



TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

*"...the Voice, Presence, and Identity of Indigenous Catholics of North America
under the protection and inspiration of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha."*

Dear Friends of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,

I extend to you my greetings from the Tekakwitha Conference National Center in Alexandria, LA. It is my hope that this letter finds you well, and that you have spent time in prayer and discernment over these next steps in your journey with Christ, our Lord. The establishment of a Kateri Circle is truly a manifestation of the call to "go and make disciples!"

Founding a Kateri Circle is an opportunity to cultivate a strong sense of mission within your tribal and faith communities. Through this new opportunity you will grow to share in each other's joys and hardships as you come together to pray, to learn, and to serve. I encourage you not to fear the risks of forming such a community. On these risks, Pope Francis writes, "The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms." (*Evangelii Gaudium*)

We are excited about your interest in forming a Kateri Circle, this endeavor will prove to be a great means for strengthening your trust in God's providence as well as your devotion for Saint Kateri, the first Indigenous Saint of North America. The information contained in this packet will guide you in your efforts to establish an adult 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,

Robert Barbry II
Executive Director



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 members who try to emulate the virtuous life of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, a young Mohawk-Algonquin woman, who was canonized on October 21, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI.

These groups, known as Kateri Circles, both adult and youth, exist under the auspices of the Tekakwitha Conference. Kateri Circles must register and pay annual dues totaling thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) 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 individual membership of the Tekakwitha Conference among all ethnicities and cultural heritages, especially Catholics of Indigenous North American descent and/or tribal affiliation.
2. To advance the mission of the Tekakwitha Conference by fostering opportunities for dialogue and an openness to inculturation in matters of expression within the sacred liturgy and the spirituality common to Indigenous Catholics.
3. To contribute to the development of catechetical resources appropriate to cultural environment in which local, Indigenous Catholics find themselves. This is accomplished by drawing upon the pedagogical wisdom unique to each community, and generously sharing this wisdom with the broader Tekakwitha Conference.
4. To encourage Indigenous Catholic leadership within various ministerial roles that meet the needs of the local community and the universal Church.
5. To share the story of St. Kateri's life and to emulate her example of holiness in accord with one's state in life (vocation).
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 reservation communities and urban concerns related to our own moral, intellectual and spiritual growth.

