

Journal #2578

from sdc

4.26.12

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A ruling that granted Southern Nevada Water Authority approval to pump billions of gallons of water from rural areas along the Nevada-Utah line will head back to court after appeals were filed by environmental groups, local governments, Indian tribes, ranchers and others.

[FYI: Reminder about UN Special Rappourteur April 26 & 27 ...](#)

The Significance of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

A Conference and Consultation with James Anaya, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Tucson, Arizona

Thursday, April 26, 1:30-5:45 p.m./Friday, April 27, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Two speakers for Leonard Peltier will participate in the Open Forum beginning at 1:15 on Friday, April 27.

The conference will be streamed live. You will need Windows Media Player to view the live stream. A link to the live stream will be posted at

<http://www.law.arizona.edu/depts/iplp/UNSRConference/index.cfm>

when the conference is in session.

Launched into cyberspace by the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee PO Box 7488, Fargo, ND 58106

<http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info>

[Kateri to be canonized in October](#)

Selection of Native American for sainthood greeted with joy; woman with Utica link honored

By Paul Grondahl Monday, February 20, 2012 FONDA — Years of prayer and

lobbying the Vatican for sainthood by devotees of Kateri Tekakwitha at local shrines were

met with jubilation Saturday after Pope Benedict XVI announced Oct. 21 as the

canonization date for the young Native American and mystic who lived in the Mohawk Valley in the 17th century.

The Pope also will elevate to sainthood another woman with upstate ties, who also is credited with miracles. Mother [Marianne Cope](#), who grew up in Utica in the mid-1800s, entered religious life with the Sisters of Saint Francis in Syracuse. She was among seven new saints scheduled for canonization.

"Everyone is very excited and it's wonderful that she will become the first Native American saint," said [Wayne Carpenter](#), a retired state worker and volunteer office manager at the national shrine to Kateri, a 200-acre compound on Route 5 in Fonda, Montgomery County.

Although the shrine is closed for the season, the faithful continue to visit in the winter months to light a votive candle in the chapel, pray for relief from ailments and disease, and tap what they believe are healing powers from a natural spring.

"In addition to our regulars, we're getting double the usual number of people stopping in this time of year," Carpenter said.

On Saturday, a man diagnosed with cancer drove from Massachusetts to dip his hands in the spring, Carpenter said. He beseeched the young Indian woman who will soon become Saint Kateri. Claims were vetted by Vatican investigators and she was credited with miracles after intervening on behalf of faithful supplicants who sought healing.

Meanwhile, at the nearby Auriesville shrine, where Kateri was born in 1656, plans are under way for a large celebration on Oct. 21. Those who run the 400-acre site expect a significant increase in the 75,000 annual visitors when it opens for the season at the end of April.

"We're just overjoyed after waiting for this for so many years," said [Beth Lynch](#), event coordinator at Auriesville's Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, which is run by Jesuit priests.

"We've been working with the Sisters of Saint Francis and we share each other's joy that this is happening at the same time for two New Yorkers," Lynch said.

Kateri was born in 1656 in Ossernenon, now called Auriesville, a few miles west of Amsterdam. Her mother was a [Christian Algonquin](#) and her father was a Mohawk chief who died of smallpox when she was 4 years old — a disease that damaged the girl's eyesight and scarred her face.

Her mother and younger brother also died during the smallpox epidemic when she was a young girl. At age 10, her village was burned down by French forces.

She was given the name Tekakwitha, a native word denoting her poor vision. She defied Mohawk culture by refusing to marry and was further ostracized when she converted to Catholicism at age 20. Two years later, she fled to Canada and lived in a settlement of Christian Indians near Montreal. She led a dozen women who practiced asceticism and cared for children and the elderly in her village. She helped missionaries convert other Indians to Christianity. She is entombed inside the St. [Francis-Xavier Church](#) in Kahnawake, Canada.

Kateri died at 24. Witnesses who attended her death said her body glowed and the smallpox scars on her face disappeared. She was known as "Lily of the Mohawks."

She was the first Native American to be beatified in 1980, a step before sainthood.

"This is about Jesus being glorified through blessed Kateri and that's the message we want people to understand," Lynch said. "We want people to hear her story and to be inspired by it."

