

With God, one must not be impatient

We all expect so much from life. There are exciting moments, full of lights and others, more somber, when we feel to be at the very bottom of ourselves, we have no more strength.

Wherever we are, in the shadow or in the light, we are greatly unsatisfied people. We desire everything. God, on His side, is following us step by step, right near us. We ask a lot from Him, mostly material favors, be it friendship, work and love. Rarely do we have ever asked for Him. Yet He's everything. "Seek first His kingship over you, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given to you besides.

God has a plan for each one of us. Everything is set to fulfill our desires. At times, what it takes, is to lend Him an ear. Lost in the chores of every day life, we forget Him, we want to do everything our way and we believe that we're ready to see realized all the lovely dreams floating in our minds. Then we lose patience.

Yes, we lose patience against God (at least those who still believe in Him). But there is a time for everything. Our Father knows what we really need.

When you give a carrot purée to your child, even though he would much prefer eat chocolate every day, isn't that we know that later on, he will be able but to eat carrot purée for a lack of teeth. So doesn't God see further than we, his children?

"Ask and you will receive; search and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks received. The one who seeks finds. the one who knocks, enters. Would one of you hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf, or a poisonous snake when he asks for a fish? If you with all your sins, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly Father, give good things to anyone who asks Him?

To become impatient with God, is a lack of abandon in Him, a lack of confidence in our heaven? We must first be satisfied with what we have. So ask, seek, knock, all of this in abandonment, being happy. Then it will be given to you, you will find and we'll open to you. ■

by **Anne-Sylvie Ouimet**
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Two intimate friends of Blessed Kateri, Anne Scheurman (now serving in Madolva) and Marlene McCauley (pilgrimage organizer) meeting in Jerusalem on January 1st, 1997.

Why Relics?



Kateri's Shrine in Kahnawake attracts many pilgrims: groups, individuals, Canadians, Americans, Europeans, Asiatics.. Why this eagerness to come close to Kateri's relics? Kateri died in 1680 at Côte Saint Catherine. As the Natives right away proclaimed her a saint, her bones in no time were placed securely in a chapel, until 1720 when the mission moved to the actual site of Kahnawake. The relics were transferred in great pomp and placed in a vault.

What is a Relic?

A relic is some part of the body or some piece of cloth that has touched the body of a martyr or saint. We can find at least two good reasons why relics are respected in the Church. First, because these bodies have been the living temples of the Holy Spirit and so are worthy of our veneration; because God uses these relics to bring about many blessings - spiritual and temporal. Consider an analogy in the life of our Lord. With a little spittle, mixed with clay, Our Lord cured a man born blind. This mixture was applied to the eyes of the blind man. Yet, with all this ceremony, the eyes remained closed. They were not opened until the man

himself had played his part. He had to wash in the pool of Siloe. After this, his eyes were opened. The point to remember is this: the clay did not work the miracle, but God's power working through the clay - plus the man's own part. So, it is not the relic that works the miracle, but God's power working through the relic - plus our part.

Briefly, that is what a relic is. To understand its origin, we must return to the catacombs in Rome. They tell their own story - the story of the veneration of the early Christians for their fellow Saints and Martyrs.

The bodies of the early saints and martyrs were kept in large cemeteries outside the city of Rome. This preservation and subsequently, the veneration paid to these Christian heroes, was widespread.

Veneration of the Relic?

To venerate a relic is to show by a sign like a kiss, the respect that is fitting for such a sacred object; by the same sign, the priest shows his respect for the altar with its relics, and for the sacred book of the Gospels. To apply a relic is to bless a person with it, to gain perhaps some spiritual or temporal favour; just as Our Lord applied clay to the eyes of the man born blind, and he regained his sight. ■

Father Joseph Galvin, S.J.