



National Shrine of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Prayer Letter

November 2019

Dear Friend of Saint Kateri,

Every year the month of November introduces a change of seasons. Our environment, the natural order of less daylight, colder temperatures, and the change from rain to snow here in the Mohawk Valley forces us to change our daily routines. I believe that it is not only a physical change of our lifestyles but a mental change as well. We plan our days with less sunlight. Adding clothing to keep us warm certainly limits our daily plans and how we achieve our daily goals. Mentally, I believe that to say we are in a change of seasons is easier to accept than saying summer is over. Yes, summer has come and gone, but it will return next May. Colors fade, less daylight, white snow, and colder temperatures can certainly lead us to mentally isolate and not find color in our lives.

But all is not lost. A change of season brings us to a fork in the road in our personal lives and our personal attitudes. The choice is ours. We are still able to seek and find “color” in our lives. The world invites us to find color to brighten our lives. These are the up and coming holidays. November introduces and invites us to give thanks on “Thanksgiving.” Not a bad start to be grateful for what and who we have received in our lives. Colorful foods, clothing, and decorations help to remind us what we have achieved in a colorful celebration.

November also allows us to go beyond the third Thursday of this month and continue to live in color. The day of Thanksgiving comes and goes. Dishes get washed, football games begin and end, we say goodbye to friends and family who have been our guests and we wrap the leftovers, putting the cold turkey on a shelf in the refrigerator or icebox.

But we Christians have a unique way of keeping color in our personal lives because of November 1st and 2nd; the Feast of “All Saints” and the Feast of “All Souls.” Two days at the beginning of the month that seem to rush by unless we remember their significance. I propose this winter season to keep color in our lives, and not to isolate, by reading the life of a saint each day. In just 3 to 5 minutes each day, the life of a saint will bring us out of any isolation by seeing how they brought spiritual color to their lives and the life of the Church. Be inspired by the simple, humble life of someone who looked for “God the Father’s creation of color” in another who saw the will of God, in the faces of the sick, the poor, the uneducated, the immigrant, the imprisoned, those who lived and live on the edges of society. Be inspired by the life of another human being.

Do not let the Feast of All Souls go the way of Thanksgiving football games and leftovers. Remember the dead, those whom we still love and are no longer with us. Remember how they inspired us and brought color to our lives. How they healed, taught, comforted, forgave and nourished us. Take their inspiration and memory one step farther. Contact someone who is still with us. Bring color to the life of a family member or friend that you have not spoken with in a while. Catch up and wish good thoughts or memories or prayers for their lives. Become the colorful saint in someone or in many lives during this winter season. Be inspired by the saints and souls of the past to bring COLOR to the present. Share that COLOR. Be Inspired and Inspire. Christmas, a new birth awaits.

-Fr. Tim Lyons, OFM Conv., Chaplain



Dear Friars, please include the following intentions in your daily prayers:

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| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Please return prayer intentions and donations to:

Saint Kateri Shrine, PO Box 627, Fonda NY 12068-0627 • 518-853-3646

nationalkaterishrine@gmail.com • www.katerishrine.com • Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram November 2019