Volume 4, No. 1

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

Summer 2013

Representatives of the 2013 El Paso planning committee process in at the **Grand Entry with** the traveling icon of Saint Kateri. The icon was passed on to the committee planning next year's 75th anniversary gathering in Fargo, N.D.



Visit us at www.blackandindianmission.org



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.

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Executive Director & Editor

Reverend W. Carroll Paysse

Managing Editor

Louis G. Aguirre

Communication Director

Patrick J. Finn

communications@blackandindianmission.org

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New Website launched

Mission Office staff in Washington worked hard all summer to reinvigorate our website at www. blackandindianmission.org. Through a new partnership with our grant recipients all over the country, the website will become the "go-to" place to see up-to-date news about what's happening in Catholic Native and African American communities. Check it out today! While you're at it, follow us on Twitter (@MissionsBIMO); like us on Facebook; and tell your friends to sign up for our mailing list at the website too.

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From the Executive Director

Let's carry on the mission to evangelize today!

William Shakespeare says it best: "Summer's lease hath all too short a date." Not long ago, I was visiting the U.S. Botanic Gardens here in Washington, D.C., where I was welcomed with a canvas of bursting colors: red, yellow, purple and orange flowers so beautifully appointed to each branch as if God Himself placed each one there for my admiration. In fact, I stooped to draw closer to



the uniqueness of each floral creation. But now, it all wanes and the peak moment of creation passes as it reincarnates into a second season of new beauties of vines, bushes, and trees.

For the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and the intertwining lives of our Indian families and their growing children, it is no different. The 2013-2014 academic year has begun and it is filled with an array of activity both inside and outside the classroom as it records posterity at a record rate. Enclosed in these leaf-thin pages, you will no doubt experience the joy of renewed friendships at the 2013 Tekakwitha Conference, held this year in El Paso, Texas. Be sure to read the article from our new friends participating in the Conference from the Archdiocese for Military Services. The 2013 theme was Celebrating Faith, Culture, and Tradition.

The Tigua Indians, the 2013 planning committee, and their collaborators hosted an outstanding Tekakwitha Conference! All experienced an inspiring pilgrimage to the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo where Mass was celebrated under the twinkling stars of the desert sky. Be sure to mark your calendar now for the 2014 Tekakwitha Conference, scheduled for July 23-27, 2014, in Fargo, N.D. I strongly encourage you to bring your family and friends to the 2014 Tekakwitha Conference because this will be our 75th Anniversary!

Savor a collage of Saint Kateri feast day celebrations and join a traditional Indian canoe journey.

Enjoy a reprint from the archives of Father Ted Zuern's classic Sentinel column, "Bread and Freedom, Justice and Faith." Discover the tireless labor of our missionary teachers at Saint Augustine Indian Mission in the Archdiocese of Omaha where students are making great strides with their reading skills. Meet Father Henry Sands, a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit, serving the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. as the Associate Director for Native American Affairs in the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church.

Be sure to order your copy (back page) of the exciting new DVD, "Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: a Pilgrimage into Her Heart"; it will be released in the weeks ahead. The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and the Tekakwitha Conference are once again teaming up for an exquisite pilgrimage to New York and Canada in our 2014 Saint Kateri Pilgrimage of Praise!

Tell your family and friends about our newly designed website with engaging stories and photos of Indian programs and projects across the United States. Visit us at www.blackandindianmission.org and let us hear from you! We want you to share with us your interests, stories, and celebrations. Take your camera with you to church, pow-wows, parish celebrations, and school activities. Forward the photos electronically with a description or brief story to communications@blackandindianmission.org and your submission may be chosen for publication.

Let us continue to follow our baptismal call to be living witnesses of God's love and to carry on the mission to evangelize today!

P.S. Please continue to show your appreciation for our ministry with Native Americans and Alaskan Natives with your prayers and financial support. No gift is too small. The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions depends on your sacrificial support. Thank you!

