



Name: Kateri Tekakwitha (Lily of the Mohawks)

Years: 1656- 1680

Residence: Upstate New York

Biography: Kateri Tekakwitha was born to a Mohawk chief father and an Algonquin mother who was a convert to Christianity. At the age of 4, her parents and siblings died from smallpox. The disease left her with poor health, which would cause her problems throughout her life. She was adopted by her uncle and aunts. Her uncle was a Mohawk chief and he strictly opposed Christianity, but that did not stop Tekakwitha from following it. However, At the age of 18, she secretly began studying the religion. Her uncle eventually allowed her to follow the religion, as long as she did not leave the village. She received backlash from fellow Mohawk villagers, so she escaped and sought refuge at the Catholic mission of St. Francis Xavier at Sault Saint-Louis in Montreal. At the mission, she helped heal the poor and the sick and she taught children prayers. Tekakwitha died at the young age of 24. At the time of her death, those present said that her wounds were healed and she was shining with radiance.

Major Accomplishments: She was canonized on October 12th, 2012. She holds the honor of being the first female Native American to achieve sainthood.

More Information: *A Lily Among Thorns* by Darren Bonaparte

Resources: National Women's History Museum, <https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/kateri-tekakwitha/>

By Elizabeth Wasserman