

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine and Historic Site



Prayer Letter

May 2021

My dear Friends of Saint Kateri,

The month of May is the month that announces an explosion of plant life from the winter ground. This awakening of nature from its winter slumber seems to brighten all dimensions of our lives. Sunlight is longer each day, and we enjoy warmer daily temperatures. We become creators ourselves as we plan outside activities, especially those that are directed toward our own yards, especially our flower and/or vegetable gardens. We plan how we want these gardens to look and take the necessary steps of preparation and planning that will bring about beautiful results.

May seems to inspire us to take a different view of things. As mentioned in the April letter, the cold darkness of the winter is replaced by the warmth of longer daylight, which inspires positive goals. I continue to pray for Saint Kateri's assistance and inspiration not to get stuck in the negatives of today but have faith that the growth and healing I witness and participate in will bring about beautiful results. Saint Kateri continues to inspire me. She turned the negatives and limitations of her physical body to positives that allowed her to see God not only in herself but especially in others.

We can imitate her faith and trust in a loving Creator Spirit by not thinking only of ourselves but by planning projects that will bring happiness and beauty to others when they see our efforts. Invite someone to help you plan a May project. The toil and effort that we use to bring about these positive changes in our physical world is a slightly different toil and effort in our spiritual world, but Saint Kateri continues to inspire me as not only an earthly gardener but a spiritual gardener, as well.

There is one constant that is necessary for both earthly and spiritual gardeners: **"You must get down on your knees in order to remove the weeds."** Because of this action, we get both our knees and hands dirty. In doing so, we realize that our lives are a continual circle of handicaps, healing, nourishment, and growth to beauty. This beauty is God Our Father's will for us in each circumstance, whether physical or spiritual. With any negative weeds gone from our lives, we can hear God's voice of inspiration much clearer.

Our gardens become embodied in our families and our relationships as husband and wife, mother and father, friend and neighbor. Let another help you to bring God's consolation and forgiveness. When we are on our knees, we are closer to creation and the Creator.

Let us all also remember our mothers this month. May those who gave us life and taught us to pray be remembered in our own prayers.

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



Ask Saint Kateri to inspire someone to seek a career as a priest, brother, sister, or permanent deacon:

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

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |



Please return prayer intentions and donations to:

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

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