

The last hour of the life of Kateri

At three o'clock in the afternoon, "At three o'clock in the afternoon that the bell was rung to gather the Natives, who they had desired passionately to witness the death of this great servant of God. "

Sometime after three o'clock in the afternoon, "After their return that she waited until everyone entered the lodge, which I saw this marvel with my own eyes. When the last one had arrived, which she went into her agony and while everyone had knelt around her. After three hours after noon, which Kateri had entered into the gentlest agony conceivable. "

Sometime after half pass three o'clock in the afternoon, "A short half hour after her agony, which she had pronounced the Holy Names, lesos! Wari! Then a slight spasm had come about at the side of her mouth, which she entirely lost the vigour of speech, but as her hearing was still very good and fully conscience until her last breath. She died as if she was falling asleep, which we were for a long time not certain of her death. "

Sometime after three quarters of an hour after three o'clock, "Then her face had suddenly changed, which appeared such smiling and devout that everyone was extremely astonished - her face that had changed gradually in less than a quarter of an hour. Because of smallpox that her face was ruined from the age of four, which her infirmities and mortification had contributed to ruin her even more. The face of Kateri was such marked and having a darken complexion, which her face had suddenly changed about a quarter of an hour after her death and became in a moment such beautiful, smiling and white. Her face assumed an appearance of a rosy colour, which she never had and her features were not the same. Her face appeared more beautiful then when she had been living. I will admit openly of the first thought that came to me, which Kateri might have entered into Heaven at that moment. Then reflected back in her chaste body a small ray of the glory that she had gone to possess. This blessed soul had left her virgin body to go with her beloved Spouse. And was to celebrate in Heaven with Him the triumphs of the Cross, which she had much loved and attached her heart, affections, chaste and virgin body through this life of mortification. Kateri Tekakwitha had died as she lived, that is to say, as a Saint. Because it was to be expected that such a Holy a Life, which would be followed with a most Holy Death. "



From the narrations of Fathers Cholenec and Chauchetière.

"It was impossible to cover her face as they took so much pleasure in seeing her."

Prayers for Tourists

Heavenly Father, look down on us humble, obedient tourists servants, who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear. We beseech you, O Lord, to see that our plane is not hijacked, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed.



Protect us from surly and unscrupulous taxi drivers, avaricious porters and unlicensed English speaking guides.

Give us this day, divine guidance in the selection of our hotels, that we may find our reservations honored, our rooms made up and hot water running from the faucets.

We pray that the telephones work, and that the operators speak our tongue, and that there is no mail waiting from our children which would force us to cancel the rest of our trip.

Lead us, dear Lord, to good inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb the waiters friendly and the wine included in the price of the meal.

Give us wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand. Forgive us for under tipping out of ignorance and over tipping out of fear. Make the natives love us for what we are, and not for what we can contribute to their worldly goods.

Grant us the strength to visit the museums, the cathedrals, the palaces and the castles listed as "musts" in the guidebooks.

And if per chance we skip a historical monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us, for our flesh is weak.

Dear God, keep our wives from shopping sprees and protect them from "bargains" they don't need or cannot afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign woman and comparing them to us. Save them from making fools of themselves in cafes and nightclubs. Above all, please do not forgive them for all their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

And when our journey is over and we return to our loved ones, grant us the favour of finding someone who will look at our home movies and listen to our stories, so our lives as tourists will not have been in vain.

Amen