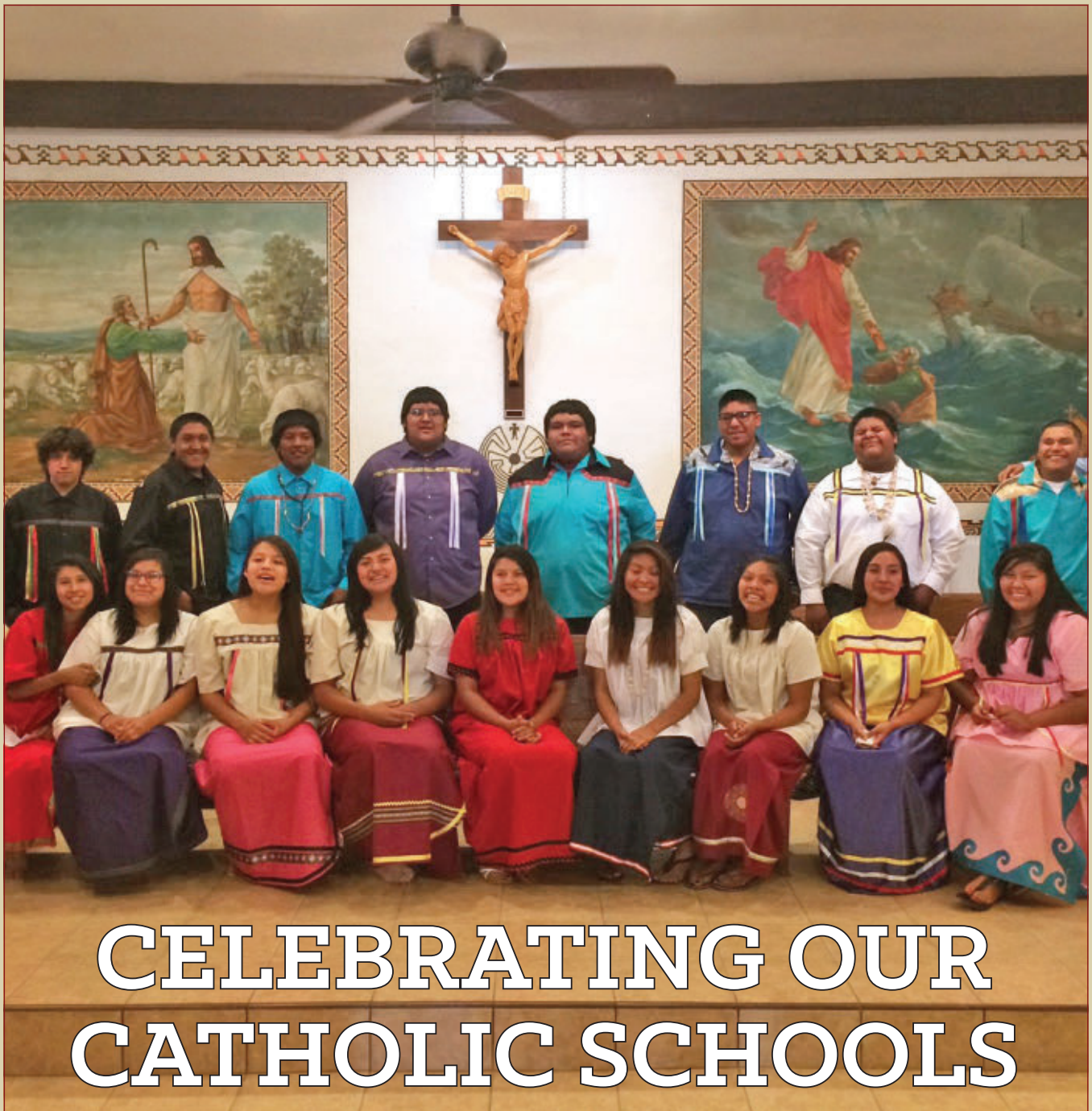


The Sentinel

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Spring 2017



The Sentinel

**Bureau of
Catholic Indian Missions**

2021 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
202-331-8542

www.blackandindianmission.org
info@blackandindianmission.org

*Established in 1874 by the
Bishops of the United States*

Mission

To further the interests
of the Catholic Indian Missions
in the United States.

