

The Sentinel

Volume 2, No. 2

News of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions • www.blackandindianmission.org

Summer 2011

**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

Board of Directors
Cardinal Justin F. Rigali
Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien
Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

Executive Director & Editor
Reverend Wayne C. Paysse

Managing Editor
Louis G. Aguirre

**Office of the Vice-Postulator
for the Cause of
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha**
Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, PA

Native American Retreat Portrait of Faith



The drive from Boise was a collection of paintings on an unblemished canvas: dancing rains, a symphony of snowflakes, rushing waters from a roadside river, majestic mountains in a shawl of frost, and crisp, cold air. What an artist the Great Spirit is – always and everywhere when we take the time to be attentive. I was on route to participate in the Native American Retreat for the Diocese of Boise at Sacred Heart Mission Church, Lapwai, Idaho.

The Diocese of Boise was erected by Pope Leo XIII, August 26, 1893 and it stretches 83,557 square miles across the entire state. The state has an approximate population of 1,532,200 with a Catholic population of 170,000.

Bishop Michael P Driscoll, MSW,
DD was installed March 18, 1999 and is the seventh Bishop of Boise.

The first Catholic contact in what is now Idaho came from French Canadian fur trappers in the mid-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Around 1815 a band of nineteen Iroquois migrated from Eastern Canada to Idaho. They brought with them the rudiments of the Catholic religion and often spoke of the necessity of having "black robes" to show them the way to heaven.

Over the next 25 years, the Salish (Flathead and Nez Perce) Tribes made four heroic journeys to St. Louis, MO in an attempt to procure a priest. In February, 1840, Fr. Pierre Jean DeSmet, S.J., was appointed superior of the Rocky Mountain Missions. He celebrated the first Mass in Idaho on July 22, 1840 at Henry's Lake. The first Catholic Church was built in 1843 by Fr. Nicholas Powel, SJ, on the St. Joe River, near the St. Maries.

Presently, Sacred Heart is pastored by Fr. Les Kish and boasts a congregation of Native Americans and non-natives. The weekend retreat was led by Sr. Kateri Mitchell, SSA, Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference. The parishioners profited from stimulating presentations from Sr. Kateri and from inspiring interactions with one another. Highlights of the weekend included a Healing Circle, the presence of Bishop Mike, Christine King (Ethnic Ministry Director) and Marcie Wilske (Chancellor).

Personally, I felt a deep inner peace, as participants shared their hearts and their stories --- oh yes, and delicious food. At the end of the retreat I realized I had witnessed God Creating new portraits of reconciliation and community building in this family of faith.

