KATERI AWARD

The Kateri Award is a recognition that the Catholic Church gives 5th and 6th grade Girl Scouts for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation. The award takes its name from a young Mohawk maiden, given the name Tekakwitha at birth and baptized with the name Kateri (Catherine in French). Her outstanding life and death serve as a beautiful model for all Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Members.

The purpose of the award is to help the Girl Scout and Camp Fire member become more aware of God's presence in her everyday life. Just like the honors one receives in Girl Scouts and Camp Fire in 5th and 6th grades, so the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Penance are the signs of our Catholic Faith. These sacraments were the basis of Kateri's life and through them, she

INFORMATION

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha d. 1680
Feastday: July 14
Patron of the environment and ecology

Information about Kateri and prayers to her may be obtained by writing to:

Contact
Phone: (518) 853-3646
Fax: (518) 853-3371
eMail: Friars@KateriShrine.com
P.O. Box 627
Fonda, NY 12068

National Tekakwitha Conference
406-727-0147

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
2021 H Street, NW
Washington, DC  20006
202-331-8542

Or check out these websites:
Kateri Shrine
http://www.katerishrine.com/
Kateri Organization
http://www.tekakwitha.org/tekakwitha/
Homex.html
New Advent
http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14471a.htm
Ideas:
Sin servers or weakens our relationship with God and our Christian family; Penance reconciles us to the Father and restores us to the community.

Our Heavenly Father is a forgiving father who loves us despite our weaknesses and failures. As often as we sin and in sorrow turn back to Him, He welcomes us with open arms. Since God is a loving Father who never refuses to forgive us, we too must forgive others who offended us, just as the Lord has forgiven us. This is what we pray in the “Our Father.”

Christ empowers His priests to forgive men’s sins in His name through the sacrament of Penance. To receive the Sacrament most meaningfully, the following should be understood.

- Preparation: Examination of Conscience
  - Act of Contrition
  - Attitude of Sorrow
  - Intention not to sin again
- Confession: Telling sins to the priest
- After: Say or do the given penance for sin

Sin - severs your relationship with God
Penance (Sacrament) - restores this relationship
Examination of Conscience - a time to think about how I am failing to love God as I should, and how I can love Him better.

Symbols of friendship in Girl Scouting:
  - Thinking Day
  - Juliette Low World Friendship Fund
  - Girl Scout Handshake

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KATERI’S STORY

Tekakwitha was born in 1656, over 300 years ago when this country was very wild, in an Indian village now called Auriesville, New York. The first few years of her life were spent as all Indian children lived - playing in the woods and near the water. At the age of four, and epidemic of smallpox swept through their village, killing her mother, father, and brother. Tekakwitha was left pockmarked and weak-eyed for life. Because she was an orphan, she went to live with an uncle, a Mohawk chief, and his lazy wife, who used to force Tekakwitha to do all the harder work around the lodge.

One afternoon, after Tekakwitha had grown into a young woman, a boat came up the river with three men in long black robes. They were priests called Jesuits, and they began to teach the Indians about God. Tekakwitha learned all she could about God and decided to give her life to serving Him. She told her uncle of her dedication when she refused to marry an Indian Brave her uncle had picked out for her. Her uncle did not like this at all, since he was utterly opposed to this new faith. He had her watched constantly. She managed to get baptized, but after that, she had a hard cross to bear. There was outright opposition to her Catholic practices. Children taunted her and threw stones, young men threatened her, and at least once, she was threatened with death. She finally ran away to LaPraire in Canada, a distance of 300 miles enduring many hardships along the way. She finally arrived in the Autumn of 1677.