Mission Locations

Alabama	Montana
Alaska	Nebraska
Arizona	New Mexico
California	New York
Colorado	North Dakota
Idaho	Oklahoma
Louisiana	Oregon
Kansas	South Dakota
Michigan	Washington
Minnesota	Wisconsin
Mississippi	Wyoming

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Inside this Issue



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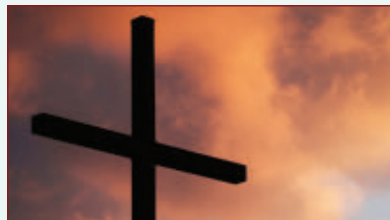
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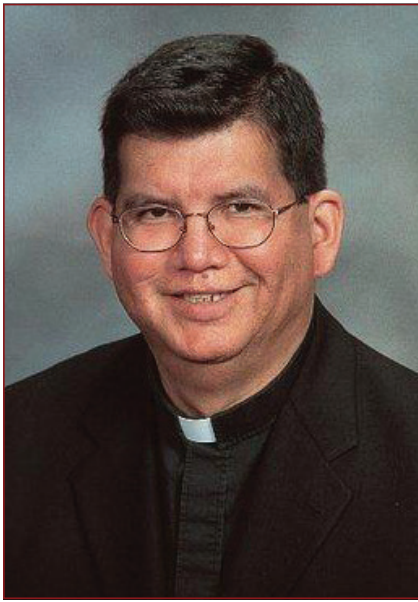
Stay in Touch



Want to stay up to date on the latest news from the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions? Visit our website blackandindianmission.org for regular updates from Native American missions, exciting news stories and reflections on the Holy men and women of our Catholic faith. For even more news, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@MissionsBIMO)

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From the Executive Director

Celebrating Our Catholic Schools

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!
This issue of the Sentinel is dedicated to highlighting and celebrating the Catholic schools that are educating Native American and Native Alaskan elementary and high school students throughout the United States. The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions has been awarding grants to Catholic schools that serve Native communities for more than one hundred years, and many of these schools have themselves been educating Native young people for more than one hundred years.



“
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We at the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions place a high priority on supporting Catholic schools because we know that the impact on young Native Americans and Native Alaskans who receive a Catholic education is very positive and powerful. Many Native youth live in poverty and come from dysfunctional families and communities where the quality of education at public schools is extraordinarily low. These negative factors and circumstances are mitigated by the following benefits that a Catholic education can provide to Native youth: quality academic instruction, quality religious education, discipline and order, character development, connection to Catholic sacramental life, and the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

I am very happy to share with all of you some other very exciting news. We have recently engaged FAITH Catholic, a Catholic publishing and multi-media organization that is based in Lansing, Michigan and that is a national leader in publishing for diocese and Catholic organizations, to take over the design, printing and mailing of The Sentinel newsletter. Faith Catholic is providing us with some assistance with the design and layout of this issue of The Sentinel, and they will be working with us during the next few months to develop a whole new look and design The Sentinel. Our new and improved Sentinel newsletter will be officially launched in the fall of 2017.

As we celebrate and observe the holy season of Lent and Easter, I hope and pray that through your participation on the Lenten practices of increased prayer, abstinence, fasting and almsgiving you will develop a stronger and more vital personal relationship with Christ. And during the glorious Easter season may your prayerful contemplation and celebration of the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ fill you with joy and a greater sharing in the divine life.

Yours in Christ our Redeemer,

Fr. Maurice Henry Sands Jr.





National Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States that begins on the last Sunday of January. The theme for this year's celebration is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service". Masses, open houses and other special events for students, families, teachers and community members are some of the activities held during this time. Catholic Schools Week was instituted by the National Catholic Education Association in 1974. It has a special meaning for schools that serve Native American students as it provides them with a chance to display their traditions as well as embrace their Catholic faith.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF FAIRBANKS

FAIRBANKS, Alaska

It was a fun week of activities for the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks. Events included an all school Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Chad Zielinski. During the 100th Day of School celebration the children made fun hats. The school also had the DEAR program – drop everything and read. When music was played over the loudspeaker children and teachers alike stopped what they were doing and picked up their books to read! Everyone was a lot smarter by the end of the week.



