

The Sentinel

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Summer 2012

**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.

Mission Locations

Alabama	Montana
Alaska	Nebraska
Arizona	New Mexico
California	New York
Colorado	North Dakota
Idaho	Oklahoma
Louisiana	Oregon
Kansas	South Dakota
Michigan	Washington
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**Office of the Vice-Postulator
for the Cause of
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha**
Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, PA

Our Baptismal Call to Mission



Dear Mission Family,

Can it be true that summer is almost over and the kids are back in school or soon will be? The pool and the playground will no longer be filled with the sound of fun-loving youth and parents calling out, "come out of that pool" or "one person at a time on the giant slide" Or, "no pushing. . ."

So pleased to visit with you again! Here at the Mission Office in Washington, D.C., we haven't had time for pools or playgrounds, but occupied in securing all the necessary plans for the upcoming canonization of Blessed Kateri and engaged in the ordinary mission ministry of the office.

This issue of the Sentinel is filled with a variety of mission stories

and news between Rome and Birmingham. You will discover how each article impacts the call to discipleship and mission. In preparation for the Year Of Faith and the calling of the Bishops Synod in Rome by Pope Benedict XVI in October 2012, it is important for us to be mindful of our baptismal call to mission. Our Holy Father challenges us with the teaching of the New Evangelization, that mission is who we are and what we do, here and now. The Church is mission and we are called by virtue of our baptism to live the "Good News" of Jesus and to give witness to his life, death and resurrection.

As we prepare for the canonization of Blessed Kateri, she models for us the New Evangelization. Like Blessed Kateri, we are to trust, hope, pray, believe and forgive with our whole heart. Allow Blessed Kateri to lead us to the Creator. By our words and actions, people are to see Christ the Healer. Blessed Kateri's life is a gift for the Native American and all people across the globe.

It is my prayer that many of our sisters and brothers recommit their energy, sacrifices and resources to the ongoing work of evangelization on our Indian reservations, urban centers and mission schools. Please visit our website, www.blackandindianmission.org and give witness to your solidarity by making a gift to support our Catholic Indian Missions or use the enclosed envelope. Please make your check payable to the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. Thank you!

May Jesus and Blessed Kateri refresh your spirits in the healing pool of reconciliation. Let us move from the playground to the spiritually high-ground in professing our faith as Catholics. May Summer 2012 bring us to the threshold of new evangelization throughout Indian Country.

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From Cardinal to Cardinal: Cardinal Timothy Dolan (above left) displays a jersey of the St. Louis Cardinals at a luncheon following the Consistory. Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien (above right) smiles on his way to the ceremony. Outside St. Peter's Basilica following the Consistory are (from left) Father W. Carroll Paysse and Father Michael Kerrigan.

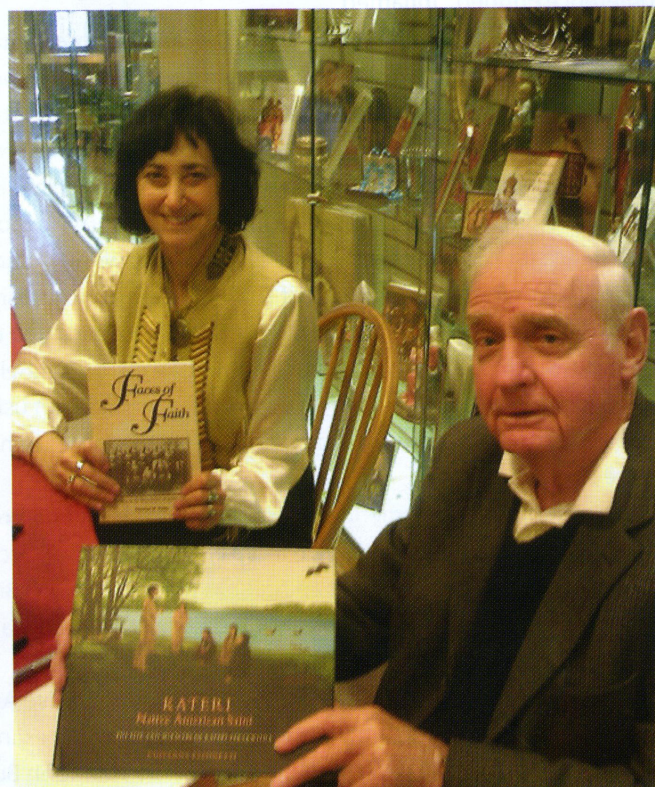




Fr. Paysse meets with Bishop Baker and delegation from the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, to discuss future plans to re-establish Camp Tekakwitha and construct a meeting place for American Indians throughout the diocese and region.



Sr. Kateri Mitchell and the Bishops Sub-Committee for Native American Affairs venerate the miraculous-relic of St. Kateri during their November 2011 meeting



Giovanni P and Tom Foley showcase each others book at the BCIM book signing. National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC

'Inflamed by the Vision'

The Diocese of Gaylord is one of seven Roman Catholic Dioceses in the state of Michigan; established on July 20, 1971. The 11,171 square miles of the diocese is comprised of territory which includes the 21 most northern counties of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Among the earliest Catholics in the area were the Native Americans living in this region and the early missionaries were experts in learning the languages and cultures of these populations. Thanks to a grant from the Black and Indian Mission Office, the Diocese of Gaylord hosted a two-day conference entitled, "Inflamed



Bishop Bernard A. Hebda welcomes participants

by the Vision" to help better understand the contemporary challenges of Native American inculturation and to further engage lay leadership within the Native American Catholic community.

