



# RELIGIOUS ED

LIFE WITH CHRIST IS A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE!-POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

## Summer with the Saints

### *St. Kateri Tekakwitha*

A member of her father's Mohawk tribe, St. Kateri Tekakwitha's name means "one who does good". Kateri's mother was a Catholic Algonquin who taught the young Kateri to pray. When Kateri was four, her mother, father and brother all died in a smallpox epidemic. Kateri, too, contracted smallpox and was left disfigured and partially blind by the disease.



While being raised by her uncle, the chief of the tribe, Kateri was influenced by the Jesuit missionaries who lived in the village. Her uncle did not approve of these missionaries so, though Kateri wished to receive instruction in the faith, she did not pursue it. However, when she was nineteen, she decided to be baptized even though it was against his wishes.

Because of her faith, Kateri was persecuted by the tribe. Children taunted her and threw stones at her. Even under these circumstances, Kateri's fortitude helped her to live out her faith in her daily life. She saw dignity in each of her people and knew of God's love for all human beings. She could often be seen walking around her tribe's cornfields praying the Hail Mary. Eventually, she fled to a Catholic mission 200 miles away. There she spent her time in prayer and helping the poor of the village.

Despite the hardships she experienced, St. Kateri Tekakwitha always remained true to her baptismal promises and kept her word to God. In 1680, Kateri fell ill and died at 3pm on Wednesday of Holy Week. Her last words were, "Jesus, I love you." At that moment, all present in the room witnessed the scars on her face disappear and her face became radiant.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha was the first Native American to be canonized and her feast day is July 14th. She is the patroness of the environment and ecology.

**Looking for a way to get involved?**  
**Children's Liturgy of the Word at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity will be starting up again and we need volunteers. Contact Kathleen Driscoll, [kadriscoll@archchicago.org](mailto:kadriscoll@archchicago.org), if you would like to volunteer.**  
***All volunteers must fulfill the volunteer requirements of the Archdiocese of Chicago.***

**Pick up a Catholic Kids Bulletin each week on your way in or out of church. They are on the table inside the front doors.**