INSIDE

'Basic Directions' 2

Pechanga Nation 3

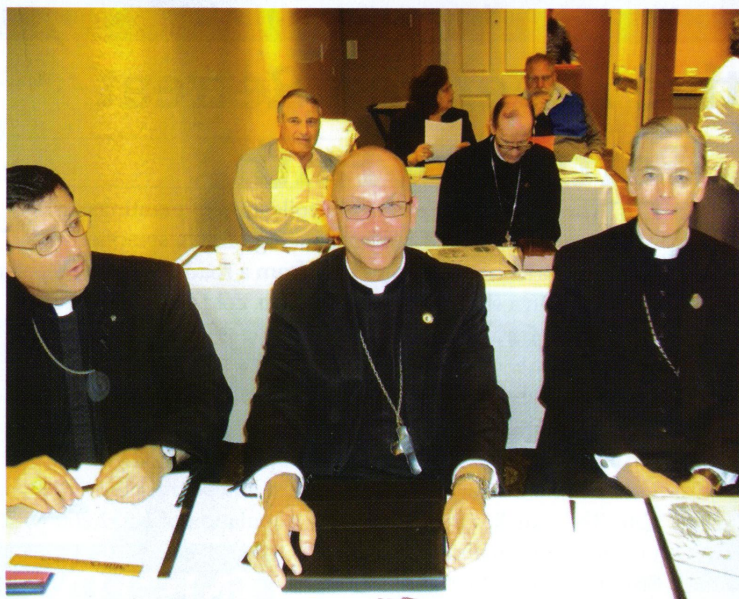
Los Angeles 4

Lapwai, Idaho 6-7

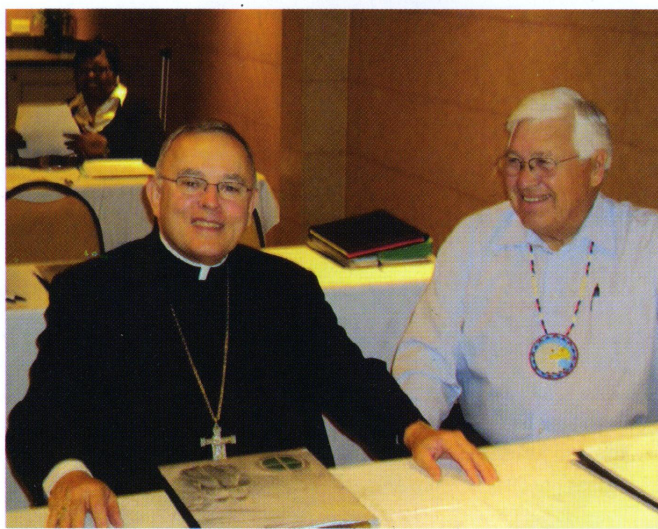
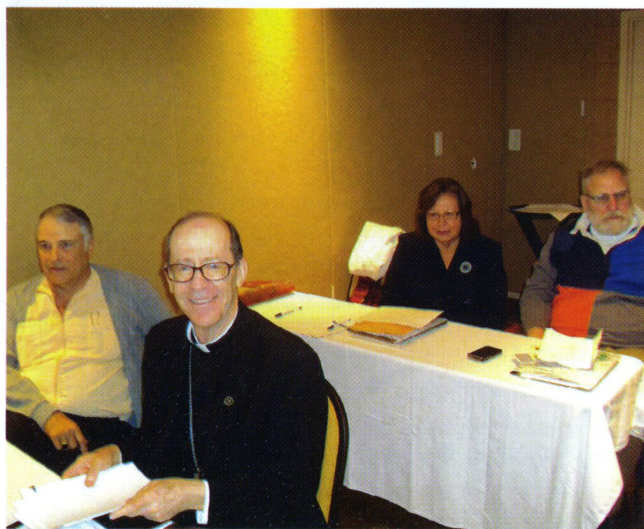
New Orleans 8

Visit us at www.blackandindianmission.org

'Basic Directions' Workshop



Bishops of the United States Catholic Conference Sub Committee on Native American Affairs attended a "Basic Directions" workshop held in the diocese of Phoenix. Photo above (left) shows Auxiliary Bishop Lee A. Piche of St. Paul-Minneapolis, Bishop James Wall of Gallup and Bishop Alexander K. Sample of Marquette. Also attending photo above (right) are Father Henry Sands and Juanatano Cana. Photo below (left) shows Bishop Ronald Herzog of Alexandria and Bishop Thomas Olsmted of Phoenix, (foreground) Veronica Valandra and Father Ray Bucko, S.J. Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M.Cap, of Denver and Jerry Tuckwin are on photo below (right). The workshop offered participants insights into Native American Ministry and a sensitivity to culture.



Visit to Pechanga Nation

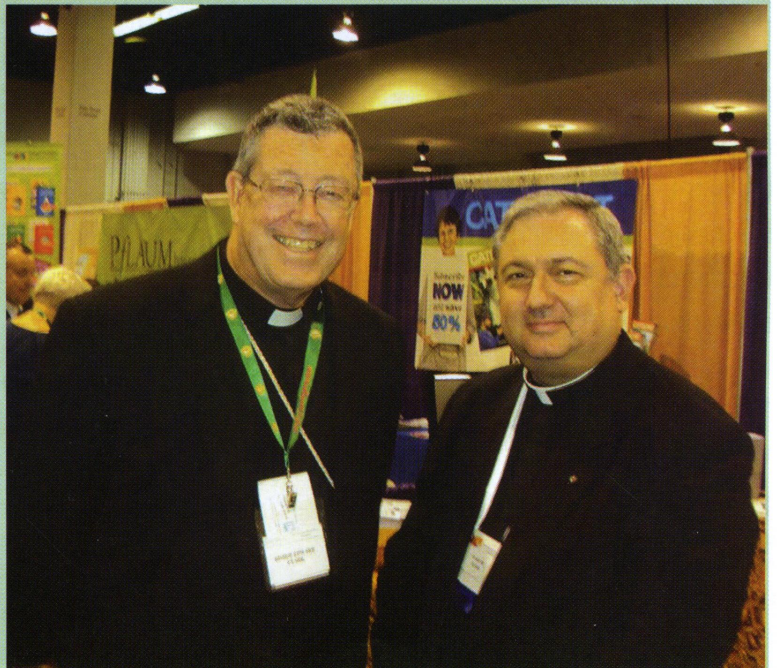


Father Wayne Paysse recently visited the Pechanga Reservation in California (Diocese of San Bernardino). Photos (clockwise from above left) show the beautiful interior of St Michael's Catholic Church, Father Earl Henley visiting with elders and family at the reservation, and the imposing and massive "Sacred Great Oak" which has been the pride of the reservation for generations.





