

The Sentinel

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Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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

Mission

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

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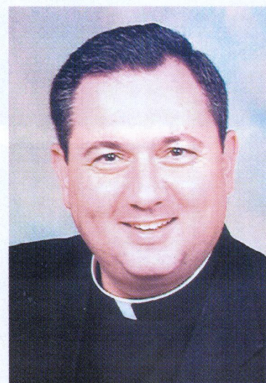
Office of the Vice-Postulator for the Cause of

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, PA

A circle of cosmic goodness

Dear Mission Family,



The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nest in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours... Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were. The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves.

- Black Elk, Oglala
In this issue, I invite the reader to experience the "power of life" and "a great circle" of mission and ministry through narrative and photos. Please travel with me to the single Native American parish in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, *Congregation of the Great Spirit*. This parish serves approximately 400 registered families of mixed Native American tribes: Chippewa, Potawatomi, Oneida, and Mohawk, to name a few.

The parish was established in 1989 and continues to be served by Father Ed Cook. He is beloved by the people and is very encouraging and supportive of the parish ministries, i.e. the food bank and the clothing bank. As Gwen LeMieux-Petrovic, a volunteer pointed out during my tour, "everyone works together" and Cathy Teschner, another volunteer beautifully expressed, "there is strength in communal prayer."

Look closely as Mark Thiel, archivist from Marquette University, shares a glimpse into a collection of American Indian hymnals, written in both English and Native American tongues from the 18th and 19th centuries. *Listen* to the cadence of the drum, M-A-R-C-H - F-O-R - L-I-F-E as seminarians from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana visit the Mission House. *Feel* the presence of a by-gone era of evangelization ever new on the Oklahoma plains where monks established an abbey to minister to Native Americans. There is much more inside these pages that encircles a rich and fruitful harvest of ministry. I invite the reader to experience...

During this beautiful Easter Season, let us celebrate with joy the "great circle" of Paschal Mystery, and the "power of life" we have in Christ. Alleluia!

On April 1, 2011, I celebrated my fourth anniversary as the Executive Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. Since my arrival in Washington, D.C., I continue to be engaged with many wonderful Native Americans and encouraged by the apostolic and educational projects.

I am humbled to have the opportunity to learn, grow and discover the goodness of Christ in serving Native Americans and supporting evangelization programs. Whether it is on an Indian reservation, an urban center, an Indian mission school or with an assembly of elders, I am blessed at that very moment and caught up in a circle of cosmic goodness.

You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles, and everything tries to be round.... The Sky is round, and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball, and so are all the stars.

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Great Spirit congregation in Milwaukee

The Congregation of the Great Spirit in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is blessed to have a vibrant and giving community. Clockwise, from photo at right: The sanctuary is beautifully appointed with Native American decorations; Gwen LeMieux-Petrovic is a faithful disciple in caring for the hungry; a painting of soon-to-be-beatified Pope John Paul II shows him totally immersed in the great native customs; and the Council of Elders and Friends pose for a photo during Father Wayne Paysse's visit.



Decades of service to the Native Americans of Milwaukee

By Tim Lanigan

American Indians have left their imprint on Wisconsin in many ways, especially in the towns, cities, and rivers named after Indian tribes. The name Wisconsin, itself, was a name given to the Wisconsin River by one of the Algonquian-speaking American Indian groups living in the area.

The largest city in Wisconsin, Milwaukee, which comes from the Algonquian phrase, "beautiful land," has been home to seven American Indian tribes. Almost 5,000 American Indians now live in Milwaukee.

Today, the traditions of those Indian cultures are being enhanced by the spirit of Christ at a special parish in Milwaukee, the Congregation of the Great Spirit.

In late January, Father Paysse made a special trip to this vibrant parish, where he shared a meal with the tribal elders of the congregation, visited with the volunteers who worked in a food pantry for the homeless, and viewed the native artifacts which adorn the church. He was escorted during the visit by Gwen Lemieux-Petrovic, administrative manager of the parish, and was also accompanied by Eva Diaz, the archdiocesan coordinator for intercultural ministries, and her assistant, Letzbia Martinez.

"What struck me most about my visit," Father Paysse says, "was the joy this community found in serving others. They are truly disciples of Christ, caring for each other with the same joy and devotion that the early disciples of the Church must have demonstrated to the world. These modern disciples bring their own culture, their own gifts, in a way that enriches the universal Church."

Father Paysse spent time with two Sisters from a religious order, Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother: Sister Margaret Troy and Sister Mary Mark Schilling. Between the two, they have given six decades of service to the American Indian community in Milwaukee.