In LaPraire, Kateri found a new life because this village was inhabited by Christian Indians. She lived there in comparative peace - made her first Communion, and gave herself to God absolutely. During Holy Week in 1680, her health getting progressively worse, finally broke completely. When the Indians of the village realized Kateri was dying, they all gathered around her deathbed and the lodge were she lived. She began to sink, but received Holy Communion with fervor. She was anointed on Wednesday of that week and died a beautiful death late in the afternoon. Almost immediately, her body was transformed, and her skin was no longer pockmarked and ugly, but she was beautiful. The Indians started to pray, not for Kateri, but to Kateri, to intercede for them in heaven. She was buried on Holy Thursday.

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REQUIREMENTS

1. Any Catholic girl or boy who has been an active registered Girl Scout or Camp Fire for at least 6 months and in the 5th or 6th grade and/or 10 or 11 years old.
2. She must attend either a Catholic School or attend regular classes in religious instruction.
3. All work on this emblem will be done as a group or individual under the direction of a trained Religious Emblems Advisor.
4. The advisor will approve all the work done on the award and will make final recommendation of those to receive the emblem.
5. The girl should be encouraged to keep a log book on all work done on the emblem.

HOW TO EARN THE EMBLEM

1. An Advisor, a member of the Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting and Camp Fire will meet with eligible, interested Girl Scouts and Camp Fire members (grades 5th and 6th) of her parish or area, to instruct them about the requirements and the log book. She will continue to meet with the girls periodically to check on their progress and to help them obtain resource material, if necessary.
2. When the advisor is satisfied that the girls have completed all the requirements, she makes an appointment with the pastor, parochial vicar, or religious sister (approved by the pastor) who reviews the girls on the requirements and logbook. (An approved member of the Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting and Camp Fire may examine and pass the girls with the approval of the Scout Chaplain.)
3. The application should be signed by the Girl Scout or Camp Fire Leader to certify that the girl is an active registered member. The parent, group advisor, and examiner must also sign the application.
4. All applications and fees for the emblem are sent to the Catholic Committee on Scouting, Department for Youth & Young Adult Ministry, 1010 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15226. The fee, determined by the diocese, covers the cost of the medal. For current price list go to: www.CatholicScouting-Pittsburgh.org
5. The award is blessed and presented by the Bishop at the Annual Convocation at the Cathedral.

THE MEDAL - HOW WORN

The award is a medal, depicting Kateri holding a wooden cross, and is suspended from a red, white, and blue ribbon which stands for the virtue of patriotism and love of country.

Girl Scouts - The award should be worn on the sash below the membership stars or on the vests below the membership stars.
Camp Fire - here is no set requirement for where the emblem should go. Camp Fire uniforms gives youth the opportunity to design their own.

PARTS OF THE MASS

Liturgy of the Word

A. Responsorial Psalm - our response to the first reading.
B. Gospel - Word of God to us.
C. Homily - God’s Word to us through the preaching of the priest, making the message of the Gospel applicable to us.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

A. Offertory Procession - we present the bread and wine as gifts to be offered to the Father. They represent also the gifts of ourselves.
B. Consecration/Eucharistic Prayer - the center of the entire Eucharistic celebration, bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.
C. Our Father
D. Sign of Peace - to prepare to welcome the Lord, for forgiveness and exchange a sign of peace. Before receiving Christ’s Body and Blood, we must be one with Him and all our brothers and sisters in the Church.
E. The Great Amen - our assent to the sacrifice of Jesus and our union with Him.

We celebrate the Eucharist as a Christian community as we gather together in joy and thanking to welcome Christ into our midst. A celebration is always a commemoration of a joyous or meaningful event; at the Eucharistic banquet we join Christ in his sacrifice, celebrating His memorial in the meal and acknowledging with Him the wonderful works of God in our lives.

We can best take part in the Eucharistic celebration by our active participation in the Liturgy; by praying, singing and responding as part of the people of God, and by following and entering into the action of the Mass as we offer ourselves with the offering that Christ makes.
APPENDIX C

EUCARIST AS SACRIFICE

Ideas:
Through the sacrifice of the Mass, Christ is continually being made present among us.

