

---

---

## Pictures of Events

By Anne Scheuerman

---



*Kateri Tekakwitha Altar Screen*

---

---

## Dedication of Kateri Tekakwitha Altar Screen

---

**K**ateri Tekakwitha, a Mohawk who lived in the 1600s in NY and Canada, is awaiting canonization by the Church to become the first Native American Saint.

Giovanna Paponetti, Taos artist, and adjunct professor of art at UNM/TAOS has been commissioned and honored by the St. John the Baptist Church to complete 21 paintings on her life story. So far 16 oil paintings on panels have been installed in a beautiful wooden altar screen carved by Daniel Tafoya of Penasco.

A mass was held at St. John the Baptist Church at Ohkay Owingeh pueblo, formerly San Juan Pueblo at 10.00a.m. Archbishop Michael Sheehan blessed the altar screen at the time. He commented that he had never seen the church so packed on a Feast Day. A blessing of the water at the river was held earlier in the morning. This coincided with the Ohkay Owingeh's annual feast day.

Representatives from the Kahnawake Reserve in Canada were welcomed during Mass; Deacon Ron Boyer recently appointed Vice-Postulator by Rome for the Cause of Kateri, first Native American and Deacon to hold this position. For Kateri to be canonized a miracle is needed. People can report any miracles to him for possible investigation by Rome. Other guests from Canada include Cathy Rice, Connie Meloche, Elizabeth Meloche and Deacon Boyer's son, Arnold. Most are models in Giovanna's paintings.

Numerous miracles have been attributed to Kateri. The first miracle occurred when the scars on Kateri's face from a smallpox epidemic at age 4, disappeared 15 minutes following her death.

In August 2005, Fr. Terrance Brennan, six women from Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara and Jemez pueblos, and Taos artist Giovanna Paponetti visited Kahnawake reserve in Canada to meet representatives to get permission to photograph some of their tribal members for Giovanna's paintings. Kateri's tomb is located in the St. Francis Xavier Church in Kahnawake. There are 8000 tribal members at Kahnawake. During this time they also made a pilgrimage to visit the site where Kateri was born. Giovanna returned to Canada a second time to further research. The final installation of additional paintings is expected later this year. Giovanna is working on a book to be published by Clear Light Publishers in Santa Fe, NM.

For further information please contact Giovanna Paponetti at (575) 758-9040 or [Giovanna@newmex.com](mailto:Giovanna@newmex.com)