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## Bishop Berthelet's Homily for Kateri's Feast Day, 2009

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(...follow)

us, the first day of the new world, Jesus comes into the midst of his Apostles and says to them : « Peace be with you » and he sends his Apostles while breathing on them, while giving them breath, the Spirit. « Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you remit, they shall be remitted. »

A community where there is no forgiveness, a community where there is no place for God's forgiveness, is a community in danger of death. Pardon gives new life, not only to the persons who give it and receive it, but to the entire community.

Kateri Tekakwitha, she who was humiliated, ridiculed and falsely accused, gives us a vibrant example of forgiveness. It was in listening to the Word of God, in participation in the Eucharist and in the adoration that she drew the strength to love by forgiving.

Brothers and sisters in St. Francis Xavier Mission, pilgrims who have come from the United States, from Ontario, from Quebec and from other parishes of our diocese, let us pray together that our faith will increase, that it will show itself in love for our brothers and sisters, in forgiveness received and given, and that our faith may be shared in such a way that our communities will be alive with the very life of God so that the world will believe. Amen.

+ Jacques Berthelet, C.S.V.  
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil



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## Greeting from the Vice-Postulator

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As we enter the summer season, take time to thank God, for all you have been through during the past year, for the moments you may have wondered, "Where is God, does he not hear me in my time of distress?" God does hear you and does care, like the ever-loving Father that he is. When you feel abandoned and God seems so distant is when God is closest to you.

**In the O.T., Isaiah 49 says:** "Though a mother may forsake her baby, I will not leave you orphaned. In a time of favor, I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you safe. Come out, those who are in darkness, show yourselves, and you will eat along the way. You shall not hunger or thirst, for I have pity on you. You are my chosen people. It is I who comforts you; why then are you afraid? Be not afraid, for I am with you always."

Yes, we have God's Word that when we confide in him, he will always be at your side. Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha understood this so well, to the time of her death. Kateri confided in Jesus' mercy, constantly praying for others that they could receive grace to accept God's invitation to surrender to him.

**Blessed Kateri's Feast Day** here in Kahnawake in April was a wonderful Celebration, well attended with many pilgrims from our Diocese of St-Jean-Longueuil. The entrance procession into the church was led by our elementary children from the Faith First Program. Before entering into the sanctuary, everyone in procession turned to the right to venerate Blessed Kateri's tomb. The recessional procession, in like manner, turned to Blessed Kateri's tomb where everyone together recited the prayers for canonization. Later, everyone was invited to a feast at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

The custom of awarding the Blessed Kateri Merit Award to a person(s) for outstanding service to the Church this year was presented to our Bishop, Jacques Berthelet for his tireless efforts of promoting devotion to Blessed Kateri among his fellow Canadian Bishops, beginning with the Bishops of Quebec. Bishop Berthelet's message to the Canadian Bishops, was to promote and make better known, our First Native Saint in Canada through pilgrimages to the Shrine of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha here in Kahnawake.

Ronald Boyer, *deacon*  
Vice-Postulator