Mother Marianne Cope entered religious life in Syracuse in 1862 and served as a nurse-administrator at [St. Joseph's Hospital](#) in the city. She later moved to Hawaii and cared for leprosy patients. She was associated with the St. Anthony convent and motherhouse in Syracuse, which expects a jump in the number of visitors along with the two local Kateri shrines.

The Pope's announcement of sainthood on Saturday concluded a ceremony to make 22 new cardinals, including New York Archbishop [Timothy Dolan](#), according to [the Associated Press](#). Dolan's first official act as a cardinal was to approve formally the New York state saints. "As grateful as I am for being a cardinal, I really want to be a saint," he quipped.

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<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Kateri-to-be-canonized-in-October-3341825.php#ixzz1svB1IUww>

By Mark Pattison Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The announcement of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha's impending canonization "is the news we've been waiting for shortly after her beatification," said Sister Kateri Mitchell about her namesake.

The waiting, though, has taken a long time. Blessed Kateri was beatified in 1980.

Regarding her reaction to the news Dec. 19 from the Vatican that a second miracle attributed to Blessed Kateri has been recognized, "I guess the word is overwhelming and also just exuberant with jubilation," said Sister Kateri, laughing.

A Sister of St. Ann, Sister Kateri said she was "blessed" with receiving the name Kateri when she entered religious life in 1959.

Sister Kateri has been executive director of the Tekakwitha Conference National Center in Great Falls, Mont., for the past 14 years and has been affiliated with the center since the 1970s. At the center, joy was the reigning emotion as calls and emails came in.

"We've had a call from a bishop, who's very excited, and an email from another bishop who's very excited. Also some of our members received the news in email ... and they're responding with such joy it's unbelievable," she told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview.

A member of the Mohawk Nation as was Blessed Kateri, Sister Kateri (pronounced CAT-tery) was raised on the St. Regis (Akwesasne) Mohawk International Reservation, which stretches from New York into Canada. She said her parents had a devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha and would frequently make what for them was a 200-mile trip to Blessed Kateri's birthplace and the town where she was raised.

Blessed Kateri was born in 1656 in a village on the Mohawk River called Ossernenon, now Auriesville, N.Y. A smallpox epidemic left her orphaned at age 4, and she was raised by her

relatives. But after she was baptized at age 20, against the wishes of family members and many in her clan, Kateri fled to Canada, taking refuge at St. Francis Xavier Mission in the Mohawk Nation at Caughnawaga, not too far from Montreal.

The name Kateri is the Mohawk equivalent of Katherine, said Sister Kateri. "Even as a little girl I was very familiar with her."

"As Native American Catholics, I think this just brings such great joy and gratitude to our model" of faith, she added.

"The people that I've met from other cultures and countries would say, 'You Native Americans or indigenous of America need a saint of your own.' I'd say, 'I totally agree with you, and please pray with us.'"

Sister Kateri said, "I consider it one of the greatest gifts anyone could receive for Christmas."

"It's certainly a wonderful day to get this message," Msgr. Paul Lenz, U.S. vice postulator of Blessed Kateri's cause, told CNS Dec. 19.

Msgr. Lenz has served as a vice postulator for the past five years, assisting a Jesuit priest, Father Tom Pare, for two years until Father Pare died. Msgr. Lenz had been executive director of the Black and Indian Mission Office in Washington for 32 years prior to his retirement from active ministry and coordinated all of the events surrounding Blessed Kateri's beatification in 1980.

He said that he will coordinate the liturgies surrounding the impending canonization, while his successor at the Black and Indian Mission Office, Father Wayne Paysse, will be in charge of the pilgrimages to Rome for canonization ceremonies. The mission office is an umbrella organization several entities including the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.

Msgr. Lenz said the Vatican investigation into the now-authenticated miracle was "a very, very effective tribunal."

In Canada, the canonization of an aboriginal woman will be the answer to a prayer for all native peoples.

"There's a natural sense of pride and joy," among native people, said Bishop Gary Gordon of Whitehorse.

On hearing that Blessed Kateri will be canonized, perhaps as early as spring 2012, Bishop Gordon planned to phone his old friend Steve Point, the lieutenant governor of British Columbia. Point is a former elected chief of the Skowkale First Nation.