Catholic Native Americans participated in the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress in March 2011. Among them were the Los Angeles City of Angels Kateri Circle, shown above with the Sacred Drum. Theme of the conference was "Hold Firm . . . Trust!" In photo below (right) Auxiliary Bishop Edward W. Clark of Los Angeles poses for a photo with Father Wayne Paysse.





George Washington University Catholic students (photo above) from the Newman Center and their chaplain, Father Greg Shaffer, visits the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions house which is located on the university's campus. The young adults hold a map of the Native American reservations in the United States. Photo at left shows Phil Tran, director of Ethnic Ministry for the Archdiocese of Seattle, holding beautiful prints of Native American Artwork done by a local Native American artist.



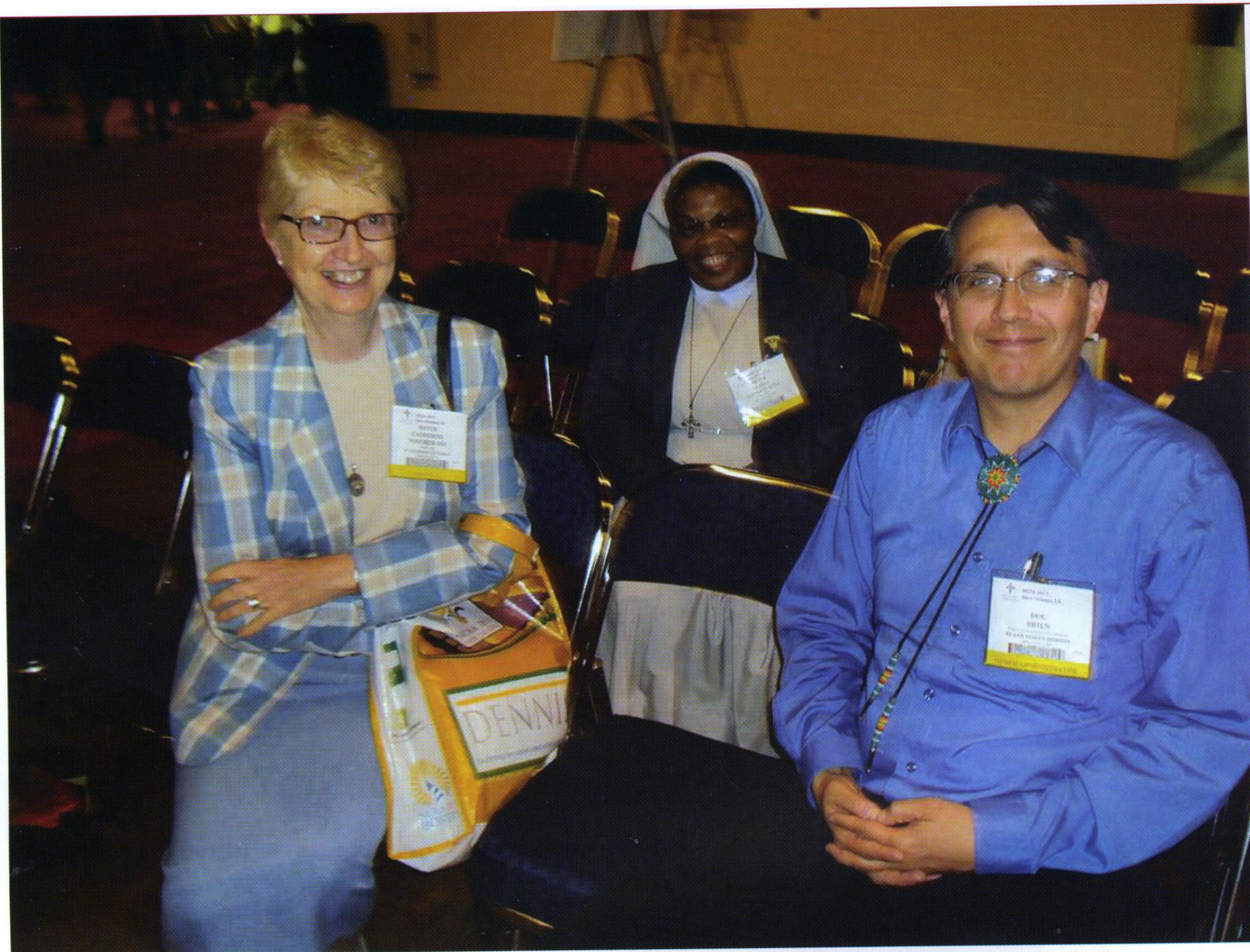
Native American retreat in Idaho





The Native American Retreat for the Diocese of Boise was held at Sacred Heart Mission Church in Lapwai, Idaho. Photos on previous page, clockwise from top, show Father Wayne Paysse visiting with the Kateri Circle and parishioners in Lapwai. Jesuit Father Thomas Connelly, SJ, retired pastor of Sacred Heart Church addresses the retreatants. Bishop Michael Driscoll, MSW, of Boise welcomes Sister Kateri Mitchell, Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference. Sister Kateri served as retreat leader. Photos on this page, clockwise from top (left) show Father Jerry Graham, SJ, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, holding a print of an original icon of Blessed Kateri, Exterior of Sacred Heart Church in Lapwai and three young sisters dressed in their regalia and dancing to the delight of the retreat participants.





NCEA Convention

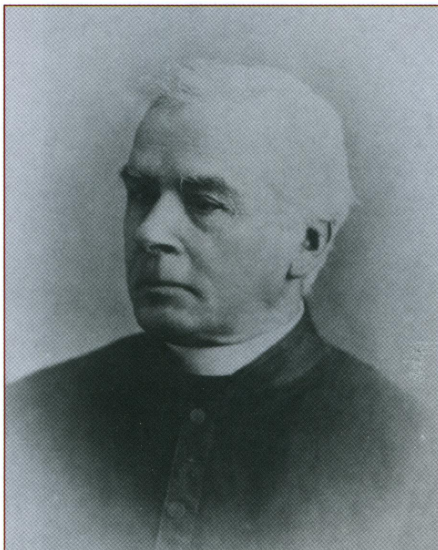
The National Catholic Education Association held its annual convention in New Orleans this Spring 2011. Thousands participated in the many workshops, talks and other presentations. Also attending were, photo above (from left), Sister Catherine Noecher, O.S.F., St. Anthony of Padua School, Greenville, SC; Sister Gloria Agumagu, H.H.C.J., St. Augustine School, Washington, D.C.; Doc Brien, St. Ann's Indian Mission, Belcourt, N.D.