Sacrifice in the Old Testament took many forms:
1. Fruit offerings
2. Incense offerings
3. Animals consumed by fire
4. Animals for sin offerings.

The message of many of the prophets was that God wanted more than sacrifices; He wanted men’s hearts turned to Him and to one another in love and justice.

The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was the most perfect sacrifice because He was both God and man. As God, His offering of Himself was worthy of the Father; as Man, He could atone for man’s sins.

The Mass is the renewal of Christ’s perfect sacrifice.

During the Mass, Christ is present:
1. In His Word - He speaks to us through the Scriptures, His inspired Word.
2. In His Priest - His anointed minister to whom He gives power to change bread and wine into His own Body and Blood.
3. In the Eucharist - His own Body and Blood.
4. In His People - the Church, united in Him, He lives in each of us.

The Eucharistic Celebration:
1. Liturgy of the Word - part of the Mass in which God speaks to us through His inspired Word. Through it, we are called to believe and follow Christ. This reflection on God’s Word prepares us to enter more fully into the Eucharistic sacrifice. (b-e-h)
2. Liturgy of the Eucharist - that part of the Mass in which we celebrate the memorial which the Lord instituted at the Last Supper.

BAPTISM

Introduction
When a person is baptized, he/she is born into the family of God. He/she begins to share a new life of love and responsibility as a Christian. Kateri confessed to Father James de Lembertville her desire to be baptized. He tried to show her how hard it would be to be a Christian in an Indian village teeming with temptation. Tekakwitha only replied that she had made her decision and nothing would make her change her mind. Two years was the minimum period for those seeking baptism, but Father de Lembertville decided to make an exception for Kateri, and only one month was required. Nothing could be found out against her. On Easter Sunday, April 5, 1676, the little Indian chapel was decorated and many Indians came to see this 20 year old humble and pious girl be baptized into the Catholic faith. She was given a new name baptized into the Catholic faith. She was given a new name now - Kateri - which means white or pure. That is why she is often call, “The Lily of the Mohawks.” The Mohawks was her nation.

Scripture

Covenant

a. In the Old Testament, God made a Covenant with the Israelites and made them His people. What is a covenant?
c. In the New Testament, we see how God calls us to be His new people. Read John 3:1-6. What must we do to accept this covenant and live this new life?

Baptism

a. In the Old Testament, God led His chosen people from slavery to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea. Read Exodus 14:21-31. Tell the story of the passage through the Sea of Reeds.
b. In the New Testament, we are also led through water to newness of life. Read Mark 1:4-10. Why is water a good symbol for baptism?

Liturgy

1. What does it mean to belong to God’s family? What is your special relationship to God? to Jesus Christ? to every baptized member of the Christian community?
2. Why did Christ adopt you into the family of God?
3. Baptism is your personal covenant with God. What does God promise as His part of the covenant? What do you promise?
4. What guides does God give you to carry out your baptismal promises? Jesus summarized these guides for us into two great commandments. What are they? Compare these with your Girl Scout/Camp Fire Promise and Law.

Activity

1. Find out when and where you were baptized. Who are your Godparents?
What was their purpose at the time of your baptism? What is their purpose in your life now?

2. Find out what promises your Godparents made for you when you were baptized. Now write up your own covenant with God and renew these promises in your own words. Renew your Girl Scout/Camp Fire Promise.

3. Have you made a covenant this week? What was it, and with whom was it made? Did you find it easy or hard to keep?

4. Attend a baptism ceremony. Explain the meaning of the following signs and actions that are used during the ceremony:
   - Water
   - Oil
   - Lighted Candle
   - White Garment
   - Sign of the Cross