"I'm gonna say to him, 'Steve, we've got to go to Rome!'" the bishop told The Catholic Register in Toronto.

"Awesome!" was the word from Grace Esquega, director of the Kitchitwa Kateri, a church for aboriginal Catholics in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Esquega repeated the word several times when Father Larry Croker called to give her the news.

"There have been prayer circles. People have been in touch with the devotion for years. There will just be great joy over it, finally after all this time," said Croker.

In northwestern Ontario, native rendezvous weekends and music ministries have been organized around devotion to Blessed Kateri since the 1970s.

At the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, where a couple of statues of Blessed Kateri are popular, manager John Zurakowski predicted the annual First Nations' pilgrimage will attract new participants.

"The First Nations pilgrimage will grow because now it's one of their own elevated to sainthood," Zurakowski said.

On missions across Canada, the beatification will demonstrate that the Catholic Church is truly with the people, said Father Philip Kennedy, president of the organization Catholic Missions in

Canada.

“In the minds of the First Nations people, she’s already a saint,” said Father Kennedy. “She’s already someone to whom they can appeal for sympathy with their troubles, for help with discrimination. She’s gone through what they are going through.”

Kateri is significant not only for aboriginal Catholics but also for native Lutherans and Anglicans, said Kennedy. Her status as a role model of spiritual life also crosses borders.

“When I went to a mission conference in Guatemala they had a huge picture of her, like a three-storey-high picture,” Father Kennedy said.

Bl. Kateri's canonization a sign of hope for Native American Catholics

By Benjamin Mann

Rome, Italy, Mar 15, 2012 / 04:16 am ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).- South Dakota's Native American Catholics are looking toward Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha's canonization for hope amid social and economic troubles, according to Bishop Robert D. Gruss of Rapid City.

“I think this canonization of Blessed Kateri will be a great inspiration, and give them hope in their lives,” Bishop Gruss told CNA on March 9, during the last days of his “ad limina” visit to Rome with other bishops from his state as well as Minnesota and North Dakota.

“It's the first Native American woman to be canonized as a saint, so she will really be a symbol for them. And that's our hope: that in the midst of all of that, it will inspire them, and allow them to be drawn deeper into their own faith.”

Bishop Gruss and his fellow bishops met with Pope Benedict XVI and Vatican officials during the traditional trip to Rome, offering them an update on the state of their local churches over the past five years.

“When I spoke with the Holy Father, I shared with him the challenges that the Native American people on the reservations in western South Dakota have,” said Bishop Gruss, who became the Bishop of Rapid City in July 2011.

During their meeting, he asked the Pope to pray for the faithful living on the reservations.

“They're located in five of the poorest counties in the United States, with a lot of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and crime. The suicide rate, especially among young people, is far above the national average.”

Bishop Gruss sees a “vibrant spirit” among those Native American Catholics who practice their faith. He noted that the Church allows them to incorporate parts of their own indigenous culture and spiritual heritage that are compatible with Catholic doctrine.

“What we try to do is bring the Gospel to them, on the reservation, and try to help them in any way that we can. I spoke with the Holy Father about programs that are being offered to help them with the challenges that they have – but still, the challenges remain.”

“They've been dealing with these challenges for many years. But with the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, in October, they're very excited about that.”

In December 2011, Pope Benedict formally approved the canonization of the 17th-century Native American woman, who converted to Catholicism at age 18 and lived a remarkable life of prayer and penance before her death at age 24. The Pope will declare Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha a saint on Oct. 21.

Bishop Gruss said the future saint's faithful perseverance would be a model for Native American Catholics, and all believers.

“She began to embrace the Catholic faith, and it was a real hardship for her. Her parents and family rejected her, her tribe rejected her. So in the midst of her challenges and rejection, she stayed true to the faith and her love for Jesus Christ.”

“I think that, in and of itself, will bring the Lakota People of South Dakota hope.”

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Obama Administration Names 78 Schools in 29 States and D.C. as First-Ever U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

Winners Represent a Diverse Portfolio of Schools, Includes 66 Public and 12 Private Schools in Urban and Rural Communities

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was joined today by White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson to announce the first-ever U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, a list including 78 schools that span 29 states and D.C.

