



Kateri Native Ministry is a Catholic lay ministry within the Archdiocese of Ottawa committed to the Healing and Reconciliation of Aboriginal Peoples

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Kateri Native Ministry exists through the generous contributions of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Pembroke, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Basilian Fathers of Toronto, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, the Oblates of Lacombe Province and other private benefactors.

# The Kateri Bulletin

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## Kateri's 'Prayer Weekends' Ministry

Kateri Native Ministry's John Corston and Garry Turcotte returned from Pic River First Nation/Heron Bay this past weekend. They were there with Jean Lebouthillier of New Brunswick, Donna Naughton of Brantford, and Wanda Renton-Calvert of Orillia.

They were invited to participate in Pic River's "Prayer Weekend." According to Garry, it was a powerful experience consisting prayer, presentations, testimonies, faith sharing, music, opportunities for the sacraments of

reconciliation and Eucharist and much feasting. Most often, these Prayer Weekends are structured around a



particular theme, such as *Hope, Reconciliation, or Healing*. Akin to a community retreat, Kateri Native Minis-

try receives numerous requests from Aboriginal communities to lead the Prayer Weekends. These communities, often lacking full time priests or pastoral workers, are thirsting for spiritual growth that brings together Christian faith and Aboriginal cultural traditions.

Earlier this year, Prayer Weekends were held at Attiwapiskat and Pays Plat First Nations. Kateri Native Ministry will be praying with Eel Ground and Sagamok First Nations in October; in November, with Pic Moberg First Nation.

## Miigwetch: Celebrating Thanksgiving

In Ojibway and Cree, the word *miigwetch*, translated as "thank you," contains within itself a complete spirituality of gratitude. *Miigwetch* is from a root word meaning "enough." The word may be translated as "what I have been given is enough," or "what I have received is sufficient." In cultures historically based on hunting and gathering, survival was a risky business. In the midst of winter, an unsuccessful hunt meant the real possibility of starvation. There was no place for

greed or the hoarding of goods since survival was a communal affair; one's very life depended upon the good will and cooperation of the entire community. Having enough, then, was always an occasion for deep gratitude.

The celebration of Thanksgiving is a good time for reflection on what has been given to us. Am I worried about what is lacking in my life or do I recognize my own gifts that come from being created in the image and likeness of the Creator? Am I thankful for the

relationships that enrich my life or do I believe that my successes come from my own personal power? Am I aware of the wounded state of the environment as a direct result of sustaining a consumer society? Am I aware of the love I owe to the Giver of Life? As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us be mindful that gratitude is a powerful medicine. It heals us from false ideas that we do not have enough when, truly, enough is all we need. *Miigwetch*.

## Fall Mini-Conference, November 13



Join us on November 13 at Mac Hall in the Bronson Center, where Kateri will be hosting a Fall Mini-Conference.

The Conference will consist of a keynote presentation as well as several workshops on Aboriginal spirituality, emotional and spiritual healing and reconciliation.

There will be time for praise and worship pro-

vided by Kateri's music ministry as well as opportunities for healing prayer and the sacrament of reconciliation. The conference will end with a traditional feast. The mini-conference is patterned on the Annual Spring Conferences in Pembroke, but will be a local day-long event. There is no cost for the day and is open to the whole community.



Taken from the 12th Annual Pembroke Spring Conference, May, 2010; from L to R: Maureen and Victor Pelletier, Lindsay and Pauline Moses, John Corston and Sr. Fay Edmond, GSIC

*"Give us wisdom so that we can live properly.."*

## Anishinaabe Thanksgiving Prayer

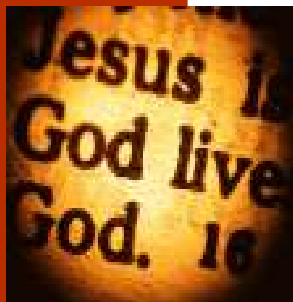
The following prayer is by Anishinaabe Elder Roger Thomas of the Bad River Band in Wisconsin.

**Miigwechiwi-anami'ewin**  
*Thanksgiving Prayer*  
**Gimbagidinaamin asemaa,**  
*We offer tobacco,*  
**Gichi-manidoo gidinin**  
**nigichi miigwechawen-**  
**daawin nongom miig-**

**wechiwi-giizhigad.**  
*Great Spirit, we are very grateful on this day.*  
**Zhawendan wikogewin jii-**  
**mashkawiziyaang,**  
*Bless this feast so that it makes us strong,*  
**Jii-wiidookawaangidwaa**  
**niijanishnaabenaanig.**  
*So that we can help our fellow human beings.*

**Wijiwishinaam mawanji-idiyaang,**  
*Let your presence be with us,*  
**Gichi-ishpendaagoziyan.**  
*You who are of highest esteem.*  
**Miizhishinaam nibwaakaawin**  
**ji-waweni bimaadiziyaang.**  
*Give us wisdom so that we can live properly.*  
**Mi'iw, miigwetch.**

*"God's Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path."  
 Psalm 118*



## Kateri Bible Circle

In his encyclical, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, Pope John Paul encouraged the whole Church to make sacred scripture "the inspiration of the whole of Christian living." Reading the Bible can be a powerful and attractive prac-

tice to help us taste the word of God, to understand it, and above all, to let it enter our hearts so that it might transform our daily lives. So, beginning this month, Kateri Native Ministry will be hosting a weekly faith sharing gathering based on the Sunday Gospel.

