

Prayers are always Heard

Prayers are always heard. This is true. God listens to every prayer being said and disposes of the spiritual or even physical help He has planned to give.

Many are dissatisfied when they do not get what they have asked for, especially through the intercession of a saint like our saintly Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. "God is not listening to me" they say.

What must we answer? Surely we have Our Lord's word: "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, it will be granted to you." But can we hope to find an answer to our prayer when what we ask for, is not in harmony with the will of God?

God in His infinite knowledge and wisdom and love knows what is best for us. When He sees that what we ask is not good for us. He will not grant it but will give something else that is better for us. We must not forget that God in the first place is interested in our spiritual welfare. Our eternal salvation and our growth in holiness are His will.

Sometimes God hears our prayer just as we have put it but He will test us and will give the answer only at a time when it will help us most.

We should learn to pray from Our Lord Himself. When He was suffering so terribly in the Garden of Olives, he prayed to His Father: "Father, if it possible, take this chalice from me but not my will.

Thy will be done." Such must our attitude be in prayer. The Father could have heard the prayer of His Son, the Father could have asked a lesser prize from Him for our salvation but in His plan if He did not hear the prayer of His Son, greater fruits could be derived from Christ's undiminished suffering.

It is not easy to pray and not to be heard, at least not seemingly. But let us submit to God's infinite wisdom and love and patiently await the outcome of our prayers.

One day somehow we shall know why God did not hear our prayers the way we wanted it. Is it not so that many have said: I am so glad that God did not hear my prayer at the time I wanted it and the way I wanted it. Much greater benefits have come to me thus.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha listens to us and carries our prayers before the throne of God but at the same time she submits her intercession to the wisdom and love of God. ■



Father Greier
(Trad. J.B.)

Why Natives would like to see *Bl. kateri canonized*

- 1** Being young and unmarried, she would be a good model for the youth and the lay people.
- 2** Kateri, a young girl lived unstained, in quite a depraved world, like the society of today. What an example and an inspiration!
- 3** She will help to bring unity between Natives and non-Natives.
- 4** We, Natives, have to recover a sense of pride and dignity. Kateri, a saint, would do just that.
- 5** We'd be so proud of sharing with the whole world, one of our own.
- 6** To canonize her would be telling us that we can be Native and Catholic at the same time. This is why we must try to be real Native Catholics.
- 7** She deserves to be canonized for she has obtained so many miraculous cures since her death.
- 8** So many spiritual favors have been attributed to her intercession.
- 9** She specializes in bringing unity and harmony to the families who are so vulnerable today.
- 10** In the first place, she was already on the list for canonization along with the North American Martyrs. We wonder why she was not canonized then...
- 11** Bl. Kateri would be the first North American Native saint, which means that others could follow.
- 12** We are waiting for the Pope to proclaim her sainthood publicly to the whole world. Our gift to the world!