In His Peace and Mission,

Rev. W. Carroll Paysse Executive Director

Extra Special

Tekakwitha Conference Hundreds gather in El Paso

By Patrick Finn, BCIM Communications Director

As in years past, this year's Tekakwitha Conference, held minutes from the U.S.-Mexican border at the Judson F. Williams Convention Center in El Paso, was every bit a family reunion. Catholic Native Americans from Alaska to Florida and Maine to California gather for four days celebrating Native American culture and their common faith in Jesus. There was a new layer to the "family reunion" comparison at this year's gathering, given the October canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha—no more addressing her as "Blessed" or praying for her canonization any more! Read on for a few moments in time from this year's "reunion."



(BCIM photo / Patrick Finn)

BCIM Executive Director Father Wayne Paysse with Kevin James of the Blackfoot Tribe. Kevin volunteered at the Bureau's vendor table.



(BCIM photo / Patrick Finn)

Conference attendees at one of the large-group sessions.

Check out photos and videos from the 2013 Conference on our Facebook page! www.facebook.com/ blackandindianmission/



A statue and shrine of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha set up in the conference hall in El Paso.

Tekakwitha Conference

BCIM photos by Patrick Finn



Mother and daughter time! Mrs. Louise Hunt and Daughter of Saint Paul Sister Marie James Hunt, both members of the Penobscot nation in Maine, pose for a photo with the Daughters' book on Saint Kateri.



Father Daniel Wittrock, from Saint Augustine Indian Mission in Winnebago, Neb.; Sister Miriam Shindelar, O.S.B.S., of Saint Paul Indian Mission in Marty, S.D.; and Father David Tickerhoof, T.O.R., formerly of Saint Paul in Marty, enjoy a conversation during the morning coffee break.



Conference attendees from Wisconsin (including Mark Thiel, BCIM archivist at Marquette University, at left, and Brother Conrad, O.F.M. Cap.) at the Grand Entry Thursday morning.



Representatives of the newly forming Kateri Circle in the Diocese of Richmond, Va. at the Grand Entry Thursday morning.

Extra Special



(Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray)
Sister Kateri Mitchell, S.S.A. and other Native American clergy and religious process in during the Grand Entry.



(Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray)
Conference attendees from El Paso enjoy their part in the Grand Entry.



(BCIM photo / Patrick Finn)
The "family reunion" included Gail Rando from Florida...

Grand Entry



(Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray)
...and Kateri Circle members...



(Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray)



(Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray)

...from Alaska...

....to Arizona!



(BCIM photo / Patrick Finn)

Film on Saint Kateri's Canonization pilgrimage impresses many

The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, a longtime partner with the Tekakwitha Conference organization in advocating for Catholic Native Americans, premiered the moving 33-minute documentary "Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: a Pilgrimage into Her Heart" at the 2013 gathering. Crews from Lumen Catechetical Consultants followed pilgrims to Rome to document the historic occasion. Intended as a catechetical and evangelistic tool rather than a simple slide show or travelogue, the film powerfully intertwines the Christian walk of life with the October voyage of the over 700 pilgrims to Rome. Crews also voyaged to the Lummi Reservation in Washington state to get to know Jake Finkbonner and his family and tell the story of his dramatic healing by the intercession of Saint Kateri.

Showings were scheduled almost continuously all afternoon on Thursday and Friday for dozens of conference attendees, and initial pre-orders were brisk. Some who viewed the video recognized friends or relatives who attended the pilgrimage and were filmed or interviewed for the feature. The DVD edition of "Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: a Pilgrimage into Her Heart" will be ready this fall and can be pre-ordered now. (An order form is on the back cover of this issue of *The Sentinel*.)

Extra Special

Tekakwitha Conference Visit to Ysleta del Sur Pueblo



El Paso Bishop Mark Seitz with local pastor Father Miguel Briseno, O.F.M. Conv., before the procession to the Mision Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

BCIM photos by Patrick Finn



Faithful from many nations gather for an outdoor Mass outside the Mision Nuestra Señora del Carmen church at Ysleta del Sur.



Conference attendees, led by El Paso Bishop Mark Seitz and pastor Father Miguel Briseno, O.F.M. Conv. and a local Tigua drum group, walk in procession to Mision Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.