5. Perform the following projects to help you better understand the influence of the baptismal signs and actions on your daily life and as a Girl Scout or Camp Fire Member:
   a. **Water**
      Collect pictures which demonstrate the power of water in the world around you. Discuss these with your group. OR measure the rainfall for a set length of time. Discuss your findings and effects on your surroundings.
   b. **Oil**
      Discuss the effects of oil supplies on the world today. Name products your family uses that are made from oil.
   c. **White Garment**
      Make a banner OR some type of baptismal garment that could be used at a ceremony. OR make a baptismal booklet to be given to a parent of a baptized baby, include the meaning or significance of the baby’s name.
   d. **Lighted Candle**
      Discuss the significance of the candles used during the Girl Scout Investiture/Rededication Ceremony or the Court of Awards Ceremony.
   e. **Sign of the Cross**
      Fashion and make a cross (lashed, needlepoint, embroidered). Find or draw pictures of 4 different crosses. Display these projects and discuss the various types of crosses.

6. Through Baptism, you become a member of the Christian family, you now have a responsibility to others in the family of God. Discuss how your Girl Scout/Camp Fire Promise

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**APPENDIX B**

**EUCHARIST AS SACRAMENT**

**Ideas:**

The Eucharist deepens and strengthens our personal relationship with god.

In the Old Testament, God fed His people with “manna” a type of bread, as they wandered through the desert. Jesus promised His followers Himself as “living bread”, and those who ate this bread would neither hunger nor thirst again.

The manna in the desert satisfied a physical hunger which the people had. When they ate it, it sustained their physical life. The Eucharist is a spiritual food which sustains the life of the spirit in us.

The Eucharist is, above all, the great “Sacrament of Love.” By sharing with others in receiving the body and Blood of Christ, we become one with Him and with all the Christian family.

Because of His great love for men, Jesus chose to remain with us in a way that we could easily approach Him. In the form of bread, He becomes one with us as often as we receive Him worthy.

**Communion** - the act of sharing

**Community** - people jointed together in a common interest, a friendly association. Through the Eucharist we are joined to our neighbor in a deeper sense by Christ who is present in each of us.
Ideas:

Baptism initiates our personal relationship with God. Through it, we become sharers of God’s own life.

A covenant is an agreement made between two or more parties, binding each party to definite obligations.

In the Old Testament, God made a covenant with His chosen people; they were to keep His laws and He would protect and care for them as His special possession. The agreement was a solemn one, sealed with the blood of sacrificial animals, (Ex 24:1-11) and ratified by all the people.

Baptism is our personal covenant with the Lord. By being born of the water and the spirit, we accept a new way of life. Through this relationship we become a part of God’s family, and the freedom of the sons of God becomes our heritage. In return, we promise to live according to God’s laws and renounce the works of the devil.

Just as in the Old Testament God led His people from the slavery of Egypt through the waters of the Sea of Reeds to the freedom of the Promised Land, we are led through the waters of Baptism to newness of life.

Characteristics of:

- **Water**: cleanses-destroys-renews-refreshes-restores life
- **Oil**: anointed with strength
- **White garment**: newness of life
- **Lighted Candle**: light of faith, spreading light of Christ, light of the world
- **Sign of the Cross**: sigh of our redemption; through the Lord’s death and resurrection, we have been led from sin and death to life.
- **Godparents**: at Baptism, they accepted the covenant with God in our name; afterwards, they accept the responsibility

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**EUCARIST AS A SACRAMENT**

**Introduction**: Through Baptism, you began to live God’s life. The sacrament of the Eucharist strengthens that life in you. Just as the period of Tekakwitha’s baptismal probation had been shortened, so her no less purity of heart led to her Holy Communion on Christmas day at La Prairie in 1677.

**Scripture**

1. Read Exodus 16:4-16. What was the gift of “manna” and why did God send it?
2. Read John 6:25-59. After Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes. What kind of bread did He promise His followers?
3. Read 1 Cor. 11:23-29. What is the difference between the manna which God gave in the Old Testament and what it did for the people, and the Eucharist which Jesus gives and what it does for us?
4. How do we become more Christ-like? Can my Scouting also help me to be this?