Students read the Word on Catholic Schools Week Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Zielinski



Catholic Schools Week Mass music group



Pre-K to 12th grade students in a prayer chain



His Excellency, Bishop Zielinski teaching kindergarten students



RED CLOUD INDIAN SCHOOL

PINE RIDGE, South Dakota

During Catholic Schools Week students at Red Cloud Indian School wrote letters of appreciation to teachers and staff and decorated classroom doors. They also read books during the buddy-reading time for mentor students and their mentees. As well, they received the “smudging” blessing which is a traditional Lakota spiritual activity involving sweet grass and prayer. There was a special Mass where elementary students read petitions and brought up gifts during the offertory, giving thanks to God and acknowledging the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, school and community.



Catholic Schools Week Mass at Red Cloud Indian School



Classroom door decorated by the students



Children enjoying their books



Mentors and mentees



School cultural day presentation



Student lector at the Catholic School Week Mass



Good Samaritan play by the students during Catholic School Week Mass



Pride of the Teacher Awards

ST. ANTHONY'S INDIAN SCHOOL

ZUNI, New Mexico

The 2017 Catholic Schools Week will go down as a notable one in the chronicles of St. Anthony's Indian School's 93 year history. The week was filled with fun and celebration of a well-balanced and truly Catholic Education.

Each day began, as always, with Morning Prayer. During the Catholic Schools Week Mass students worshipped beautifully, dramatizing the "Good Samaritan", and praying in both English and Zuni. The Gospel message certainly reached its audience, albeit with an 8th grader taking the role of the donkey! Other activities included watching catechetical movies, pajama day, a "faculty vs students" basketball game, and the famous crazy hair day event.



ST. PETER INDIAN MISSION SCHOOL

BAPCHULE, Arizona

St. Peter Indian Mission School was founded by the Franciscan Friars of the Santa Barbara Province in 1923. The school serves the Gila River Indian Community in the village of Bapchule. Catholic Schools Week was celebrated by the students in great thanksgiving for everyone who makes their education a reality. The week was spent in prayer and working hard. Students celebrated through traditional dancing and singing while displaying their native attire. Preserving, teaching and living the Native Tohono O'Odham Culture is an important part of the school's curriculum! The school is blessed to have Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity as teachers and has been supported by the Franciscan Community since 1935.



Girls displaying native baskets



Boys singing traditional songs at a Catholic Schools Week event



Franciscan sisters who teach at the School



A student running to a celebration during Catholic Schools Week

DE LA SALLE BLACKFEET SCHOOL

BROWNING, Montana

The De la Salle Blackfeet School was founded by the De la Salle Christian Brothers and fulfills the Lasallian mission to provide a “quality, innovative, faith-based education”. The school serves the town of Browning in Montana, home of Amskapi Pukani, the Blackfeet People. Catholic Schools Week at De la Salle was a celebration of Catholic, Lasallian, and Blackfeet identity. Mass during the week highlighted the importance of a Catholic Education and the Sacraments. Some students received the sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion.



8th graders after Catholic Schools Week Mass



“We Love Our Sacraments” door-art

ST. PAUL’S MISSION GRADE SCHOOL

HAYS, Montana

St. Paul’s Mission Grade School is located on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation nestled in the foothills of the Little Rocky Mountains. The school serves the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Indians. During Catholic Schools Week the community gave thanks for the gift of a Catholic Education for their students in Kindergarten to Grade 6.



Students during activity time in their home room



Scholars working hard on their math assignments



School Updates

Several schools have had exciting events since the last issue of *The Sentinel*. Here are some examples of what they have been doing and where they have been.

SAN XAVIER MISSION SCHOOL

TUCSON, Arizona



Students in front of a 1975 haul truck during a field trip to a mine.

ST. JUDE MISSION SCHOOL

SAN JACINTO, California



School children after completing the St. Jude Mission hike started to keep students healthy.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH AND SCHOOL

KODIAK, Alaska



A boy harvesting carrots out in the garden.

ST. LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SAN ANTONIO, Texas



Performers in costume during the Matachines dance at the Sunrise Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Parish Updates

SAN DIEGO INDIAN MISSION

JEMEZ PUEBLO, New Mexico



Ms. Lucy Waquie with catechism materials for the Religious Education Program

The grant from the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions has made it possible to get material for the San Diego Indian Mission children to learn the faith with great joy. Ms. Lucy Waquie, the Religious Education Director displays some of the materials purchased thanks to the grant. The San Diego Indian Mission is very grateful for your support in obtaining these useful tools to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church!

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

KESHENA, Wisconsin



First Holy Communicants after receiving the Sacrament.

