

was chosen to represent the government of France in their dealings.

In late spring of 1646, he was sent back to the place of his previous torture to negotiate a peace treaty with the Mohawks. This time he brought along a companion, Jean Lalande. The tribe was not happy when they arrived. On October 18, 1646, the tribe invited Fr. Jogues into their lodge. As he entered, they severed his head, then impaled it on a post at the entrance of their stockade and threw his body into the Mohawk River. They did the same to Lalande the next day, placing his head next to that of Fr. Jogues.

Ten years after St. Isaac Jogues was martyred, Kateri Tekakwitha was born, in the same village where the martyrs had tried to plant Christianity. Kateri's mother was a captured Algonquin Christian who passed on the faith to her daughter, even though her father, a Mohawk, was hostile to Christianity.

Kateri was still a child when an outbreak of smallpox took the lives of both of her parents and brother and left her disfigured. She was taken in by an uncle who was also indifferent to the Christian faith, but his lack of faith did not deter Kateri; when Jesuit missionaries visited the village that is near modern-day Fonda, New York, she was baptized on Easter Sunday of 1676.

Apparently at this time, she also consecrated herself to Christ, vowing perpetual virginity. Of course, her foster parents wished her to marry. In order to preserve her vow, she had to escape — with the help of one of the Jesuit priests — to a village of Christians in Canada. Here, she received her first Communion and continued to advance in holiness, although she continued to suffer ridicule during her short life both for her faith and her facial disfigurement.

All of that ended on April 17, 1680, when she died at the age of 24. Her dying words were, "Jesus, I love you," which she repeated over and over. After her death, her face (which had been deeply scarred) appeared to be miraculously made whole.

In 1980, Pope John Paul II beatified Kateri. The novena to the North American Martyrs ends with a prayer for Kateri's canonization.

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NOVENA TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS



SEED OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

NOVENA TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS

**THE FOLLOWING PRAYERS ARE REPEATED
ONCE A DAY FOR NINE CONSECUTIVE DAYS.**

PRAYER FOR GENEROSITY OF SAINT IGNATIUS LOYOLA

Take, O Lord, all my liberty. Receive my memory, my understanding, and my will. You have given me all that I am and all that I possess. I return it all to You and surrender it to the guidance of Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace. With these I am rich enough and ask nothing more.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY, QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Glorious Queen of Martyrs, to whom the early missionaries of this country were so devoted and from whom they received so many favors, graciously listen to my petitions. Ask your Divine Son to remember all they did for His Glory; remind Him that they preached the Gospel and made His Name known to thousands who had never heard of Him; and then for Him had their apostolic labors crowned by shedding their blood. Exercise your motherly influence as you did at Cana and implore Him to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be conformable to His Holy Will. Amen.

PRAYER IN HONOR OF THE NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS

O God, who by the preaching and blood of Your Sainted Martyrs, Isaac, John, and their companions did consecrate the first fruits of the faith in the vast regions of North America, graciously grant that by their intercession the flourishing harvest of Christians may everywhere and always be increased through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

(NOW RECITE ONE OUR FATHER AND ONE HAIL MARY)

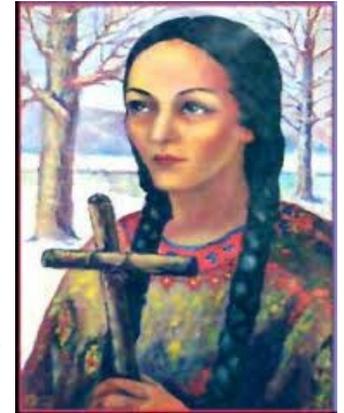
NOVENA PRAYER IN HONOR OF THE MARTYRS

O God, who did inflame the hearts of Your blessed Martyrs with an admirable zeal for the salvation of souls, grant me, I beseech You (*mention your request here*), so that the favors obtained through their intercession may make manifest before all the power and the glory of Your name. Amen.

***RECITE ALL OF THE ABOVE PRAYERS FOR NINE DAYS
THIS IS THE NOVENA***

PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA TO BE PRAYED AT THE END OF THE NOVENA

O God, who among the many marvels of Your Grace in the New World did cause to blossom on the banks of the Mohawk and of the St. Lawrence the pure and tender Lily, Kateri Tekakwitha, grant we beseech You the favor we beg through her intercession — that this young Lover of Jesus and of His Cross may soon be counted among her saints by the Church and that our hearts may be enkindled with a stronger desire to imitate her innocence and faith. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.



HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION

Eight men gave their lives for Christ in the New World between the years of 1642 and 1649, each of them connected with the Jesuits who were attempting to learn the culture of the indigenous people and to preach the Gospel to them in a way that would be understood. Three of the martyrs were put to death in what today is Auriesville, New York. The other five were all martyred near Midland, Ontario, in Canada.

René Goupil was the first to meet with martyrdom. He had studied for the Jesuits in his native France, but only for a while, before pursuing a career in medicine. When he heard the Jesuits were sending a mission to North America, he volunteered his services. He ended up with Fr. Isaac Jogues and a group of Hurons on their way up the river when a Mohawk tribe ambushed them. They suffered excruciating torture at the hands of the Mohawks, having the hair both on their head and face torn out, fingernails ripped off, and their forefingers cut off both by having them chewed on and cut with a sharp clam shell. When the torture ended, Fr. Jogues and Goupil were made slaves. On September 29, 1642 René Goupil was tomahawked to death when he was seen to be making the Sign of the Cross over a Mohawk child. His body was thrown into a ravine.

Fr. Jogues remained a slave to a Mohawk family until he escaped, with the help of a Dutch Reformed minister, in what today is Albany, New York. Soon, he was able to travel to New Amsterdam — present-day New York City — and finally made it back to France.

Because of his deformities, he had to gain a special dispensation from the pope to resume saying the Mass. Pope Urban VIII granted him the dispensation, saying, "It is unbecoming that a martyr of Christ should not drink the blood of Christ." Fr. Jogues became the toast of France and was invited by the royalty to tell his tale of New France. This embarrassed him, and he asked to be sent back to the missions. Familiar with the language of the Mohawks, he