



The Frances Gonnannhatenha Roll

In 1692, disowned by her kin, Frances suffered excruciating torments and was finally stoned to death for the Faith. Another Indian martyr whose story is all too little known!

113. Mr. Jean-Paul Ménard	124. Mr. Joseph Wand	134. Mr. Clément Saumure
114. Mr. Sylvio Joseph	125. A Soul in Purgatory	135. Miss Marie-Jeanne Allain
115. Mr. Andrew Ensing	126. Mrs. Georgianna McNaughton	136. Mrs. Glenna Mongeau
116. Mr. Paul Schieber	127. Mr. Marvin Green	137. A Soul in Purgatory
117. Mr. l'Abbé A. H. Brown	128. Mr. Johnny Gariépi	138. Mr. Emile Jean
118. Mr. Agna Duchesneau	129. Mr. Vincent J. Allen	139. Mr. Dieudonné Bourelle
119. Mrs. Emilia Duchesneau	130. Mr. J. Kevin Rooney	140. Mr. Arthur Lanthier
120. Miss Rose Paradis	131. Mrs. Reina Russell	141. Mr. Raymond L. Sellers
121. Mr. Joseph-Doria Bélanger	132. A Soul in Purgatory	142. Mrs. M.-A. Lavoie Mireault
122. Mr. J. François Caron	133. Mr. Vincent Knockwood	Aubin
123. Mr. Fred Boudreau		

You, Too, can be Sainly

There is so much goodness in the average person that I'm always tempted to say, "You're a saint and you don't know it." That remark almost always produces embarrassed laughter and a sharp denial. People don't think of themselves as saints, especially those who truly are.

Leon Bloy wrote, "The greatest sadness is not to be a saint," and he was right. But this kind of sadness is not a bad thing. We can live with it and even put it to work for us. Think about it: When you are sad about disappointing God, it's a sure sign that you are deeply in love with Him. This is a holy sadness which can purify your soul. It leads to a passionate desire to be more perfectly united with your Maker.

Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941), an expert in mysticism, wrote: "Quietly dealing with one's own uncontrolled thoughts and desires is infinitely more humbling than any sort of deliberate austerity (like fasting) which only makes one feel one has done something!" Underhill said that most of your transgressions which trigger feelings of sadness are, in her words, "more temperamental sufferings than sins; and because they are a form of suffering you can always accept them and add them to the cross. The root principle is that God is all that matters in religion and because of this, there is never anything to be afraid of, in spite of your illusions to the contrary. A Christian can always do something with suffering. Simply offer it up to God."

The saints offered their sufferings in many ways. They believed that we can ransom someone from danger or misery simply by offering our sufferings to God in their behalf. The highest goal is the cheerful acceptance of suffering as a sign of God's permissive will. Few can attain that level of acquiescence: "If this is my cross, Lord, I shall bear it. Please give me the courage to be brave and not complain."

In times of sadness, it's a good idea to imitate the Arab in a sandstorm - lie down and remain motionless until the storm passes. A storm cannot be resisted, so you are wise to wait.

Patience is the sign of a holiness. It's never easy to be patient. Sometimes, it can be a crucifixion. In either case, God is never absent. The Holy Spirit uses both our agony and our ecstasy to come closer to us. Through it all, he remains unchanging love.

*By Rev. John Choir
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Amerindian News

The Pope does not forget Blessed Kateri

Last January, Father Walter L'Abbott S.J. from Boston Mass., celebrated Mass with the Pope in his private chapel. Alter Mass, he introduced himself to His Holiness as well as his two companions, Sr Mary Melgrani and Mrs Elisabeth Parker.

While introduced, Mrs Parker handed to the Holy Father, a photo of her three children and a prayer-card of Bl. Kateri. The Pope looked at the card and exclaimed: "This is the Indian girl!" "Yes said Mrs Parker. This Mohawk Indian girl is Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha!" The Pope looked at the back and the front of the card then handed it to Msgr S. Dziwisz, his personal secretary who was standing by and said: "We shall keep this". He blessed the photograph of the children and returned it to Mrs Parker.

Later on, Mrs Parker confided to Fr Abbott that she thinks that Bl. Kateri will play an important role in the Holy Father's plans for evangelization in preparation for the new millenium. She told him that in the back of the card, above the printed words "Prayer for the Canonization of Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha, she had written: "North America needs her blessings."

Thunder Bay celebrates its newest Native parish

At the end of a 15-year Journey for Thunder Bay Native Catholics, who gathered as a community in so many places, they finally have their parish. It was blessed by Bishop Frederick Henry, on January 7. All the parishioners sounded so happy. "It's important for us to have a place where to gather, where people know the other people".

Andrée Perreault-Stenberg, an Objibwa born in the U.S. said her pride of being a Native and her joy of seeing the diocese encouraging native culture.

Bishop Henry himself admits his contentment after seeing an elder purify the church's registry and its sacred pipe with the smoke of sweet grass and tobacco.

The pastor, Fr. Larry Kroker S.J. is also at the head of the parish in Fort William reserve. The Jesuits made a commitment to the diocese to provide clergy for this new Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish.

A first in CALIFORNIA

A big piece of land has been purchased in Valencia by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in view of building a church dedicated to Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha. The construction will start very soon. The site which dominates a lovely valley is magnificent. For the time being Mass is said in a High School auditorium. As there are 100,000 Indians dispersed on L.A. this new parish may become a shrine to Blessed Kateri.

