

Kateri however, was not content to just work with my regaining the use of my left hand. She also wanted to expand my spiritual life. So she led me to meditation. One Saturday morning, as I was exercising my hand, I distinctly heard her tell me to put my left hand in a jar of holy water from her National Shrine in Fonda, NY. When I first heard it my thought was if Kateri really wants me to do this she will persist. The third time I heard it I got up and got the book, Conversations with "Christ the Teaching of Saint Teresa of Avila about personal prayer" by Peter Thomas Rohrbach. As I sat there with my hand in the jar with holy water I began to read this book about meditation and began to implement in my daily life. Ironically, my physician, Dr. Malik, had on several occasions encouraged me to use meditation. I learned later from Sr. Elia that this is the Carmelite's "bread and butter" book about meditation. Meditation is a tool I still use today and find very helpful.

Kateri also granted me a very special favor. The Carmelites are a cloistered order and rarely see the public. I had asked Sr. Elia at one point if we could ever meet. So, on 7/14/07, Kateri's feast day, I was given the privilege of meeting Sister Elia and Mother John of the Cross their superior, face to face. I have written about this beautiful experience in another chapter. Then 11/17/07 I found out.

I was at the Carmelite Monastery and spoke with Carol Payne, who works for them. Carol told me that she had been so concerned about my hand that she had gone to Sister Elia and said, "I know you have never seen Ann but you need to pray for her hand." Carol was concerned that my hand was not returning to normal and was concerned that I might lose use of it. Then I understood the reason Kateri had arranged the meeting for me. She knew how much the Carmelite sisters had prayed for me and asked her intervention in regaining the use of my hand. Their prayers were answered.

I'm happy to say I have regained the use of my left hand. Any impediment that is left over from the break is nothing that will ever impact my life. I know that Lent will be starting soon. Again this year I want to talk with Jesus and Kateri about doing something special and different for Lent. I also ask if we could do something a little less strenuous than a broken wrist!

On 2/4/08 I saw Dr. Seigrist for the last time. It was my yearly check-up. Both she and her nurse Jackie Tomassetti were thrilled at how my hand had come back. Jackie then told me when Dr. Siegrist faces a challenging situation she often asks, "What do you want me to learn." The light bulb went on in my head. That was the first thing I said. She also told me that some people, who have these experiences, get into a "victim mode," I will live off Workmen's compensation. I thank Kateri and those who supported me with their in prayers. I give myself credit that I chose not to go that road.

What did I learn from my experience? I believe, several things. First, God gave me a glimpse of how knowing and loving He is. He foresaw my accident, seeing to it I was taken care of. Second, I realized my devotion to Kateri and how she is to me. Who could ask for a better friend? She knew of my situation and was hard at work dealing with it before I even fell. Third, I realize Jesus gives miracles in many forms. Having what you need when you need it is miraculous. Fourth, I realized how many friends I have and now no longer take them for granted. Most important I learned; how to rise and deal with adversity, and how facing that adversity can strengthen my faith.

The Story of the Saint John the Baptist Parish Center in Ludlow, Massachusetts

This article was written by Mr. Richard Coache, a resident of Ludlow Massachusetts and an ardent promoter of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. He takes his ministry to the surrounding towns and villages in Massachusetts. He is often invited to give talks and presentations on Kateri's life, and in so doing, many Christian believers have become supporters for Cause of Canonization through their promises to pray daily to and for Blessed Kateri. Mr. Coache will one of the recipients of the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Awards on her Feast celebration on April 17, 2010 at Blessed Kateri's Shrine here in Kahnawake.

In May 2003, our Pastor Father Homer Gosselin and the Parish Council of the Saint John the Baptist Church in Ludlow, Massachusetts decided to build a Parish Center.

Our Parish of 115 families and a Catholic School of 400 students had wanted one for many years. We had fundraisers and asked for donations from local businesses and from our parishioners also.

At the end of the second year we had only raised \$500,000. We needed two and a half million to build the building.

Father and the Parish Council decided to stop raising money and return the money collected to the people. Our Bishop had only given us three years to raise the money and at this time it looked like we could not do it. Father Gosselin heard of Blessed Kateri and decided to place a statue of her on the altar.

We distributed Blessed Kateri prayer cards to all the Parishioners and the entire school and asked them to pray. Before the third year had arrived we had achieved our goal. We received donations, labor and equipment to build our center.

On May of 2006 we broke ground for our building. The Bishop was there for the blessing and work began. On November 2007 we opened the doors to our new Parish Center and it was completely paid for in full. By then Father Gosselin had been promoted to Msg. Gosselin. We owe it all to Blessed Kateri.

Thank you Blessed Kateri.