The announcement was made during a visit to Stoddert Elementary School, one of D.C.'s two honorees.

“Science, environmental and outdoor education plays a central role in providing children with a well-rounded education, helping prepare them for the jobs of the future,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools demonstrate compelling examples of the ways schools can help children build real-world skillsets, cut school costs, and provide healthy learning environments.”

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) is a federal recognition program that [opened](#) in September 2011. Honored schools exercise a comprehensive approach to creating “green” environments through reducing environmental impact, promoting health, and

ensuring a high-quality environmental and outdoor education to prepare students with the 21st century skills and sustainability concepts needed in the growing global economy.

"Schools that take a green approach cut costs on their utility bills, foster healthy and productive classrooms, and prepare students to thrive in the 21st century economy," said Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. "These Green Ribbon School award winners are taking outstanding steps to educate tomorrow's environmental leaders, and demonstrating how sustainability and environmental awareness make sense for the health of our students and our country."

The 78 awarded schools were named winners from among nearly 100 nominees submitted by 30 state education agencies, the District of Columbia and the Bureau of Indian Education. More than 350 schools completed applications to their state education agencies. Among the [list of winners](#) are 66 public schools, including 8 charters, and 12 private schools. In total, the schools are composed of 43 elementary, 31 middle and 26 high schools with around 50 percent representing high poverty schools.

"These Green Ribbon Schools are giving students and educators what they need to maximize learning and minimize risks like asthma and other respiratory illnesses, ensuring that no child is burdened by pollution in or around their school," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson.

"Today's winners are protecting our children's health and opening up environmental education opportunities for students. The EPA is proud to help recognize the Green Ribbon award winners and will continue working to improve the environment of our nation's schools and helping prepare students to succeed in the emerging green economy."

The U.S. Department of Education's "Green Ribbons" are one-year recognition awards. Next year's competition will open in summer 2012. State agencies are encouraged to send their intents to submit nominees by June 15, 2012 via email to green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov.

Connect with more U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools [resources](#).

Read all U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools [blogs](#).

Connect with U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools on [Facebook](#)

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A complete list of the 2012 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools follows:

Alabama

Munford Elementary School

Winterboro High School

Munford, Alabama

Talladega, Alabama

Arizona

The STAR School

Roadrunner Elementary School

Flagstaff, Arizona

Phoenix, Arizona

Arkansas

Acorn High School

Mena, Arkansas

California

Longfellow Elementary School

Long Beach, California

Environmental Charter High School

Lawndale, California

Grand View Elementary School

Manhattan Beach, California

The Athenian School

Danville, California

Colorado

Flagstone Elementary School

Castle Rock, Colorado

Denver Green School

Denver, Colorado

Wellington Middle School

Wellington, Colorado

District of Columbia

Stoddert Elementary School

Washington, DC

Sidwell Friends Middle School

Washington, DC

Florida

Learning Gate Community School

Lutz, Florida

Pine Jog Elementary School

West Palm Beach, Florida

TERRA Environmental Research Institute

Miami, Florida

Georgia

Springdale Park Elementary School

Atlanta, Georgia

Arabia Mountain High School

Lithonia, Georgia

Savannah Country Day School

Savannah, Georgia

Hawaii

Ewa Makai Middle School

Ewa Beach, Hawaii

Hawaii Preparatory Academy

Kamuela, Hawaii

Illinois

Academy for Global Citizenship

Chicago, Illinois

Thomas J. Waters Elementary School

Chicago, Illinois

Prairie Crossing Charter School

Grayslake, Illinois

Iowa

Des Moines Central Campus High School Des Moines, Iowa

Kansas

Eisenhower High School
Erie High School
Brookwood Elementary

Goddard, Kansas
Erie, Kansas
Leawood, Kansas

Kentucky

Rosa Parks Elementary School
Georgetown Middle School
Richardsville Elementary School

Lexington, Kentucky
Georgetown, Kentucky
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Maryland

Dunloggin Middle School
Francis Scott Key Middle School
Folger McKinsey Elementary School
Lucy School

