



National Shrine of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Prayer Letter

May 2020

Dear Friend of Saint Kateri,

The month of May is a month filled with hope.

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “hope” as “to cherish a desire with anticipation” and also “to want something to happen or be true.”

It is apparent that May of 2020 offers us two roads to choose because of the present COVID-19 pandemic. We can choose a road of fear, anxiety, and hopelessness, depending upon our goals and desires in life. If so, we become blinded by anger and resentment. Or we can choose a daily road of hope, depending upon our own uniqueness and the goals and desires that we are striving for in the eyes of God as His child.

The traditional events in May are being interrupted this year. Usually there are major celebrations of weddings, graduations, First Communions, Confirmations, and other personal, family, and public events, especially Mother’s Day celebrations. These have all been placed on hold. They are planned the majority of the time with our own unique personal touches to that special day that we can call our own and that we can look back upon in future days as our anniversary, our new beginning. We recognize our work and effort as a special accomplishment that is our own. And most importantly, we take this opportunity to “Thank Mom” for all that she has done and continues to do for us.

Saint Kateri lived her life asking the question “What does God want me to do”? Handicapped by the smallpox that not only limited her own physical body but also took away her own father, mother, and younger brother, her response to this situation was to fill her loss not with anger but with hope. She, as a child of God, asked Him to hold her hand. She became another Christ seeking God’s will in the negative situation she found herself in. God is not afraid of the negative in our lives. How unique that the partial loss of sight from the smallpox gave her a keener eyesight into God’s will. Hope never fails.

The more that I learn about the life of Saint Kateri, the more I am inspired to see each new situation of change in my own life not as negative but as an opportunity to be the person that God has created me to be. All of us are imperfect. All of us are in need of help to be who we are created to be: a child of God who is not only our Creator but our Savior as well.

The present state of our world because of the pandemic is loss. We have lost lives, mobility, employment, freedom to live our lives in the usual routines that we have grown used to. Once again, we are faced with a choice. What attitude, goal, desire do I choose to put in place of what I have lost?

I believe that hope is that first step. I cannot do this alone. I cannot reach my full potential as a person without asking for help. Pray to Our Blessed Mother, for she is your mother. Tell her about the fear that is in your heart. Ask her to remove that fear. Place all in her hands. Mary, Our Mother, knows the feelings that you are experiencing. She will understand and console you as she consoled Saint Kateri.

Please continue to mail us your prayer requests to be placed at the feet of Saint Kateri in our Friary Chapel, where I say Mass daily. I am especially remembering the healers, filled with hope that their unselfish actions will allow positive changes to occur. Without a Good Friday, we cannot have an Easter.

-Fr. Tim Lyons, OFM Conv., Chaplain



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

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 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 May 2020