The young First Holy Communicants of St. Michael's Parish celebrated their First Holy Communion. The grant from the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions supports the Religious Education Program in the parish. The funds are utilized to not only purchase supplies and support the catechists, but have also been used to hold retreats for families with First Holy Communicants in preparation of the sacrament.



ST. ANDREW'S MISSION

PENDLETON, Oregon



The Confirmation class participants



The First Communion class participants

Parish Updates

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH

ISLETA PUEBLO, New Mexico

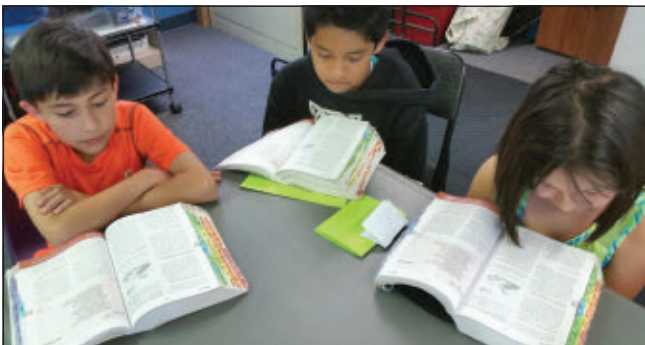
St. Augustine Church has a Religious Education Program that serves 128 students from Grade 1 to 7 as well as High School. With each passing year the number of children participating increases.

The program teaches catechism to the children as well as provides supplies such as rosaries to the community. The students recite the Rosary every Saturday prior to Mass. The program also provides Bibles for students who have received First Holy Communion to assist them in growing in their faith. Confirmation candidates watch videos on Saints lives so as to become familiar with the story behind the celebrated Saints. The program seeks to have confirmation students continue their faith journey by becoming involved in parish life as lectors or extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

Catechists for the Religious Education Program receive ongoing formation classes to receive certification. Teachers and catechists are from the parish community and give their time selfishly and graciously to teach youth the Catholic Faith, leading them to fulfill their Holy Sacraments.



First Communion Religious Education class



Children's Bible study group

ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION SCHOOL

WINNEBAGO, Nebraska

St. Augustine Indian Mission School has a Religious Education Program that teaches catechism on a weekly basis to children at the mission. Students served range from Kindergarten to 6th grade. The program currently provides Religious Education to 15 students at the mission. The school principal, Don Blackbird, serves as the Religious Education Coordinator. In addition to teaching catechism to the students the program participates in the School of Faith meeting for the teachers. The day long meetings coordinated by the Archdiocese of Omaha provide professional development and the opportunity for the teachers to grow in their knowledge of the Catholic Faith which they can then pass on to the students. The sessions enable the teachers to experience a diversity of parishes and fellow Catholic schools while still participating in adult faith formation classes and Mass.



Principal Don Blackbird with a student of the Religious Education Program



Sister Frances teaching a child

Father Sands' Recent Visits

Since the last issue of The Sentinel, Fr. Henry Sands has visited various communities and celebrations. Here are some of his journeys.



GREENVILLE, South Carolina: Fr. Henry Sands dropped by a gym class at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School. Others include (back row, left to right) St. Anthony's Pastor, Fr. Patrick Tuttle, OFM; Kathleen Merritt, Director of the Ethnic Ministries for the Diocese of Charleston, SC; Fr. Henry Sands; St. Anthony's Principal Sally Barker; and St. Anthony's Coach Carlos Howard.



ALEXANDRIA, Louisiana: Fr. Henry Sands and members of the Board of Directors of the National Tekakwitha Conference at their headquarters in Alexandria, LA on Saturday, November 5, 2016: (from left to right) Gail Rando, Geri Kanesta-Rycher, Sr. Kateri Mitchell, SSA, Fr. Henry Sands, Fr. Michael Carson, Gina Shontz, Veronica Valandra, Lisa Franqui, Cathy Vasquez and Pierre Solet.



GREENVILLE, South Carolina: Paintings and sculptures are part of the inspiration at the new St. Anthony of Padua School. This is a painting of St. Kateri Tekakwitha by a Greenville area artist. From left to right: Fr. Patrick Tuttle, OFM, and Fr. Henry Sands.



LOS ANGELES, California: Fr. Henry Sands and Deacon Manny Robles at the City of the Angels Kateri Circle Monthly Mass at St. Marcellinus Parish in Commerce, CA on January 1, 2017.



