

Tekakwitha Conference in Seattle, Washington

(August 1993)

As it was held in the beautiful surroundings of Puget Sound, in Seattle Washington, many new faces appeared in the picture.

Of the 1500 participants, many came from the West Coast: Alaska, Yukon, Vancouver Island, Washington, Oregon and California States. Some also made the trip from Nova Scotia, the State of New York and

particularly impressive was the group of Mohawks from Syracuse, Akwesasne and Kahnawake, Quebec.



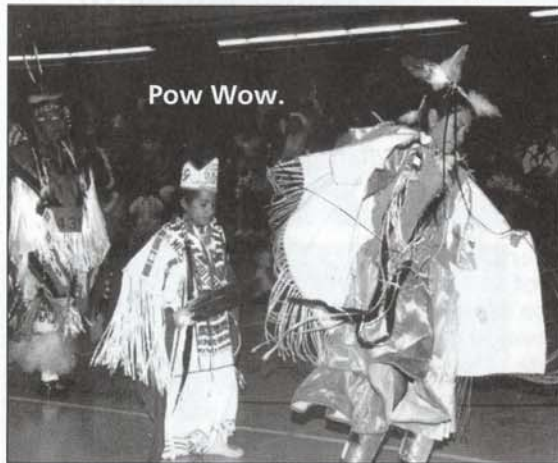
St Josephs' Church - Mass. Singing of our father.

the roots, even though the present ways of life of the Natives are tainted today by many a cross-

culture influence. This happens all over the world. Even the Chinese today start the day with a fresh cup of coffee, enjoy foreign

movies, and dance to the beat of American style bands. Its a matter of retaining its own character, integrating in this modern society. But as Bishop Thomas Murphy said in his welcome speech: "Indians must continue enriching the Church as the Church has enriched them, blending their faith in Christ with their own culture. The adoration of God takes different colors and this is the richness of the Church."

As usual there were many workshops besides the key-note addresses. To be noted was the fine



Pow Wow.

The theme of the conference was: Re-awakening the Spirit within. We feel that there is a great effort made to go back to

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talk of this Chipewa Indian from Seattle, Ms Patricia Repikoff, about "the Church after Vatican II". "Today everyone, especially the lay people, feel part of the Church... These are all called to be involved in the Church, to be evangelizers."

The sunrise ceremonies attracted a lot of early-risers and many could watch from their own windows looking down on the majestic river and lofty mountains in the back.

The most appreciated events on the program were the outings to two reservations and to the Snoqualmie Falls, and of course the two special masses at the Cathedral and at St Mary's Church. It's always enjoyable to discover the

ways of living of your brothers and sisters and of praying together to the same God.

The two Vice-Postulators for Kateri's Cause were present everywhere and were able to answer so many questions about the state of the Cause.

Bishops Chaput and Pelotte, our two American Native bishops, also honored us with their participation in the liturgies. They help us to feel like one in Christ, not with standing our different backgrounds, customs and tradi-

tions. This is what the Conference is accomplishing: unity among the Catholic Natives under the care of Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha. ■

Jacques Bruyère, s.j.



Grand entry.

