

KATERIGRAM

THANKS to the indwelling of the Trinity in her soul, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha discovered what she was. Thomas Merton made the same discovery three centuries later. "I'm somebody" he wrote, "whom God loves."

She found proof of this within herself and all about her. The Word of God, as St. John tells us in his Gospel, is present in all things, even within us, full of love.

Because of this fantastic revelation, she found out, too, how valuable she was in the eyes of God. So valuable indeed, that He gave Himself to her in the sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and of the Holy Eucharist; in His beloved Mother, Mary Immaculate, in St. Joseph, His fosterfather, in the saints, particularly in her Angel guardian and St. Francis Xavier, patron of the Mission.

Hadn't He given Himself to her in the Nativity, in the hidden life, in the exile similar to hers, in the three years of preaching, in the vicious, terrible Passion and death upon the Cross, and in the splendor of the Resurrection?

The time came when the distinction between sacred and profane seemed abolished. Wasn't the God of love, who is also the God of beauty, present in the springs of limpid water, in the green forests, the broad lakes, the mighty rivers, in the blues and greys of the sky? In the nourishing crops of beans, maize, and squash, in the wild beasts whose hides and flesh nourished and clothed her?

Present, too, in the joy of friendship with Anastasia Tegonhatsiongo and Mary Theresa Teguaiaguenta, in the companionship with the devout Christian Indians of St. Francis Xavier?

Truly, Blessed Kateri could say, "I'm somebody whom Christ loves!" If she didn't exactly use those words, her entire life cried it out; her hours before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, her labor in the fields and woods in union with Christ the Carpenter, her meditations and her devotion to the rosary expressed this conviction far beyond the scope of mere words.

Teach me, dear Kateri, the true meaning of Easter, teach me to understand what I really am: "Somebody whom Christ loves!"

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Vice-Postulator



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Thanks to the generosity of Blessed Kateri's devoted friend, Fr. Albert Desjarlais, of Trois-Rivières, P.Q., birthplace of the Lily of the Mohawks' mother, a new statue of the Beata now graces her tomb in the Mission Church of St. Francis Xavier at Kahnawake, P.Q. It is the work of Sculptor Leo Arbour of Pointe-du-Lac, P.Q., who chose hickory as his medium.