1. **WHAT is a Kateri Circle?**

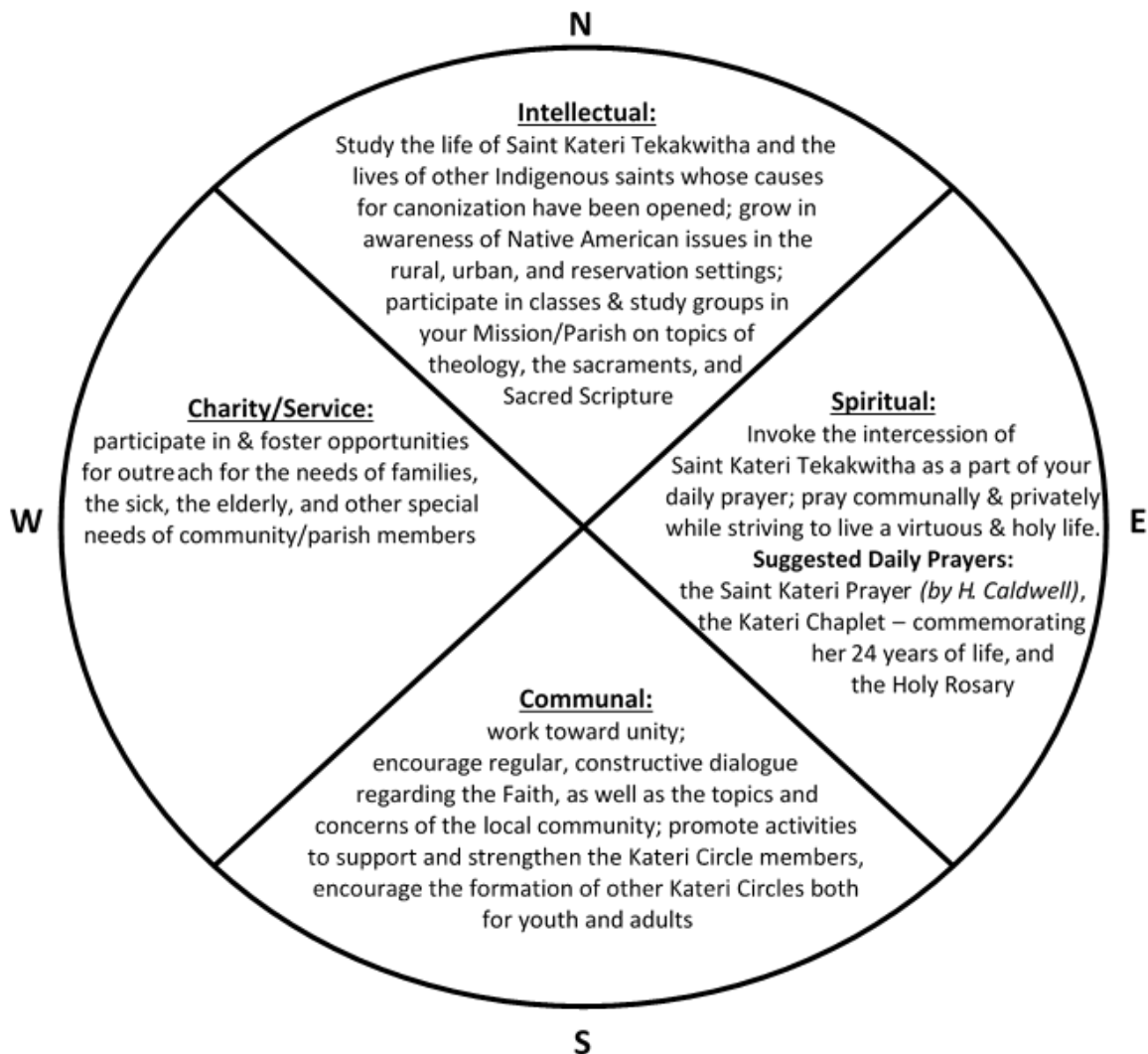
A Kateri Circle is a group of faithful Catholics, non-Catholic Christians, and/or seekers who desire to be in community with one another through a lifestyle of prayer, service, & worship. The spirituality of these communal groups springs from a strong devotion to the intercession and virtuous & holy life of 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 gather out of a desire to form a small community of faith for the purposes of communal prayer, formation, and outreach to the community.

3. **WHO can start a Kateri Circle?**

Though not an expressed requirement, it is strongly encouraged that the founding members of a Kateri Circle, themselves, be individual members of the Tekakwitha Conference. The formation of a Kateri Circle, in general, is open to any person(s) committed to prayer, growing in faith, serving their community, and to the witness & intercession of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.





Registration 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 relating to family, your community, the Church, and the world
 2. Aspire toward personal holiness in your own lives and in the lives of others by prayer and example
 3. Recommended daily prayers of the Catholic Church, as well as the Kateri chaplet.
 - B. Communal/Social
 1. Identify & work toward the fulfillment of community needs
 2. Participate in the interests and needs of families and your community
 3. Work for authentic unity
 4. Encourage and support other Kateri Circles and youth/groups
 - C. Intellectual/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, communal, and spiritual growth
 2. The Kateri Circle members will study Sacred Scripture, and selected topics from the Church’s rich theological tradition (in keeping with authoritative magisterial teaching)
 3. The Kateri Circle members will study the lives of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Nicholas Black Elk, the Martyrs of La Florida, & other Indigenous North American lives for whom causes of canonization have been opened.

- II. MEMBERSHIP – Membership is open to men and women 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 gatherings 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 email addresses
 - 5. To maintain archives (including 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 Director/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 Officer-elect will be determined by simple majority.

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

Fax: 1-318-483-3909

Toll Free: 1844-483-3900

Email: tekconf@gmail.com