission of the National Tekakwitha Conference in the following manner:
- A. Spiritual
 1. Pray for the needs in the family, your community, the country and the world
 2. Work toward personal holiness in your own lives and in the lives of others by prayer and example
 3. Recommended daily prayers of the universal Church, and praying the Kateri chaplet.
 - B. Social
 1. Work on community needs
 2. Participate in the interests and needs of families and your community
 3. Work for unity
 4. Encourage and support other Kateri Circles and youth/groups
 - C. Educational
 1. The Kateri Circle will try to become knowledgeable about Indigenous issues. Especially, topics relevant to reservation and urban communities and those related to your own moral, intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth
 2. The Kateri Circle members will study Scripture, Catholic social teaching and theology
 3. The Kateri Circle members will study the Life of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

- II. **MEMBERSHIP** – Membership is open to males and females of all cultures, who are working towards the group’s objectives.
- III. **EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS**
- A. Members are expected to:
1. Attend meetings when possible
 2. Help with activities of the Circle
 3. Help with fund-raising activities
 4. Strive to attend the Annual Tekakwitha Conferences and Regional Mini-Conferences and/or support other members to attend.
- B. Members are eligible to hold office and elect officers at your annual meeting.
- IV. **OFFICERS** – Your organization’s executive board shall be composed of the following officers:
- A. The **President** whose duties are:
1. To make out the agenda for each meeting
 2. To preside at meetings
 3. To be the contact person between the Circle, the community and the Tekakwitha Conference
- B. The **Vice-President** whose duties are:
1. To preside at meetings in the absence of the President
 2. To cooperate and work with the President on behalf of the circle
- C. The **Secretary** whose duties are:
1. To take minutes of all meetings
 2. To maintain a permanent record of the minutes of all meetings
 3. To be responsible for any correspondence of the Circle, unless otherwise delegated
 4. To keep a membership list, including addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses
 5. To maintain a scrapbook/photos for the Circle of events the circle members have been involved in over the month/year, unless otherwise delegated – send photos, article for Cross and Feathers
- D. The **Treasurer** whose duties are:
1. To keep accurate records of all funds from fund-raising efforts
 2. To give a financial report at meetings
- E. In case of an emergency, two or more officers may make a decision and the President will inform the membership at the next meeting.
- F. The Circle shall have a **Spiritual Coordinator/Advisor**, when possible.

V. FINANCES

A. Checking Account

1. The checking account is in the name of the Kateri Circle
2. The treasurer and one or two other members shall be authorized to sign checks

B. A simple majority of those present at meetings is required for the Kateri Circle expenditures. The president and one other officer may make decisions for expense requests between meetings.

VI. ELECTIONS

A. Officers shall be elected annually at the _____ meeting.

B. Officers' terms are for one year. All officers are eligible for re-election

C. All members present may vote. The person with the majority of votes wins

VII. MEETINGS

A. Meetings are ordinarily held on the _____ of each month at _____ am/pm at _____

B. Agenda suggestions for meetings will include:

1. Opening prayer or song (Saint Kateri Prayer/Kateri chaplet)
2. Secretary and Treasurer's reports
3. Time for spiritual/intellectual growth (prayer, discussion, film, study etc.)
4. Old business - Report on Community Service performed
5. New business - Plan Community Service/activity(ies)
6. Closing prayer
7. Social Time



Tekakwitha Conference National Center

Adult Kateri Circle

2225 North Bolton Avenue

Alexandria, LA 71303-4408

Ph: 1-318-483-3908/ Toll Free: 1844-483-3900

Fax: 1-318-483-3909

E-mail: tekconf@gmail.com