

# Saint Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine and Historic Site

## Prayer Letter



November 2020

My dear Friends of Saint Kateri,

The month of November is the month each year when we winterize our buildings and prepare for snow and freezing temperatures. With the year 2020 quickly winding down, I find myself reflecting on this past year.

Being an active reader of mystery novels, I realize now that this past year is a lesson in patience and trusting that God will find a way to provide for us. So, like a mystery novel, I have been looking for clues to figure out “Who Done It???”

Just like the song that from time to time becomes a part of your conscious thought during any given day, a quote from Saint Paul has echoed in my own conscious thought since January of this year. His words “work with anxious concern” looped in my conscience on numerous occasions as the troubles of 2020 developed. I must confess that I have always been confused by Saint Paul’s words “anxious concern.” He was instructing the Philippians to work with anxious concern for their salvation. I misunderstood “being anxious” as “crippling anxiety.” It is not. Working with anxious concern is asking for help and trusting that help will arrive.

As this pandemic developed and politics became a main topic in the news, the summer season of Saint Kateri Shrine became limited and possibly doubtful. Once again, those words—“work with anxious concern” became my guide, my pathfinder, my trailblazer. At each and every problem or roadblock to normalcy, I would be approached by someone and told “Don’t worry, I’ll take care of that.” I slowly began to realize that God not only works in the negative but teaches during negative experiences, as well. To work with anxious concern is not to be crippled by anxiety because of fear but to see that negative situation and ask for help. Wow, help came like the calvary in a Saturday morning Western. I always knew it would.

As monthly discussions began early this year by the Saint Kateri Council and staff, we realized that this year would be different. Volunteer actions became a reality. As we gained more knowledge, their response to any given situation was “I’ll handle that,” “Don’t worry, that will be cleaned and organized,” or “I am free to help in any way.” My “anxious concern” invited me to continue to ask God for guidance to do His will. I saw in and on numerous occasions our Council and volunteers who have other responsibilities of family, kids, grandkids, employment, and numerous obligations continue to help out here. I am truly humbled by their dedication and love for the Shrine and for Saint Kateri. To them, I say “thank you.”

There have been so many situations, circumstances, and dilemmas that have been taken care of during this year, but only because of the continued donations by you our monthly newsletter readers. With “the new normal” becoming a daily routine, you our faithful newsletter children of Saint Kateri, never hesitated to continue with your donations and in many situations increased those donations. Please know that your sacrifices, prayer requests, and continued devotion to Saint Kateri and your Shrine here in Fonda, New York, are deeply and sincerely appreciated, not only by myself but by all involved in our continued ministry of prayer and teaching the life of Saint Kateri. To you, I and we say “thank you.”

I wish to also express my sincere thanks to my fellow Brothers in Saint Francis. Your continued responses to our newsletter with your donations and prayer requests are indeed humbling and most appreciated. As always, thank you for praying with me. I also wish to thank Fr. James, our Minister Provincial, and Fr. Michael, our Vicar Provincial, with the Province Definitor and the staff at our Provincial office for their continued advice, guidance, and support.

I now realize to everyone mentioned in this month's newsletter that the question “Who Done It???” is You. All of you working with “anxious concern for your salvation.” Let us continue to pray for one another and to lead each other to God Our Father’s will, as did Saint Kateri.

-Fr. Tim Lyons, OFM Conv., Chaplain and Director



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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