Our Lady of Solitude

Father Wayne Paysse recently attended the consecration of Our Lady of Solitude Monastery Chapel in the Diocese of Phoenix. Bishop Thomas Olmstead of Phoenix, photo above, prepares for the Mass of Consecration. At left, parishioners and friends gather outside the monastery following the Mass.



Father Wayne Paysse, Executive Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, photo at right, and former director Msgr. Paul A. Lenz, who serves as Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, made a pilgrimage to the grave of the first executive director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, the Very Rev. Jean-Baptiste Brouillet (photo above). Father Brouillet is laid to rest in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.



Summer Special: Blessed Kateri Reflection

By Father Wayne Paysse

Images of summer can vary: a fishing boat, kids playing with a hose, a family picnic, fruit flavored popsicles ... the possibilities are limitless! My personal teen-summer-image-memories include our CYO group sitting on the side of a swimming pool, the smell of chlorine, seeing our faces in the cool, rippling waters below and feeling the hot sun on our backs.

However, at the moment, I'm thinking of a special summer image that inspires me. On July 14th we celebrate the feast of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. This "Lily of the Mohawks" and Iroquois maiden lived

in the 17th century. We're familiar with the story of her brief life, lived partly in New York and in Canada. Baptized at the age of 20, this gentle and hardworking woman was devoted to prayer and meditation. Kateri is victimized by mis-understanding when she refuses to marry announcing that "Jesus is my only spouse." She often prayed before a rough cross she carved in the forest. Kateri Tekakwitha, proclaimed "blessed" in 1980, is frequently pictured today holding a cross.