Conference attendees, led by a local Tigua drum group, walk in procession to Mision Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.



Conference participants, numbering in the hundreds, were escorted by the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribal Police.



(Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray)
Conference attendees join in social dances Saturday afternoon at the Ysleta del

Sur Pueblo.



(Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray)

Dancers and musicians from the Ysleta del Sur people at the end of the procession to the Church.



(*Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray*) Concelebrating priests join in the closing Mass of the conference



(Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray)
Several hundred of the faithful gather for the conference's closing Mass.



(*Tekakwitha Conference photo / Herman Ray*) Concelebrating priests distribute Holy Communion at the conference's closing Mass.



Members of the planning committees from the 74th conference in El Paso hand on the traditional traveling icon of Saint Kateri to the committee planning the 75th annual gathering to be held next July in Fargo, N.D.

Mass at Mission Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Ysleta del Sur



(BCIM photo / Patrick Finn)

Full-time Native leadership advances at Bishop's Conference

Sister Kateri Mitchell, S.S.A., Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference; Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.; and Father Henry Sands pose for a shot at a 2010 meeting of the USCCB's Subcommittee on Native American Affairs.

Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., made an exciting announcement at the Tekakwith a Conference. Native American Catholics now have one of their own telling their story for the Catholic bishops of the United States. With the financial backing of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, Father Henry Sands—a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit and member of the Ojibway, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes—has been appointed Associate Director of Native American Affairs in the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' offices here in Washington, D.C. Father Sands says, "It is a great blessing and honor to be named to [this] newly created position... I also consider myself blessed and I am very thankful because the Lord has gifted me with my own Native American identity and heritage and way of life."

Speaking to the big-picture hopes for his new ministry (which began August 1), he says, "I believe that our Lord Jesus' Gospel message of hope provides the answers that all Native Americans seek in the circumstances of their daily lives as they face many challenges and strive to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. I pledge to do my best to tirelessly and courageously bring the Gospel to them. I look forward with great anticipation to serving my Native American Catholic brothers and sisters across the entire United States, and to assisting the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in their efforts to care for Native American Catholics and to provide for their spiritual and pastoral needs."

Father Sands, who previously served as a consultant to the cultural diversity office, has relocated to Washington.

Mission Memories

'Bread and Freedom, Justice' by Father Zuern

We start a new year. ... Everything is new, and yet there is something that remains. We can never forget our past. Our future is built on our history. We are today what our ancestors prepared for us. ... The influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on our government is seldom appreciated. ...

... When the Iroquois Confederacy was organized, its objective was to provide a peaceful atmosphere for the member tribes which were the Cayuga, the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, and the Senecas—and later the Tuscaroras. It was located in what is today New York state. It provided for each tribe to exist in its own right, but to band together as a unit in dealing with forces outside of themselves. The confederacy would meet regularly to discuss issues and take any steps that might be needed. Among themselves they were equal to any disagreement that might arise in their midst. It was at this point that they differed from the process that was used in Europe.

...Only today with the European [Union] now

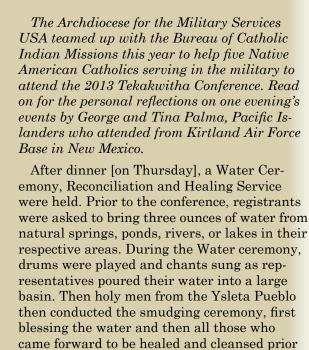
established are efforts being made along the ideals of the Iroquois Confederacy. Imagine that, the Indian Iroquois Confederacy, which still exists and has regular meetings, has influenced the nations of Europe in what is probably the most significant political movement in centuries. Europe...looked to the structure of the United States of America which was influenced by the Iroquois Confederacy.

...The Indian Iroquois Confederacy had the unique structure that the United States adopted in its Constitution. Now there are 50 states scattered from the mainland to Alaska [and] Hawaii. Each are individual and charged to care for their needs, but as for dealing with other countries, the President of the United States and Congress represent the nation.