**Liturgy**: 

Jesus fulfilled the covenant made in the Old Testament by giving a new and greater covenant sealed with His own blood.

1. Why is the Eucharist the greatest gift from Jesus to His friends?
2. How does the Eucharist make us one with every member of the Christian family?
3. Why did Jesus choose bread as His way of remaining with us in the Eucharist?
4. How do we become more Christ-like? Can my Scouting also help me to be this?

**Activity**

1. Each time we receive the Eucharist, we help strengthen community.
   a. What is the meaning of the “communion”?
   b. What is the meaning of “community”?
   c. How are these two words related?
   d. List several things you can do to help build community in your family, your neighborhood, your school, your meetings, and your parish.
2. Kateri loved to be of service to others, that is why she enjoyed cooking for the “Blackrobes”. Prepare a meal to be shared with others. Discuss what effects this sharing had upon you and upon the others who shared it with you OR prepare some unleavened bread during the Lenten season. Share it with your group or some others in your Christian community.
3. Obtain from your parish priest the name of a shut-in or help those in need.
EUCHARIST AS SACRIFICE

Introduction: Jesus commands His followers to do two things: “Love one another as I have loved you,” and “Do this in remembrance of me.” At the Eucharistic sacrifice - the Mass - we have the opportunity to do both.

Scripture

1. Read these selection from the Old Testament and describe the different kinds of sacrifice which the people of the Old Covenant offered to the Lord God:
   - Leviticus 23:10-11
   - Exodus 30:1,7
   - Numbers 28:3-4
   - Leviticus 16:6-15

2. Some of the prophets taught us about offerings that were even more pleasing to God. Read Hosea 6:6; Isaiah 1:11, and 15-17; Amos 5:21-24; explain what these offerings were.

3. In the New Testament, Jesus fulfills and makes perfect all that the people of the Old Covenant hoped to achieve through their sacrifices. Read Luke 22:14-20; Hebrews 7:26-27; Hebrews 9:11-12; Hebrews 10:5-7. What do each of these readings tell us about the sacrifice which Jesus offered?

Liturgy

At Mass, we make present the great sacrifice of Jesus. This action is the most important action of our Christian community.

1. Explain how Christ is present during the Eucharistic celebration in:
   - His Word
   - His Priest
   - The Eucharist
   - His people, the Church

2. The two main parts of the Eucharistic celebration are: The Liturgy of the Word, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. What is the difference between these two parts?

3. Make a chart with two main headings: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist. Using a missalette, find out under which heading, each of the following parts of the Mass belong, and list them in their proper place. Be able to explain the meaning of each of these parts.
   - The Our Father
   - The Responsorial Psalm
   - Homily
   - Sign of Peace
   - Offertory Procession
   - The Great Amen
   - The Consecration (Eucharistic Prayer)
   - Gospel

4. How do we celebrate the Eucharist as a Christian community? How can we best be a part of this celebration?

APPLICATION FOR THE KATERI MEDAL

Please Clearly Print All Information

Applicant ___________________________________________ Age __________
Address ___________________________________________ Phone (_____)___________
City _____________________________________ State ______ Zip ______________
Troop/Group Number _______________ Council ____________________________________
E-Mail _______________________________________________________________________
Parish ____________________________________________________
Religious Awards Counselor ______________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________ Phone (_____)___________
City _____________________________________ State ______ Zip ______________
E-Mail _______________________________________________________________________
Having completed the program in the Kateri Medal and having appeared before her Pastor or his representative or an approved member of the Catholic Committee, I now apply for this medal.

Pastor or Representative ______________________________________________________
Religious Awards Counselor ______________________________________________________
Parent __________________________________ Applicant ______________________________________

The above mentioned Junior Girl Scout/Camp Fire member has been an active, registered member of the Girl Scouts/Camp Fire Program.

