

Feast of  
Kateri  
April 17

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Celebration

April 30

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### **Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha: Lily of the Mohawk**

*Traditional iconography gives witness to the human face of the Sacred. This icon, imaged in the features of America's indigenous peoples, reveals anew that sacred power.*

*It celebrates the soul of the Native American as the original spiritual presence on this continent, and as a prophetic sign, it celebrates the reconciliation of the spiritual vision of Native and Christian peoples of this land.*

*The warm glow surrounding her figure suggests the blessedness of her innocence and, more mystically, its radiance among us.*

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## **Flight of the Lily**

Dashing through a forest strange and wild;  
Across vast waters and trails unknown;  
Whispers of the wind do guide this child  
Who senses fear, but is not alone.  
Eyed from above, she remains alive;  
Angels hover as she's forced to flee.  
A dear infant of the Nations Five,  
A Mohawk princess is Kateri.  
Braided hair, a sign of the maiden,  
No earthly ties shall bind her soul.  
Northward her path, her body so laden  
With pain; injuries taking their toll.  
Weak of eyes and sight so fast fading,  
She reaches the land of the Black-Robed Fathers.  
And there for her is refuge waiting  
By the shores of Canadian waters.  
But now this girl, Tekakwitha named,  
Sees her labors as just beginning,  
Among her native people so maimed  
By illness, hunger and age; life dimming.  
A lily among Mohawks is she  
Said to be, as she, a soul unstained,  
Prays with cross roughly-hewn from a tree.  
For her is Heaven surely gained.  
Tears soon flow for this sweet Kateri,  
That lovely flower sown in the wild.  
She's called from earthly woes; soul made free  
Released to Heaven, in peace she smiled.  
She knew her work would go on above  
As gracious miracles to perform.  
In kindly deeds, acts of so much love,  
We see the aura of sainthood form.

*Ray Lacharité*