The diocese enlisted the help of Father John Hatcher, SJ, a noted expert on inculturation and lay leadership development having worked for more than 20 years with Lakota Indians through the Diocese of Rapid City. The first day of the conference was specifically geared for Tribal and Church leadership in an effort to reflect on the past and look toward the future. The second day was open to anyone interested in learning more about Native American inculturation and evangelization. Attendance for both days was above expectations with around 60 people on Monday and 85 on Tuesday. Both days were filled with wonderful experiences of sharing and reconciliation. A 'Talking Circle' closed the meetings on the first day. On Tuesday, October 4, the Feast of St. Francis lent itself nicely to the day, and as the participants brought forth water from their homes to co-mingle in a fountain as "Make me a Channel of Your Peace" was sung. Fr. Hatcher then addressed the group specifically about enculturation and evangelization using concrete examples from his work on the Lakota Reservations in South Dakota. He shared materials and anecdotes of his experience to help guide the Diocese of Gaylord in our future efforts.

After a traditional Native American feast of baked fish and fry bread, he afternoon offered those present to attend three breakout sessions of their choice. Options included: Kateri Circles and Alcohol as Part of the Native American Culture; Prayers in the Native American Language; a presentation on Bishop Baraga; a discussion on lay leadership; Native American Music in the Liturgy; and a presentation of Native American Traditions, including Ghost Suppers, Indian Legends, smudging and Pow Wow etiquette.

The conference concluded with a Mass incorporating Native American traditions at St. Mary Cathedral. Bishop Bernard Hebda was the celebrant with Fr. Hatcher and several diocesan priests as concelebrants. Both the Men and Women's drum groups served as music ministers at the liturgy and Mr. John Bussey led the congregation in praying the Lord's Prayer in the Native American language and in singing a Native American hymn.

"As we continue celebrating the 40th anniversary of our Diocese, I think this conference was a wonderful first step in our efforts to explore how we might minister together in the future and best serve the Native American community in our diocese," Bishop Hebda said. "I am very appreciative for the efforts of the Committee for planning this event and for the grant from the Black and Indian Mission Office which made the day possible."

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Clockwise from above left, Mass included drummers and the Woodland Singers; Bishop Hebda chats with participants, including Linda Woods; Arlene Naganashe gives an inspirational talk in one of the breakout sessions; Father John Hatcher, S.J., gives the keynote address. Attendance for the two-day conference was above expectations with 60 people participating on Monday and 85 on Tuesday.





The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions participated in the United States Mass Association. Among those preparing for Mass are Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami and Father Allan Deck, former Executive Director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Cultural Diversity Committee. Above right is the Honorable Miguel Humberto Diaz, United States Ambassador to the Holy See, who gave a talk to the group.

NDS seminarians leave the BCIM Mission House with smiles and fond memories from their stay during the Walk For Life March





Ceramic Easter eggs by artists from the Jemez, Laguna, and Tigua Pueblos in New Mexico and Texas displayed in a "porcupine" style black ash basket by a Ho Chunk basket-maker from Wisconsin. Mark G. Thiel, archivist for the Black and Indian Mission Office at Marquette University, discovered and collected these works while visiting Native American communities since the 1990s. Photograph by Brian Cumming, BDARC Images, North Hudson, Wisconsin.



From the office of the Vice-Postulator

Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, P.A.



When I was appointed to be the Vice Postulator for the Cause for Canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha in April 2007, I soon became aware that there would be many articles to write and many talks to deliver. Fortunately, a possible miracle appeared, and all writing and lectures then naturally centered around Blessed Kateri, asking her intercession for the cure.

A tribunal of four – two bishops, a medical doctor, and a priest notary – was appointed to study hundreds of pages of information from doctors, hospital records and testimony from witnesses on the Lummi Indian Reservation in Washington, where the young man who needed the miracle lived. Hundreds and hundreds of people devoted to Blessed Kateri and

others from all over North America were also praying to Blessed Kateri for the miracle's success.

For almost three years the tribunal and I worked on the necessary documents required by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. During that time, in my many talks I relied on one word to encourage people to keep praying. That one word was "hopeful."

We who were working on helping the Vatican authenticate the miracle were convinced that a miraculous healing had indeed occurred. People would often ask: "Where does the cause now stand?" "What do you think about the success of your work?" "Do you think the secretariat for canonizations will approve of your case?" To these and many other

questions, there was only one response: "It is hopeful."

As my role as vice postulator for Blessed Kateri's cause comes to an end, I am totally convinced that the Holy Spirit was behind this from the beginning. It was Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore, at the time the chairman of the Bureau of the Catholic Indian Missions, who first thought of trying to get Kateri canonized. I believe the Holy Spirit inspired him and that the Holy Spirit was in charge throughout the process.

For more than 300 years, since her death in 1680, it has been prayers to Blessed Kateri. Upon her canonization on Oct. 21, we will gladly offer our prayers to St. Kateri Tekakwitha!

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Nancy Wiechec photo/Catholic News Service



There are limited spaces available (on a first-come, first-served basis) for the Oct. 18-24 official pilgrimage for the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha in Rome. For more information please contact Renaissance Group, LLC, 20897 Forest Court, Potomac Falls, VA 20165. Telephone (800) 304-8529. Email: info@rengp.com; Website: www.rengp.com.

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