

# DIOCESE OF NELSON

Catholic Pastoral Centre

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## Office of the Bishop

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October 15, 2012

### CANONIZATION OF KATERI TEKAKWITHA

Dear Priests, Religious and People of the Diocese of Nelson,

This weekend, on October 21, we celebrate the canonization of a new Canadian saint, Kateri Tekakwitha, born in 1656 in Ossernenon (today Auriesville, New York) to a Catholic Algonquin mother and a Mohawk Chief. She died at the age of 24, at St. Francis Xavier Mission, a Christian Mohawk village in Kahnawake, Quebec.

This is a great honour to the Church in North America but especially for the First Nations People. As Pope John Paul II said: "Indeed, Blessed Kateri stands before us as a symbol of the best of the heritage that is yours as North American Indians."

This honour will be celebrated in the Diocese in a more comprehensive way in the spring of 2013. According to the liturgical calendar for the Dioceses of Canada, the liturgical memorial of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is April 17. (In the US, it is celebrated on July 14)

But this weekend, I encourage you to celebrate Saint Kateri in your parish liturgy in a special way, by speaking about her, by including her and our native peoples in the Prayers of the Faithful or other appropriate parts of the liturgy. The attached bulletin insert can be used to introduce Saint Kateri to the people.

In Saint Kateri we find someone who has experienced suffering, persecution and affliction. She stands as a bridge between the Church and People of Canada and our native brothers and sisters. She is a patron of ecology and the environment, a teacher of how to be good stewards of our created world. Saint Kateri, in her own lifetime was an instrument of evangelization. She is now a model for all of us of the New Evangelization to which the Church is calling us today.

So we pray,

*St. Kateri, star of native people and bright light for us all, we thank God for your heroic courage, constant perseverance and deep love of the Cross. Pray for us that our love for Christ may deepen. May we imitate you in following God's Will even when difficulties arise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*  
(<http://www.ecatholic2000.com/pray/prayer69.shtml>)

Fraternally in Christ,

+John Corriveau, OFM Cap.  
Bishop of Nelson