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NEW PARISH CELEBRATES SPIRITUALITY OF URBAN NATIVE AMERICANS

Kimberly Kordick

ON THE FEAST OF THE BLESSED TRINITY, Bishop Manuel D. Moreno of Tucson, Arizona celebrated the establishment of a new parish in his diocese. It was dedicated to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. Ms Kimberly Kordick, staffwriter for The Arizona Lifetime Catholic, tells us the story of this important event.

THE OFFICIAL dedication of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish was celebrated at St. Augustine's Cathedral June 2.

The parish was established Nov. 30, 1984, to serve Native Americans living in the urban areas surrounding Tucson.

The non-territorial parish will administer the Christo Rey Mission located in the New Pascua Village; St. Nicholas Indian Center in Tucson; San Ignacio Chapel, located at the Pascua Village; San Martin Chapel, located in South Tucson; Yoem Pueblo, recently dedicated San Juan Bautista, located in Marana; and Santa Rosa Chapel, which will be used jointly by Holy Family Parish and the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish. The Tekakwitha Parish will be serving Native American people residing in the urban, metropolitan areas, said Father Owen Farrell, S.T., pastor of the new parish.

These five missions and chapels have been relinquished by their former parent parishes and are now under the direction of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish.

Bishop Manuel D. Moreno was the main celebrant of the Mass, which was concelebrated by priests of the diocese.

The bishop expressed admiration for Native Americans' awareness of the power of God."

"You recognize the power of God in everything around you. As we establish this parish it is so that we can become aware of the different gifts of a different beauty that all of us have." These gifts enrich the diocese and enrich the church, Bishop Morencio said in his homily.