

# Chapter 2

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## Native American Women and Religion in the American Colonies: Textual and Visual Traces of an Imagined Community

Mónica Díaz

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### Questions for Critical Reading

1. What opportunities did the Church offer for Indigenous women to contribute to their communities? Why were these important?
2. What was the role of Catholic Indigenous women in education and converting their communities? How did this role change into the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
3. According to Díaz, it is difficult to find sources related to these nuns as nothing they wrote survived. How does this limit our study of their lives and roles?
4. The portraits in the article show Indigenous nuns with both Catholic and cultural elements. Why did the artists choose to diminish their individual culture in favour of their religious attributes?

### List of Primary Sources

- “A Map of the West-Indies or the Islands of America in the North Sea.” Moll, Herman. Map. c.1736.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3994854&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3994854](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3994854&rec_nbr_list=3994854)
- “The Private Chapel of the Ursuline Convent Quebec.” Smyth, John Coke. Print. 1840.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=2837455&rec\\_nbr\\_list=2837455](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2837455&rec_nbr_list=2837455)
- “First Ursuline Nuns with Indian Pupils at Quebec.” Batchelor, Lawrence R. Watercolour. C. 1931.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=2833440&rec\\_nbr\\_list=2833440](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2833440&rec_nbr_list=2833440)
- “Marie de l’Incarnation, 1599–1672” Postal Cover. 1981.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=2231443&rec\\_nbr\\_list=2231443](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2231443&rec_nbr_list=2231443)
- “Kateri Tekakwitha, 1656–1680.” Postal cover. 1981.

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- “Chapel of the Ursuline Convent, Quebec City.” Mercer, Alexander. Watercolour. 1829.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=2833191&rec\\_nbr\\_list=2833191](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2833191&rec_nbr_list=2833191)
- “Catherine Tegahkouita Iroquoise.” Engraved by Canu, Jean Dominique Etienne. Print. C. 1780.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3018899&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3018899](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3018899&rec_nbr_list=3018899)
- “Twenty Year Old Sister Naya Pelagie becomes Canada’s First Inuit Nun.” Wilkinson, Doug. Photograph. 1951.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3614951&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3614951](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3614951&rec_nbr_list=3614951)
- “Twenty Year Old Sister Naya Pelagie becomes Canada’s First Inuit Nun – Taking Vows.” Wilkinson, Doug. Photograph. 1951.  
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- “Group of Female Students and a Nun in a Classroom at Cross Lake Indian Residential School, Cross Lake, Manitoba, February 1940.” Photograph. 1940.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=4673899&rec\\_nbr\\_list=4673899](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4673899&rec_nbr_list=4673899)
- “Class Portrait of the Female Students at St. Anthony’s Indian Residential School, Onion Lake, Saskatchewan.” Photograph. C. 1950.  
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- “Arrival of Mother General Fort Providence.” Moran, J.F. Photograph. C. 1924.  
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## Multimedia Resources

- Kateri Tekakwitha  
[www.kateritekakwitha.org/kateri](http://www.kateritekakwitha.org/kateri)
- In Her Footsteps: The Story of Kateri Tekakwitha  
[www.saltandlighttv.org/kateri](http://www.saltandlighttv.org/kateri)

- Allen Pizzey, “Native Americans celebrate first Catholic sainthood,” CBC News, 2:01, posted October 2012, [www.cbsnews.com/news/native-americans-celebrate-first-catholic-sainthood](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/native-americans-celebrate-first-catholic-sainthood)
- National: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine  
[www.katerishrine.com](http://www.katerishrine.com)