



E-Newsletter | January 2013

The Newest American Saints

In October 2012, the Vatican chose seven new saints. The two Americans canonized were both women - Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American saint from the U.S. and Mother Marianne Cope - both featured in *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. We are pleased to tell you about these two women in this month's e-newsletter. No matter your religious beliefs or practices, join us in saluting these two saints who helped to change America.



Kateri Tekakwitha

Kateri Tekakwitha, a member of the Mohawk tribe, was born in 1656. A smallpox epidemic when she was four years old took the lives of both of her parents and her brother. Tekakwitha recovered but with badly impaired eyesight and a pockmarked face. She was adopted by her paternal uncle and from her family learned the ways and practices of the Mohawks. On Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676, she was baptized in St. Peter's chapel in Caughnawaga, New York. She suffered at the hands of the Mohawks for having converted and left her uncle's home for Sault St. Louis, Canada.

At the chapel in Sault St. Louis, she became revered by all as a saintly woman. She engaged in frequent prayer and daily visits to the mission chapel. Without exception, her behavior demonstrated charity towards all, prudence in recognizing that prayer and labor each had its appropriate time, and voluntary fasting and penances. The "Lily of the Mohawk" died at age 24 and was buried in Canada. Both Christian Native Americans and French inhabitants of Montreal visited her grave and sought her intercession with God.



Mother Marianne Cope

Mother Marianne Cope's life was very different from Saint Tekakwitha's, but dedicated as well to charity. Saint Cope was born in Germany in 1838. Her family emigrated to the U.S. when she was a year old. She was called to religious life at an early age but family obligations delayed her calling for years, while she worked at a factory to support her siblings. In 1862, she entered the convent when she was 24. At first she served as a teacher, and then a hospital administrator.

In 1883, Mother Marianne received a letter from what were then called the Sandwich Islands (today the state of Hawaii). They needed a leader for their hospitals and schools where the primary work was ministering to individuals with Hansen's disease (also known as leprosy). She stated that she was not afraid of any disease and she determined that the call to Hawaii was God's will. In Hawaii, she became Father Damien's successor at Boy's Home at the Kalaupapa leprosy settlement. Her legacy lives on today in health care and education. Hospitals in Syracuse, Utica and Poughkeepsie, New York are sponsored by her order, the Sisters of St. Francis. In Hawaii, the sisters founded a hospital after her death which has expanded into two medical centers.

On another note, we are pleased to share that on January 2, 2013, our book will be available in paperback and in an e-book version. Look for it in your local bookstores or at an on-line book retailer. Should you purchase the paperback and want it autographed, contact either of us at our e-mail address and we will send you a signed-by-the-author bookplate. Additionally, on January 5, 2013, we will receive the DAR History Award Medal for Excellence in History as co-authors of the book.

Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America
Charlotte S. Waisman and Jill S. Tietjen

www.herstoryatimeline.com

8547 E. Arapahoe Rd, PMB J189
Greenwood Villiage, Colorado 80112



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