Some authors have indicated the debt that the United States owes to the Iroquois Confederacy, but we are far from realizing as a nation our political indebtedness to the Indians.

Excerpted from BCIM Newsletter, vol. 14, no. 1 (Jan. 1995)





to going to confession, including priests!

The Smudging Ceremony—Native elders taught that before a person can be healed or heal another, one must be cleansed of any bad feelings, negative thoughts, bad spirits or negative energy—cleansed both physically and spiritually. This helps the healing to come through in a clear way, without being distorted or sidetracked by negative "stuff" in either the healer or the client. The elders say that all ceremonies, tribal or private, must be entered into with a good heart so that we can pray, sing, and walk in a sacred manner, and be helped by the spirits to enter the sacred realm.

Native people throughout the world use herbs to accomplish this. One common ceremony is to burn certain herbs, take the smoke in one's hands and rub or brush it over the body. Today this is commonly called "smudging." In western North America the three plants most frequently used in smudging are sage, cedar, and sweetgrass.

It was truly a moving and powerful spiritual experience for us! While the "holy men" performed the smudging on you, they were chanting Catholic prayers in their native tongue. They would fan the smoke from the sage towards you and you use your hands to "soak" it into you. Then they would tap your head, shoulders and chest with the fan to signal the end of your smudging. Although you smelled like smoke as you went to confession, it was a great reminder of a thorough cleansing of body, mind, heart, soul and spirit. What a great way to end the day!

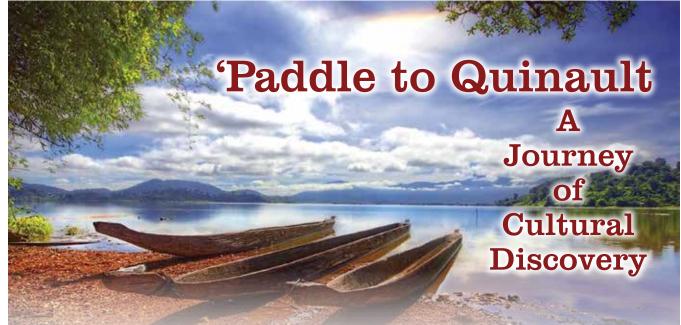


(BCIM photo / Patrick Finn)

Tina and George Palma, Pacific Islanders from Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, stop by the Bureau's vendor table for a visit.

Native
American
Armed
Forces
members
built up
in

FAITH



By Tim Lanigan, BCIM Correspondent

What's it like to paddle a large canoe in the rough and often foggy waters of the Pacific Ocean? Hundreds of young Indians found out in a journey that ended on August 1st, at Point Grenville, Washington, on the Quinault Indian Reservation.

The event was the 2013 "Paddle to Quinault," a journey in replicas of the original canoes that carried ancestors of today's tribes on the waterways of the Pacific Northwest. The canoes are made of red cedar, a tree common in the area, and one that can grow to 200 feet and last for more than a thousand years. The annual event was first held in 1989 and now attracts young members of 100 tribes, a seven-fold increase over the original 1989 "Paddle to Seattle."

This year's trip featured 89 canoes and drew tribes from the U.S. (including Hawaii), Canada, and New Zealand. The journey, starting at various points along the Pacific Northwest, and lasting as many as 400 nautical miles for some, was made through the inland waters of northwest Washington state and down the coastal waters of the Pacific Ocean. The young paddlers, or "pullers" as they are known, rested at hosting sites each night. They were welcomed by members of resident tribes and given an opportunity to share in the traditional food, songs and dances of the hosts.

Accompanying the canoes on the long trip down the Pacific coast were two tall ships, the Lady Washington and the Hawaiian Chief. The Lady Washington is a replica of the original sailing vessel that 225 years ago, in 1788, became the first ship of the newly independent United States to make

landfall on the west coast of North America. Both tall ships helped provide on-the-water safety and logistical support for the canoeists.

More than 12,000 people, native and non-native, were on hand to welcome the weary travelers at Point Grenville. The welcoming ceremony was just the beginning of six days of immersion in cultural activities for the young paddlers, their families and people from the Pacific Northwest area.