LEXINGTON, South Carolina: Cathy Nelson and Members of the "Keepers of the Word" Drum Team; Chief Gene Norris (PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation); Victoria Norris (wife of Chief Norris); Mary Louise Worthy (Vice Chief Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation) at the Diocese of Charleston Native American Catholics Heritage Day which was held at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Lexington, SC on November 12, 2016.





Let's make Lent count!

A LOT OF THINGS GO IN AND OUT OF OUR MINDS, almost 24/7. The daily “traffic” is enormous: books, magazines, Internet, radio, iPhones, videos, personal conversations, music, disagreements and arguments, banal sitcoms, negative humor, ridicule of people, lies, verbal attacks on ourselves and others. Do we exercise any control over this barrage? We can, you know.

Read carefully this Scripture passage from Paul's Letter to the Philippians:

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Now, an overall assault on what you allow in your mind is not a wise way to go about this. We start with one area. One area that you know allows negative input into your thoughts; negative input that most often has a detrimental emotional effect.

Lent is traditionally a time to fast, to give alms (care for the poor) and

to pray. I would propose that for this Lent you consider “fasting” from one or two areas of media input – maybe a particular TV program, website, radio program or magazine that, if you are honest, you know causes you to experience anger or mockery, pessimism, sarcasm, dissatisfaction of one kind or another, or disregard

for others. In other words, it produces bad fruit.

Then, in its place, make a decision to actually read one good book or listen to a good faith-filled CD. Secondly, read a psalm daily and read the Gospel for the day. Do this each day for six weeks and I can almost guarantee that your understanding of who you are in God's sight will increase. You will begin to see more clearly your purpose in life and how God wants to use you for the good of others. Lent is a time to assess where we are: to continue on the right path or to get back on the right path to God. Don't let this Lent be like any other season of the year. It is special; there is great grace for conversion available. But God will never force you. You have free will. Don't drift. Take a stand. Make a choice. (Remember, in your reading of Scripture, the word has real power; it imparts great grace to desire change and imparts courage to do it. Read Scripture daily – it is the living Word!

The second area of fasting to consider is this: your speech. What you say, what topics you introduce into a conversation or an argument or a heated discussion of some kind or in a time of relaxation and recreation will reflect in some way how and what you are thinking. Again, listen to Paul:

“But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices, and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator...Put on then as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience,

forbearing one another and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body; and be thankful ...” (Col 3:12-17)

You were literally made new in baptism. You are a son or daughter of God. In this life, you and all Christians are called to reveal the beauty and the wisdom, the love and the mercy of our Father in heaven. If we follow the two Scripture passages given here, and put into it the necessary sacrifice to change our thinking and our speech, we really will become disciples of Christ in the New Evangelization!

Ask the help of the Holy Spirit. He hears your prayer and is more eager to help than you are in asking! Plans and projects have their place but if we are not converted ourselves how can we be bearers of the best news anyone could ever hear? This Year of Faith is a great season of grace in the Church if we open our hearts, our minds to receive it. Six weeks of sacrifice for new life, new faith, new hope. I don't know of a better offer!

At the end of Lent, would you send me a paragraph or two (no more) telling me of the change in your life and the graces that have come to you/your family/among friends during this Lenten season?



SISTER ANN SHIELDS

is a renowned author and a member of the Servants of God's Love. @srannshieldssgl



An American Missionary

Saint Katharine Drexel

Feast Day: March 3

St. Katharine Drexel was born to a rich and charitable family in Philadelphia in 1858. She traveled often with her family, and she was moved by the need of Native Americans in the West. When she was granted an audience with Pope Leo XIII during a trip to Europe, he suggested that Katharine herself become a missionary.

Despite various marriage proposals and great wealth, she joined the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh, and later founded her own religious congregation, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who were dedicated to ministering to African-Americans in the South and Native Americans in the West.

Throughout her life, St. Katharine used her inheritance of \$20 million to build a dozen schools for Native Americans and more than 100 rural and inner-city schools for blacks. She died in 1955 at the age of 96 after spending her life as a missionary, and was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000.



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Don't miss the
**78th Annual
Tekakwitha
Conference**

*The theme of the conference is
"Loving One Another
through the
Spirit of St. Kateri."*

The Conference will be held
in RAPID CITY, South Dakota
from July 19-23, 2017
at the Best Western Ramkota Inn.
Please visit the Tekakwitha Conference
website for more information!
www.tekconf.org