Sister Mary Mark has an unusual background. She is an electrical engineer who not only serves the spiritual needs of the congregation, but also plays an active role in keeping the physical plant of the church and its property in good order. She arrived in 1982, joining Sister Margaret to work with the community.

Sister Margaret, who had previously served at a Potawatomi reservation, arrived in 1977 to work with what was originally an interdenominational group in Milwaukee. As the needs grew, a Catholic ministry was



Archbishop Jerome Listecki welcomes Father Wayne Paysse to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

established by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. "Maintaining a food pantry and clothing bank has been one important aspect of our service to the community," says Sister Margaret. "We've also offered lodging to serve as a bridge back to the community for women who have serious health issues."

"But what brings us together as a community, what inspires us, is the work all of us do in exploring the relationship between Indian culture and the Christian religion. Part of that exploration is something that is going on in the universal Church, a new appreciation of the earth we inhabit. American Indians have long encouraged respect for the environment, a good example for all of us in the Christian community. In turn, we examine common areas that find Gospel-oriented values that enhance the Native American culture."

"These devoted Sisters not only are serving the only Native American parish in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee with the gift of their religious lives," says Father Paysse, "they render a great support to the faithful and show by their good example what it means to be a true disciple of Christ."

Notre Dame Seminary visits Indian Mission House

A delegation of approximately thirty seminarians from Notre Dame Seminary, located in the Archdiocese of New Orleans were led by their Rector, Father Jose Lavastida and Father Joe Craft for the January 2011 March For Life in Washington, D.C. The pastoral excursion was an opportunity to be in solidarity with other individuals who recognize the importance of respect for all human life from the womb to the tomb. Afterwards, the seminarians enjoyed fellowship at the Mission House of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, hosted by Father W. Paysse, Executive Director. The home once belonged to St. Katharine Drexel, Mother Foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Mother Katharine was instrumental in supporting evangelization in both the Native American and African American missions.

The evening was a winning combination of mission and merriment. While enjoying a buffet supper that included

jambalaya (a Cajun rice dish with sausage, chicken and shrimp); the seminarians learned about the Catholic Indian Missions of the United States and the ongoing efforts of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference in addressing cultural diversity. In attendance was Father Allan Deck, S.J., Executive Director of the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church and Father Henry Sands, an American Indian priest from the Archdiocese of Detroit and a consultant to the Conference.



Blessed Kateri watches over seminarians, Notre Dame Seminary, Archdiocese of New Orleans





Some of the members of "Many Nations Kateri Circle" in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Diocese of St. Petersburg welcomes expanded Native American Ministry

By Gail Rando, Cherokee American Indian

The Diocese of St. Petersburg, through the Multicultural Ministry has

added to its wealth of diversity by welcoming the Native American Ministry as an active member. Since 2005, Native American Awareness Sunday has been celebrated at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Citrus Springs, but recently the Ministry has expanded throughout the diocese.

The core members of the Native American Ministry are affiliated with the National Tekakwitha Conference and are known by the name of "Many Nations Kateri Circle." We are a very diverse group of Native Americans and are descended from numerous nations, hence, our name.

Our goal is to promote our Native American Culture and Spirituality through our Catholic traditions, and to continue to share the gifts we bring to the Church. We are currently planning a dioc-

san-wide Native American Liturgy as well as a Day of Reflection for the spring of 2011.

For all of you who have prayed for this Ministry and for the blessings it will bring to our diocese, we thank you.

It is with great joy and enthusiasm that we begin this journey!