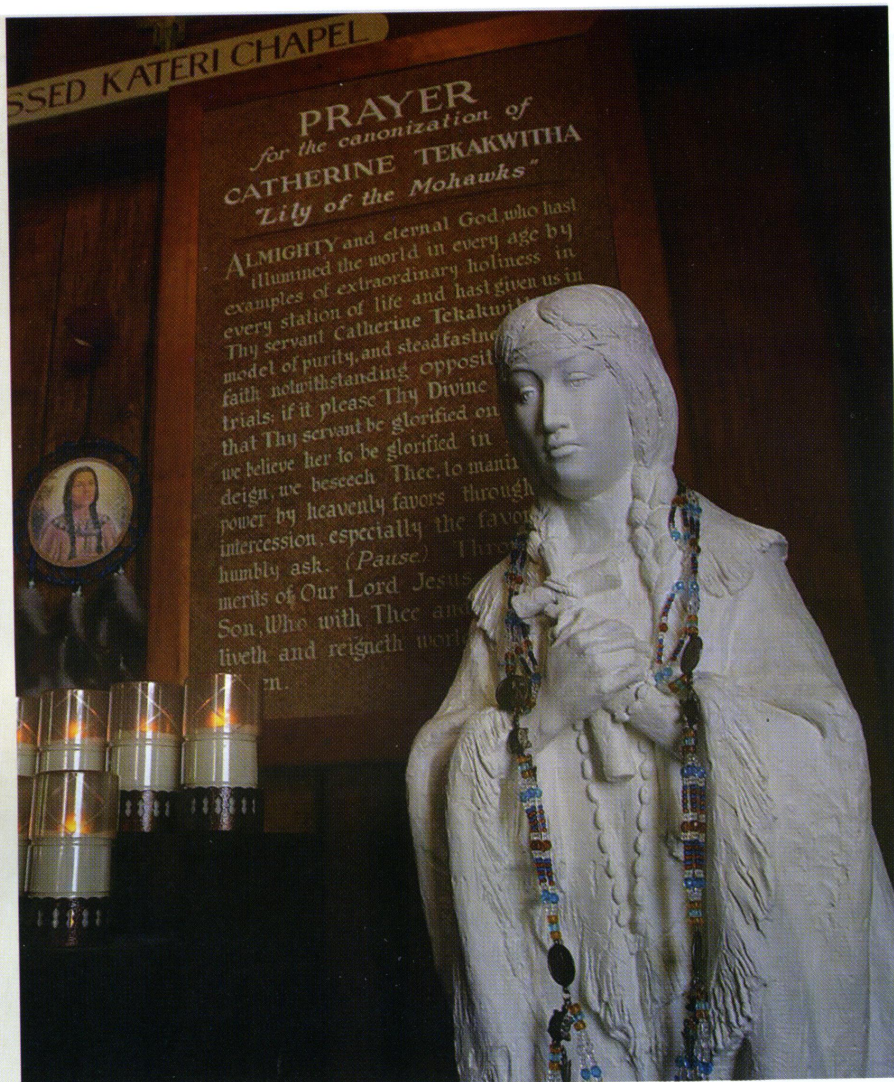
Do you have a favorite holy card or picture of Blessed Kateri? If not use the picture here. I suggest that you sit quietly with

the image and reflect on the following: 1) Look closely at the picture. What details do you notice in the artist's rendition? How does it appeal to your senses? 2) Imagine Blessed Kateri is in the room with you. — Talk with her, about your dreams, sorrows, hopes and concerns. Pray for her straightforward humility, calm resignation and spirit of joy, even in the midst of her crosses. 3) Ask Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha to intercede with Christ for you. End your prayer with gratitude to Blessed Kateri and close with her words at the time of death, "Jesus, I love you..."

PRAYER

For the Canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

O God, who, among the many marvels of Your Grace in the New World, did cause to blossom on the banks of the Mohawk and of the St. Lawrence, the pure and tender Lily, Kateri Tekakwitha, grant we beseech You, the favor we beg through her intercession; that this Young Lover of Jesus and of His Cross may soon be counted among her Saints by Holy Mother church, and that our hearts may be enkindled with a stronger desire to imitate her innocence and faith. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



From the office of the Vice-Postulator

Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, P.A.



In the last issue of the SENTINEL was explained the working program of a Postulator and a Vice Postulator, that both had to be named by the Vatican and that both had special areas of information to gather and report all materials to the Vatican. I gave the name of the Postulator in Rome, Father Paul Molinari, S.J., a priest very much dedicated to Blessed Kateri, and as Vice-Postulator, have here on the wall, my official assignment from the Vatican written in Latin.