Date ____________ Leader _____________________________________________________

Deadline is March 1st

PLEASE FORWARD THIS APPLICATION TO: CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING, THE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ENGAGEMENT, 111 BLVD. OF THE ALLIES, PITTSBURGH, PA 15222.

To be completed by Diocese:

Date Received: __________________________ Paid: __________________________
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

+Most Rev. Howard J. Hubbard, DD
Bishop of Albany

Activity

Kateri saw God in all the nature around her. She used the out of doors as her Church, where she fashioned a Cross and here she gave praise in prayer.

- An Indian Prayer

O Great Spirit. Whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy - myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame. Amen.

- We often respond to the Word of God at Mass in "Psalms" or songs which God's people sang thousands of years ago. Make a booklet of your favorite psalms from the bible, and use pictures or drawings to illustrate each one. Or try making up a psalm - or prayer of praise - of your own. Draw a picture to go with it. Include in your booklet your favorite Girl Scout/Camp Fire grace and learn two new ones.

- Keep in your logbook for a period of two months, the message that God is speaking to you each Sunday in the Gospel. Tell how you are living this message in your life. Discuss which part of the Girl Scout/Camp Fire Promise or Law is reflected in this message.

- Show that you understand the meaning of sacrifice by doing the following:
  a. Make someone happy at home by helping out without being asked instead of doing something you'd rather do.
  b. At school, offer to do something that no one else likes to do, or go out of your way to be kind to someone who is not well liked.
  c. Put aside your spending money for a few weeks and buy or make a small
# RECONCILIATION

## Introduction

Accepting the responsibility for being a Christian, we must understand that sometimes we are going to fail in our duties to God and our neighbor. The Sacrament of Reconciliation brings us back to God whenever we have turned away from Him through sin. Tekakwitha’s will was bent only by the love of God. Love led her to reconciliation. She was, at first, somewhat rash in this. There was a time, for example, when she spent three nights sleeping on thorns. Such extremes she did not want to surrender, but she had to, and did, in obedience to her spiritual advisor.

## Scripture

1. Read the parable of the "Forgiving Father" in Luke 15:11-32. Describe the father in this story. How is he like our heavenly father?
2. Read John 20:19-23. Why did Jesus give His apostles and all priests the power to forgive sins? Is forgiveness important in our lives?
3. Read Matthew 5:23-24. What do these words of Jesus tell us?

## Liturgy

1. When we go to confession, we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When are some of the important things we must do in order to receive this sacrament in a worthy manner?

## Activity (Do FIVE of the following projects)

1. What part of the Lord’s Prayer talks about forgiveness? Explain in your own words what it means.
2. Show that you understand what being sorry means by writing a prayer asking God for forgiveness.
3. Discuss the symbols of friendship and acceptance in Scouting. Do these symbols help you fulfill your duties towards other Scout sisters and how?

OR

Imagine yourself in two situations; first - you are hurt by someone and second - you have said or done something to hurt another person. Discuss or pantomime your feelings in each situation of giving forgiveness or not being forgiven.

4. Make your Christian community aware of Kateri and plan and carry out ways to help toward her recognition. (Banners - Kateri devotions leaflets - Kateri devotions - July 5th.)
5. Write a play or puppet show telling others about the life of Kateri. Give the show for another group (small children, CCD Class, senior citizens, etc.)
6. Learn more about Indian tribes such as Kateri’s Mohawk.
7. Spend some time out of doors as Kateri would have, enjoying and meditating on God’s gift of nature. Discuss with your group your feelings and how Kateri would have reacted to such

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## SPIRITUAL INFORMATION

- Baptism Name: _________________________________________
- Date of Baptism: _______________________________________
- Godmother: ___________________________________________
- Godfather: ____________________________________________
- Church of Baptism: ____________________________________
- Priest/Deacon: _________________________________________
- First Reconciliation Date: _______________________________
- Priest: _______________________________________________
- First Holy Communion Date: _____________________________
- Priest: ______________________________________________
- Church: ______________________________________________

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-9-