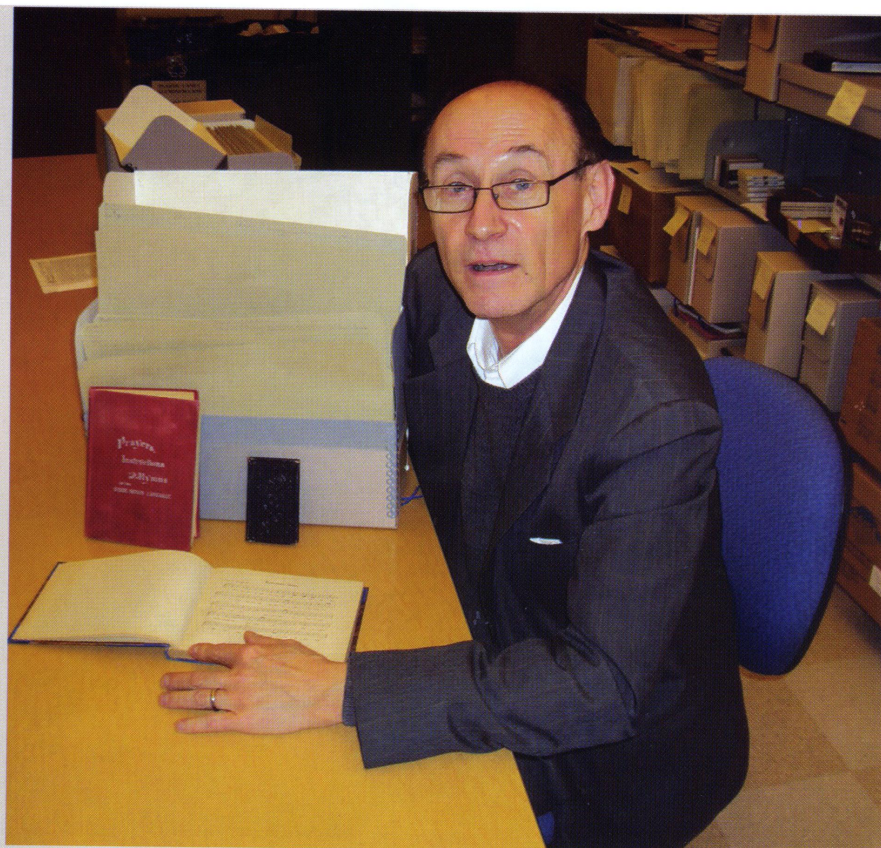


Collect Box Tops

Save the Box Tops logos found on your grocery items – each one is worth 10 cents for a school. Send your generous supply of Box Tops to the Black and Indian Mission Office, 2021 H Street, Washington, D.C. 20006 and we'll pool them to support the Catholic schools serving Black and Native American children.

www.blackandindianmission.org

Say it with music



By Father W. Paysse

St. Augustine tells us when we sing, we pray twice. It was a double blessing for me to spend time with Mark Thiel at Marquette University to survey the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions archives. As archivist, Mark is a walking encyclopedia. It was a graced moment when the small collection of Native American hymnals and sheet music was presented to me for review. As I opened the hymnals, I could smell the scent of ages past and it was music to my ears. The lyrics were written in both English and Native American tongues.

During my mission pastoral visits, I encourage singing hymns in the Native language at the mission schools, especially during the celebration of Mass. Music is a universal language and a starting point for mutual respect, appreciation and dignity of the other person. Music provides a gathering space and a safe circle to dialogue and learn about different cultures.

What are we doing today in the area of music to preserve the past and to use the present as a catalyst for evangelization and education? Do we

see music is potential to evangelize, to impact the classroom, the living room and the church-room? Jesus was sent as the first missionary by God the Creator to fill us with joy and hope. Jesus sends every baptized person into the world to sing love and chant goodness and glory!

I am conscious that we have a long way to go, but we need a renaissance in schools and parishes on reservations and urban areas where music can be part of the daily experience. Music and books are like magic carpets for students. With imagination and collaboration music can be easily adapted to the school curriculum. Is there anyone willing to try? Let me know, please!

Archives need your help

Can you help to increase the collection of American Indian, Alaskan Native and First Nation hymnals and sheet music for our archives? If you have copies or information about the aforementioned request, with or without both English and Native American language, please contact Father Paysse at info@blackandindianmission.org or (202) 331-8542. Thank you!

Proclamation

by the President of the United States

For millennia before Europeans settled in North America, the indigenous peoples of this continent flourished with vibrant cultures and were the original stewards of the land. From generation to generation, they handed down invaluable cultural knowledge and rich traditions, which continue to thrive in Native American communities across our country today. During National Native American Heritage Month, we honor and celebrate their importance to our great Nation and our world. America's journey has been marked both by bright times of progress and dark moments of injustice for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Since the birth of America, they have contributed immeasurably to our country and our heritage, distinguishing themselves as scholars, artists, entrepreneurs, and leaders in all aspects of our society. Native Americans have also served in the United States Armed Forces with honor and distinction, defending the security of our Nation with their lives. Yet, our tribal communities face stark realities, including disproportionately high rates of poverty, unemployment, crime, and disease. These disparities are unacceptable, and we must acknowledge both our history and our current challenges if we are to ensure that all of our children have an equal opportunity to pursue the American dream. From upholding the tribal sovereignty recognized and reaffirmed in our Constitution and laws to strengthening our unique nation-to-nation relationship, my Administration stands firm in fulfilling our Nation's commitments.