Ellicott City, Maryland
Silver Spring, Maryland
Severna Park, Maryland
Middletown, Maryland

Michigan

Clarkston High School
Detroit Edison Public School Academy

Clarkston, Michigan
Detroit, Michigan

Minnesota

North Shore Community School
Garlough Environmental Magnet School
Kennedy Community School

Duluth, Minnesota
West St. Paul, Minnesota
Saint Joseph, Minnesota

Missouri

Crossroads College Preparatory School
The College School

St. Louis, Missouri
St. Louis, Missouri

Nebraska

Lothrop Science & Technology Magnet Center
Miller Park Elementary

Omaha, Nebraska
Omaha, Nebraska

New Jersey

Bernards High School
Midtown Community Elementary School
Adler Avenue Middle School
The Willow School

Bernardsville, New Jersey
Neptune, New Jersey
Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey
Gladstone, New Jersey

New York

Hampton Bays Middle School
Sleepy Hollow Middle School

Hampton Bays, New York
Sleepy Hollow, New York

Bethlehem Central Middle School

Delmar, New York

North Carolina

Evergreen Community Charter School

Asheville, North Carolina

American Hebrew Academy

Greensboro, North Carolina

North Dakota (Bureau of Indian Education)

Circle of Nations

Wahpeton, North Dakota

Ohio

Loveland High School

Loveland, Ohio

North Adams Elementary School

Seaman, Ohio

Oregon

Sunnyside Environmental School

Portland, Oregon

Willamina Elementary School

Willamina, Oregon

Gladstone High School

Gladstone, Oregon

Catlin Gable School

Portland, Oregon

Pennsylvania

Radnor Middle School

Wayne, Pennsylvania

Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

A.W. Beattie Career Center

Allison Park, Pennsylvania

Springside Chestnut Hill Academy

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Classical High School

Providence, Rhode Island

Nathan Bishop Middle School

Providence, Rhode Island

Virginia

Fishburn Park Elementary School

Roanoke, Virginia

The Gereau Center for Applied Technology & Career Exploration Rocky Mount, Virginia

Washington

Tahoma Junior High School

Ravensdale, Washington

Camelot Elementary School

Auburn, Washington

Secondary Academy for Success

Bothell, Washington

The Overlake School

Redmond, Washington

West Virginia

Hilltop Elementary School

Wheeling, West Virginia

Wyoming County Career & Technical Center

Pineville, West Virginia

Wisconsin

Dimensions of Learning Academy

Kenosha, Wisconsin

Middleton High School

Middleton, Wisconsin

Purdy Elementary School

Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

[UN to investigate plight of US Native Americans for first time](http://www.guardian.co.uk) www.guardian.co.uk

The UN human rights inquiry will focus on the living conditions of the 2.7 million Native Americans living in the US

<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap120305.html>

[Help Others.org: Celebrate Pay It Forward Day, April 26th -- A Kindness Story](http://www.helpothers.org)

www.helpothers.org

Pay It Forward Day is coming up on Thursday April 26th and we invite you to celebrate with us by doing an act of kindness! Below are some kindness ideas, based on some of our favorite real-life HelpOthers' pay-it-forward stories. And we invite you to share how you celebrated

[Kindness Cards: Tracking The Ripple Of Kindness](http://www.youtube.com)

www.youtube.com

Think Kindness is gearing up to launch a way to track the ripple effect of a single act of kindness. The goal of Kindness Cards is to inspire millions of act...

Sierra Nevada Journeys the areas leading provider in experiential outdoor and science education is searching for a new Chief Executive Officer.

This is a fantastic place to work and is a tremendous opportunity for the right person looking to jump into a fast paced, rapidly expanding organization who's mission is to "inspire youth and communities to take care of the natural world through education, leadership development and service."

More information can be found at <http://www.sierranevadajourneys.org/community-members/join-our-team/>

From Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS):

1440 Foundation is offering up to three prizes of \$25,000 each — for a total of \$75,000 — to be awarded for the best new ideas to develop and share self-awareness, authenticity, trust, and empathy through technology.

[1440 Foundation](http://www.1440foundation.org)

1440 Foundation supports programs and best practices that cultivate authentic relationship skills in education, wellness, and the workplace.