Meeting every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., the Kateri Bible Circle will use the Medicine Wheel as an Aboriginal way of praying with Scripture. Gatherings will consist of a pot luck supper, singing and drumming, reflection on the Gospel followed by intercessory and closing prayers.

# Kateri's Naategamaa, "Peaceful Waters"



Naatagama or Peaceful Waters is a 230 acre property owned by the Archdiocese of Ottawa and entrusted exclusively for the use Kateri Native Ministry. Located on the Ottawa River

near the Quyon Ferry Landing, the property was donated to the Archdiocese in the late 1950s for a children's summer camp. In the late seventies and early eighties, the property became known as Camp Echon.

Under the direction of Kateri Native Ministry, Naatagama has been used for Aboriginal youth retreats by Sagamok and Pik-wākanagān First Nations. It has been the site for Elders retreats, community workshops,

and family reunions of Indian residential school survivors.

This past summer, Naatagama has been maintained by Garry Turcotte as well as other members of Kateri Native Ministry. They have cut grass, cleared the beach front and cut teepee poles for the Kateri teepee. Further improvements are planned for next summer so that Naatagama will be even more conducive for Kateri programs.



Along with a Spanish nun., an Australian nun, two Italian nuns, and a Polish priest, **Brother André Bessette** of Montreal will be canonized by Pope Benedict this Oct. 17. St. André Bessette, pray for us!

## Aboriginal Elder's Tuesday Gathering

Last year, Mary Lou lahtail, Theresa Edwards and Maggie Jeffries, Cree elders originally from James Bay, began to gather in the meeting room of Kateri office to pray, sing, drum and make traditional crafts.

As it became a more regular practice, they began to hold their gatherings on Tuesday mornings. They were joined

by others who were attracted to their activities.

After a summer of travels, the elders have returned. They will continue to meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Kateri in the Bronson Centre.

All are invited to join in on the fun! The gathering is open to anyone who would like participate.



Cree Elders singing in Kateri Meeting Room: L to R: Theresa Edwards, Louise Gagnon and Mary Lou lahtail.

## Truth and Reconciliation Conference, February, 2011

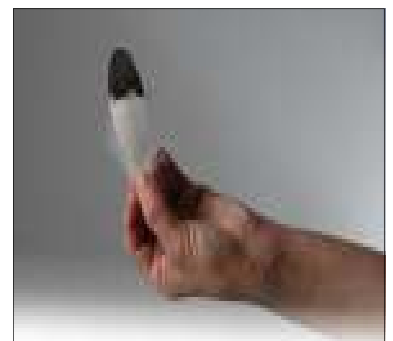
**"People need to be able to find peace within themselves and between each other and we need to help them find it."**  
Murray Sinclair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Canada

Kateri Native Ministry is partnering with Barrhaven United Church, Good Shepherd Barrhaven (Anglican and Lutheran)

and St. Joseph's Healing and Reconciliation Circle to organize "One in the Spirit: A Truth and Reconciliation Gathering" in February of next year.

The day-long event will consist of a keynote address by Commissioner Marie Wilson of the TRC, a panel of Indian Residential School Survivors as well as ceremonies, interactive activi-

ties, statement gathering, large and small group sharing and discussion, drumming and dancing and concluding with a traditional feast. It will be located at the Odawa Friendship Centre. For more info, contact the Kateri Native Ministry Office.





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## BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA

**B**lessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the patron of our ministry, was an Aboriginal youth born of an Algonquin mother and a Mohawk father. Her holiness was immediately recognized by those who knew her. More than three centuries later, her holiness continues to inspire the people of God around the world.

At her baptism, she was given the name Catherine, or, as the Mohawk pronounced it, Kateri. Among her own, she was known as Tekakwitha, “one-who-stumbles-into-things.” Having somehow survived small pox, a heinous disease that left her skin pockmarked and her vision severely impaired, she, like so many of us today, struggled to find her way in the world. In fact, her life was filled with many struggles. She struggled with being the offspring of two very different ethnicities and cultures. Living in a community that was suspicious of Christian claims, she struggled with the living of her faith in Jesus. Against those who brought her the message of the Gospel, she struggled to found a religious community of women who would minister to her people.

In spite of these struggles, Kateri has come to represent hope, especially among Aboriginal peoples in North America: hope in the face of social, economic, political and spiritual dispossessions; hope in the face of great turmoil within the contemporary Church; hope in the face of the daunting task of truth and reconciliation, so important for the healing between the Aboriginal peoples and the Newcomers of North America. Above all, she has given us hope and confidence that we, too, can be strong in living the virtues of courage and perseverance in all the areas of our lives.

## Feast of St. Francis, October 4

### Canticle of the Sun

by St. Francis of Assisi

*Composed by St. Francis in 1224, this hymn is considered to be one of the finest and earliest works written in Italian.*

Most High, all powerful, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessing.

To You alone do they belong, and no one is worthy to mention Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful, radiant in all his splendor! Of You, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praise to You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars. In heaven You formed them, clear and precious and beautiful.

Praise be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air,

cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us and who produces varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.

Amen.