Over the past 2 years, we have made important steps towards working as partners with Native Americans to build sustainable and healthy native communities. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act continues to impact the lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including through important projects to improve, rebuild, and renovate schools so our children can get the education and skills they will need to compete in the global economy. At last year's White House Tribal Nations Conference, I also announced a new consultation process to improve communication and coordination between the Federal Government and tribal governments.

This year, I was proud to sign the landmark Affordable Care Act, which permanently reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, a cornerstone of health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. This vital legislation will help modernize the Indian health care

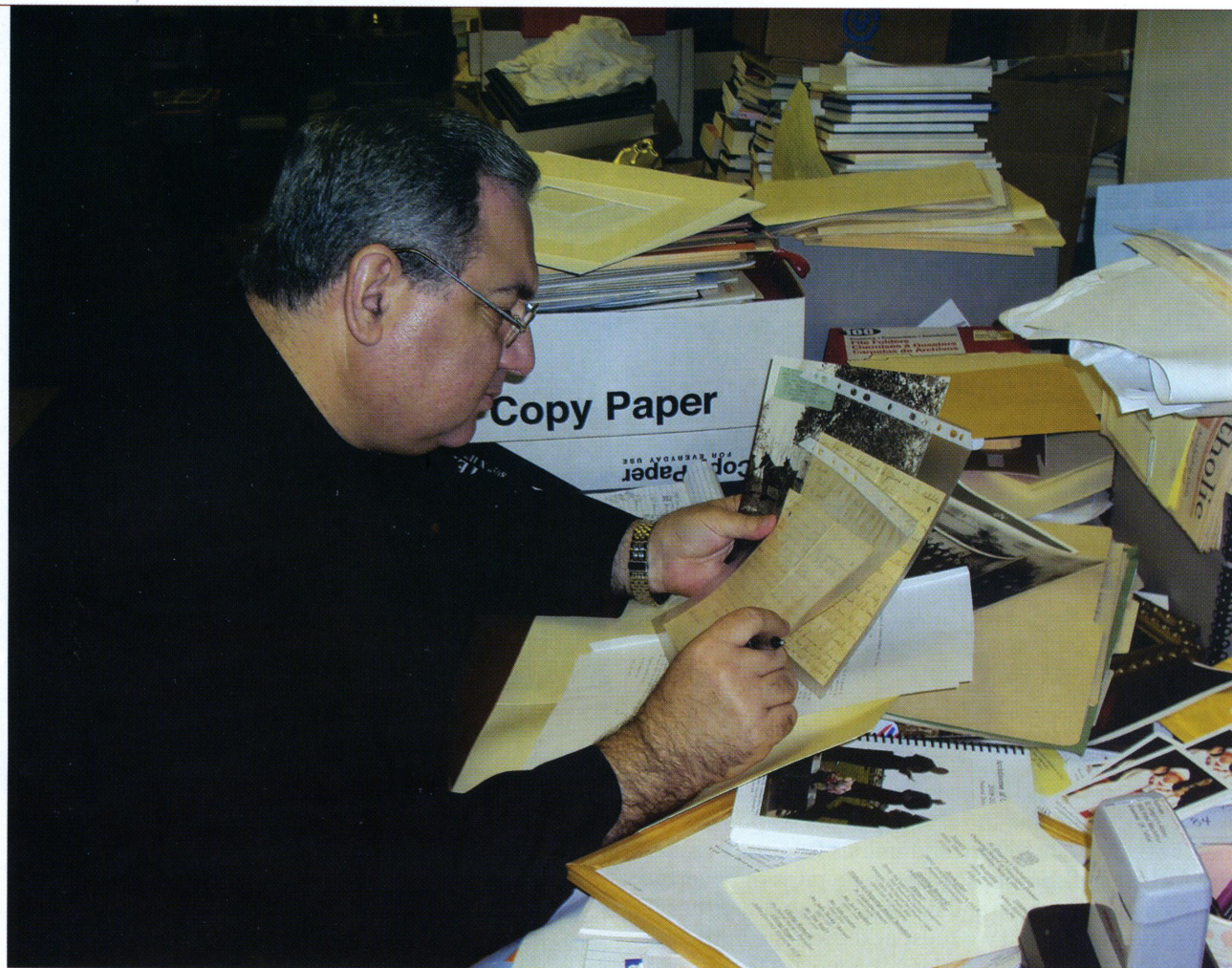


Lawrence Chatagnier photo/Bayou Catholic

system and improve health care for 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. To combat the high rates of crime and sexual violence in Native communities, I signed the Tribal Law and Order Act in July to bolster tribal law enforcement and enhance their abilities to prosecute and fight crime more effectively. And, recently, my Administration reached a settlement in a lawsuit brought by Native American farmers against the United States Department of Agriculture that underscores our commitment to treat all our citizens fairly. As we celebrate the contributions and heritage of Native Americans during this month, we also recommit to supporting tribal self-determination, security, and prosperity for all Native Americans. While we cannot erase the scourges or broken promises of our past, we will move ahead together in writing a new, brighter chapter in our joint history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2010 as National Native American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 26, 2010, as Native American Heritage Day. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA



Visit to St. Gregory's University and Abbey

A tall cross stands amid the beautiful trees at St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Above, Father Wayne Paysse reviews letters written by St. Katharine Drexel in the monastic archives at the St. Gregory's Abbey. Father Paysse also visited St. Gregory's University.



This serene scene (top) shows the cemetery and impressive church at St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Above is a photo of Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B. At left, Father Paysse meets Dr. David Marker, President of St. Gregory's University.

collage

A look around our missions, schools, churches and classrooms

Duluth Harvest Mass

Sister Rose Messingschlager, standing at right, Director of Native American Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth, is shown with members of the Kateri Circle for the Annual Harvest Mass.



Easter Message