Organizers of the event stress that the skills learned on the trip were important, but that the main goals focused on reacquainting the young tribal members with the environment and culture of their ancestors and with the development of individual and community character.

Not the least of the journey's benefits is a renewed appreciation of the environment for young people who've become accustomed to living in a world of such modern conveniences as power boats, fast cars, television, and cell phones.

The young members who paddle each canoe are considered members of a canoe family. Paddling, or pulling, the canoe through the rough waters of the Pacific on cold, foggy days is a real test of character. When confronting rough seas, they are told to "keep on paddling."

Connie McCloud, the cultural coordinator for the Puyallup Tribe, calls the annual journey "a significant cultural and spiritual event." During last year's trip, she told the Puyallup Tribal News, "A child may run into trouble in their lives, but if they have a strong foundation that we try to provide through the canoe family, they will have the strength to come back and make healthy decisions in their lives."

From the Field

Reading initiative brings results

By Father Dave Korth, BCIM Correspondent

Two years ago, Saint Augustine Indian Mission, serving the Winnebago and Omaha tribes in Nebraska, instituted a new reading program for our students. The project was part of a challenge made by board member Dr. Anne Hubbard to increase the reading scores of our students in an effort to help them succeed in all curricular endeavors. The reading challenge has proven to be one of the most significant academic changes made in our nearly 105-year history.

Dr. Hubbard, a pediatric radiologist in Omaha, Neb., has a great love for the children of Saint Augustine. At least once every four weeks she makes the 90-mile drive to Winnebago and spends the day in a classroom at the Mission. Dr. Hubbard expressed to me that it was apparent that the students of the Mission were not reading at their appropriate age level, and challenged me to raise \$2 million for needed improvements at the Mission, including a reading improvement program.

Mission staff went to work researching reading improvement programs through the capable leadership of Mr. Don Blackbird, Jr., the first Native American (Omaha Tribal member) principal in the school's history. Mr. Blackbird and his team of teachers decided to form their own program utilizing components from different programs that they

found, taking into consideration the students with which they would be working. The budget ended up being \$1.3 million over 5 years, and includes three additional staff people, the Scholastic "Read 180" program, and a summer reading camp.

The students were tested before the reading initiative started, and then again this past Spring. The results were beyond the expectations of Mission staff! The percentage of students who went from the lowest classification ("Below Basic") to the higher levels was an astonishing 60 percent. This includes an increase of 36 percent in the two highest classifications: "Proficient" and "Advanced."

Dr. Hubbard understands the importance of reading in the education of a child. Thanks to her and all those who helped meet her challenge, our students have a much better chance at a brighter future because of their improved abilities to read. Better reading comprehension has shown to improve academic performance in many academic areas.

May God continue to bless all the generous souls who help support the Indian mission schools in our country!

Father Dave Korth is the Director of Saint Augustine Indian Mission in Winnebago, Neb.

See a chart illustrating the progress Saint Augustine students have made in reading—and make a contribution to Catholic Indian education—on our website at www.blackandindianmission.org.



Around the Missions





(Bismarck Diocese photos)

Bismarck Bishop David Kagan, photo at left, addresses the assembly at Mass. David "Doc" Brien (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), photo at right, bestows a star quilt on new Fargo Bishop John Folda.

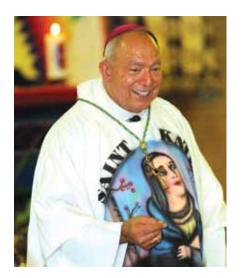
Saint Kateri honored on Feast Day

Saint Kateri's first feast day as a saint, Sunday, July 14, was observed around Indian Country and beyond with great solemnity and joy. Here are a few snapshots of some celebrations.

■ Catholics from **both dioceses in North Dakota**—Bismarck and Fargo—came together at

United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck for a
two-day weekend event that included Mass, a powwow, and other celebrations. The Bureau of Catholic
Indian Missions supplied third-class cloth relics of
Saint Kateri that were distributed to participants.