It was pleasure to hear from many persons who said they were happy to learn the duties of the Postulator and the progress of the Cause to date.

In that same article it mentioned, after working from July of the year 2007, gathering needed hospital and medical

records and other pages of information, a box of documents two feet high was sent to the Vatican in Rome through the kindness of Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio of the Vatican Embassy here in Washington.

Nothing was heard from Rome until December 28, 2010, when an e-mail arrived informing us that the Cause was being studied. Other fax and e-mail letters requesting further details have been coming to the Postulator Office of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. As Postulator, I have been assisted by many people. Maggie Bunson of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who has written several books and many articles about Kateri, and her son, Matthew, a well known national journalist, have contributed much to the Cause of Blessed Kateri. Also, Father Edward Sherman, author of the

popular book on Kateri, and medical doctor, Mary Soha of Jacksonville, Florida.

And in Rome, at the Vatican, there is Cardinal Raymond J. Burke, who last July was appointed a member of the Secretariate for Canonizations. As the Bishop of La Crosse, Wisconsin, he had a very large statue of Blessed Kateri erected and dedicated at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. When Archbishop of St. Louis, he wrote an episcopal letter about Kateri which was circulated widely.

Now that the acceptance of the miracle for the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is so close, we desperately need more prayers to see it through to completion. Only THEN, can the Church joyfully call Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha - Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

☐ Please change my address.

(Attach old label.)

☐ Please add the name(s) indicated below.

(Use separate sheet of paper if needed)

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____



BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS

MISSION OFFICE
2021 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

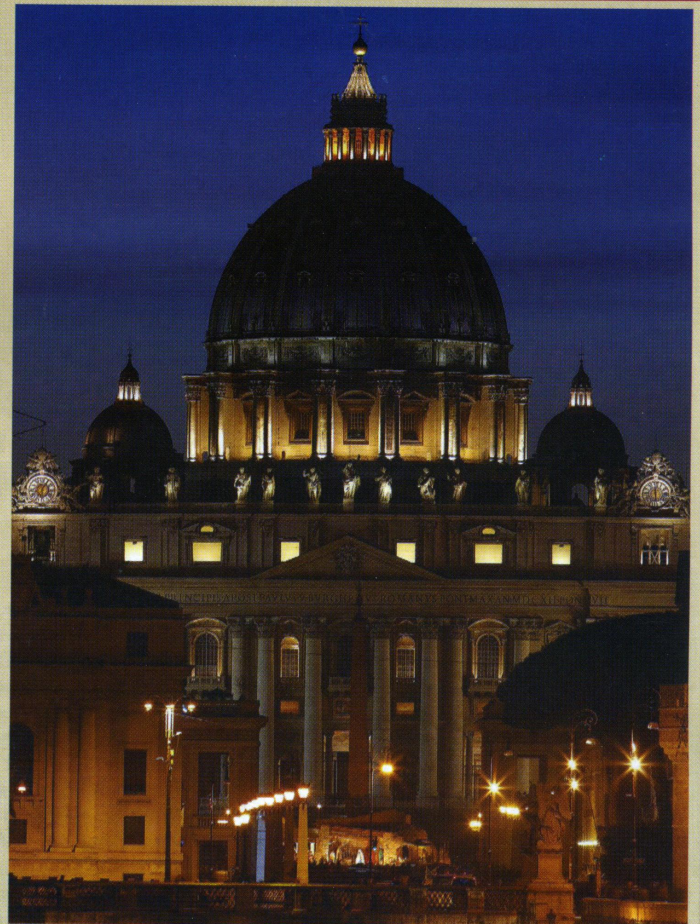
EST. 1874

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BEECHLER'S PRINTING

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Nancy Wiechec photo/Catholic News Service



Father Wayne Paysse, Executive Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, will be conducting **"A Roman pilgrimage of peace with Blessed Kateri"** to Italy Oct. 19-26, 2012. The trip will include visits to Montecatini, Florence, Siena, Assisi and Rome. Participating in the pilgrimage will be Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM, Cap., of Denver and Chairman of the Bishops Subcommittee for Native American Affairs. Cost is \$2389 (not including departure and fuel surcharges). **For a brochure and more information, please call Renaissance Group, LLC, at 1 (800) 304-8259.**

www.blackandindianmission.org