When we pray the "Prayer of the Four Directions," we frequently mention the East as the home of the Rising Sun. At Easter we celebrate darkness becoming light, night giving way to the day that knows no sunset. The death and resurrection of the Word of God incarnate is an event of great love, it is the victory which has delivered us from the slavery of sin and death. This Paschal Mystery has changed the course of history, giving our human life renewed meaning. As women and men of faith, let us claim our heritage. "Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed." God bless you this Easter Season!



Lawrence Chatagnier photo/Bayou Catholic



Nancy Wiechec photo/Catholic News Service

Blessed Kateri: An Easter reflection

By Father W. Paysse

During the 2011 Easter season, invite Blessed Kateri to accompany us into this season of grace where we unite ourselves to Jesus, the Risen Lord. We pray: Risen Jesus we adore you and Blessed Kateri pray for us!

Blessed Kateri understands completely the mystery of the cross in the life of the Christian. We pray: Risen Jesus we adore you and Blessed Kateri pray for us!

Blessed Kateri underwent many, many hardships inflicted by those in her family and community. We pray: Risen Jesus we adore you and Blessed Kateri pray for us!

Blessed Kateri experienced disappointment, false condemnation, hurt and rejection. We pray: Risen Jesus we adore you and Blessed Kateri pray for us!

Blessed Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks, strengthen all American Indians, Alaskan Natives, First Nation Peoples and the whole world to cling to the Creator of the Universe with renewed faith, hope and love. We pray: Risen Jesus we adore you and Blessed Kateri pray for us! Amen.



From the office of the Vice-Postulator

Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, P.A.



The following questions were asked of me on January 3, this new year of 2011 – just where does the case for the Canonization of Blessed Kateri stand? Is there a case at the Vatican?

As the vice postulator I will give a review of my efforts to bring about the Canonization of Kateri. My appointment as the vice postulator for Kateri came from the Vatican July 5, 2005. I was named to assist Father John Paret, S.J., vice postulator, who became ill. Together we worked on a miracle and gathered documents. But it was determined there was no provable miracle. Father Paret, a wonderful Jesuit priest, died and I continued on.

When the miracle we had spent much time on was not accepted, I had to look elsewhere. In a few weeks another possible

miracle became known, maybe through the intercession of Father Paret in heaven. I immediately made a study and decided it was worth a case. There is a book to follow – Canonization, Theology, History, Process – and I read almost every page to know what had to be done.

A formal case had to be opened by a bishop – and it was. A tribunal of four namely – an Episcopal delegate, a Canon lawyer, a notary and an upscale medical doctor – had to be assigned by the bishop. I was officially named as vice postulator and I accepted. In Rome, Father Paul Molinari, S.J., was named the postulator.

For almost three years many hours of work were recorded by the Tribunal. Finally in September 2009 all documents were sent to the Vatican. The postulator in

Rome still had much to do including the gathering of information for a required book called the Positio. Father Molinari, not in the best of health, to show his deep interest in getting Blessed Kateri canonized, made a trip to the United States and worked with the Tribunal.