- Celebrations in **Houma, Louisiana** included a Mass honoring Saint Kateri at Holy Family Church in Grand Caillou. Bishop Sam G. Jacobs was the main celebrant of the Mass which was concelebrated by priests of the Diocese. Photos by Lawrence Chatagnier
- Catholics in **Norwalk, Connecticut** gathered to dedicate a new icon of Saint Kateri at Saint Philip Church in the Diocese of Bridgeport (former diocese of BCIM board member and current Baltimore Archbishop William Lori). One attendee, \(\sigma\)





(Bayou Catholic Photos by Lawrence Chatagnier)

Bishop Sam G. Jacobs, photo at left, and priests of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux celebrate the annual Kateri Mass.

Celebrations

according to the Norwalk Citizen—part Native American—described the Mass as "wonderful. It's nice that there's a Native American saint. ...It gives you something to identify with more."

- Saint Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, Okla., a Benedictine monastery with a longtime history of Native American ministry, celebrated a special Mass and held a pow-wow on the feast day. Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., estimated that 450 attended.
- Faithful from the Yakima Reservation in Washington state celebrated Saint Kateri on July 13 with a Mass and luncheon in White Swan. Yakima Bishop Joseph Tyson joined in the festivities.
- A big celebration in Reserve, Wis. formed a key event of the Diocese of Superior's observance of the Year of Faith. More than 400 attended. The day included a powwow, Mass with Bishop Peter Christensen, and a whole lot of fun and unity! The event was made possible in part by a grant from the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.



(BCIM photo / Patrick Finn) Father Paysse joins Sister Marie Rose Messingschlager, C.D.P., Director of Indian Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth at the monument to Venerable Frederic Baraga, an early missionary among Native Americans in the upper Midwest on a recent visit to Minnesota.

Fall 2014 Pilgrimage of Praise: Walk Where Kateri Walked



(BCIM photo / Father Paysse) Statue of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha at the National Shrine of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha in Fonda, N.Y.

Father Wayne Paysse, Executive Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and Sister Kateri Mitchell, S.S.A., Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference, invite you to join them for "A Pilgrimage of Praise" to New York state and Québec in September 2014. Pilgrimage destinations will include many places close to Saint Kateri's journey, such as Auriesville and Fonda, N.Y., and Kahnawake, Québec, where she lived out the last years of her life. Destinations will also include several of the Québecois holy sites famous for generations.

• Friday, Sept. 12 – Albany, Auriesville, Fonda. Depart from your gateway city for Albany, N.Y. and enjoy visits to the National Shrines in Auriesville (Kateri's birthplace) and Fonda, where the group will celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight in Albany.

 Saturday, Sept. 13 – Kahnawake, Notre-Dame-du-Cap, Cap-de-la-Madeleine. Visit the final resting place of Saint Kateri in Kahnawake; celebrate Mass at the Shrine of Notre-Dame-du-Cap; and check out the Cap de la Madeleine shrine, with a Catholic history dating to 1634.

· Sunday, Sept. 14 – Ste-Anne-de-Beau-

pré. Mass and tour of the Basilica of Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré. See the Statue of Miracles and museum before praying the Stations of the Cross before an enjoyable dinner. Be inspired at the evening candlelight Rosary procession. Overnight at the Basilica Inn.

· Monday, Sept. 15 – Québec City & Montréal. Scenic tour of Québec City and its Cathedral Basilica. Continue on to Montréal for Mass and light show. Overnight stay in Montréal.

 Tuesday, Sept. 16 – Montréal. Morning visit and Mass at Saint Joseph Oratory, founded by the humble Holy Cross brother, Saint André Bessette. Afternoon at leisure. Not to miss is the famous botanic garden.

Wednesday, Sept. 17 – Auriesville. Return to Auriesville, N.Y. for Mass at the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs. Dinner and overnight in Albany.

Thursday, Sept. 18 – Flight home from

Cost for this exciting journey is \$989, not including airfare to Albany. For more information contact Renaissance Group, LLC at (800) 304-8259 or info@rengp.com.

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