It is the policy of the Congregation of the Secretariat for the Canonization of Saints to work slowly and be certain of the facts of a case, and that in Kateri's case, there definitely is a first class miracle.

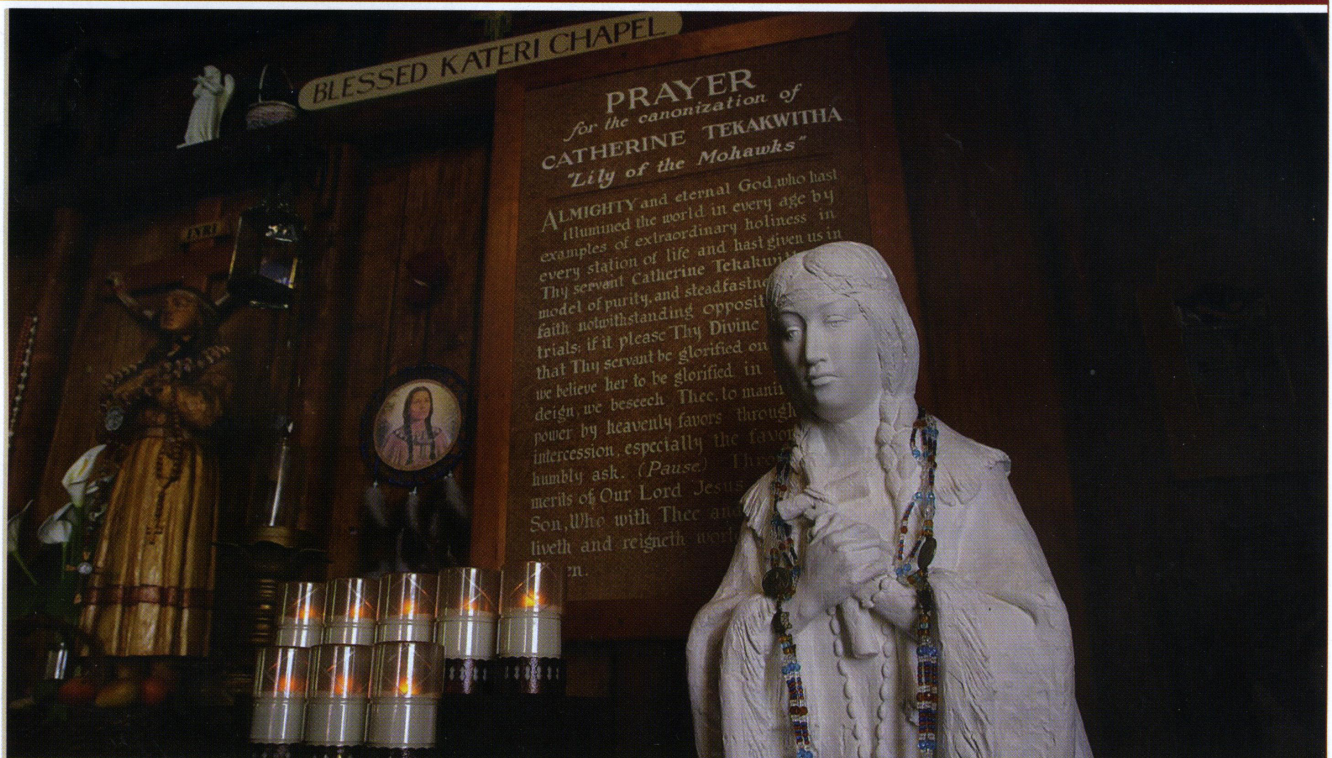
As vice postulator – my answer to the two questions asked – Yes, yes, the case is moving well and that we will have good news for Kateri in year 2011 – hopefully not many months away.

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A Pilgrimage of Healing with Kateri

Father Wayne Paysse, Director of The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions will be hosting "A Pilgrimage of Healing in the Footsteps of Blessed Kateri and the Saints," from July 3 to 9, 2011. The pilgrimage begins in Auresville, NY, where the Mohawk Indian woman, Kateri Tekakwitha was born and a visit, including Mass, to the Kateri Shrine in Fonda, NY. Other stops will include travel to Canada to visit Shrine of Notre-Dame-du-Cap, Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, the Basilica of Notre Dame and the St. Joseph Oratory. The trip concludes with a return to Auriesville for Mass at the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs, also known as the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap, of Denver will be participating in the pilgrimage. Cost is \$898 (not including airfare). For a brochure and to register, call Renaissance Group, LLC, at (800) 304-8259.

Nancy Wiechec photo/Catholic News Service

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