

NEW ICON OF SAINT KATERI

September 5, 2018, Lac-Etchemin
c/o Staff of Shrine and Museum of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Kanawake.

Good day,

In January 2018, a merger of ten parishes of Etchemins (diocese of Quebec) was formalized according to the decision of the competent authorities. Bishop Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, cardinal-archbishop of Quebec placed this new parish entity under the patronage of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, since the Etchemins region had experienced the presence of Aboriginals, including Abenakis.

Mr. Denis Bélanger pastor of the church of Sainte-Germaine du Lac-Etchemin, which served several parishes in the area, asked me to create an icon representing the new patron saint, Saint Kateri. He had taken cognizance of my works, notably in the church of the monastery of the Croix Glorieuse (Glorious Cross), at Sainte-Agnès in Charlevoix. So, I let myself be imbued with the ancient testimonies of the life of the saint and guided by the Spirit of God to begin this task. It was completed on time for Her Feast, April 17th. It was unveiled in the presence of many parishioners and was blessed by the Archbishop. I wanted to represent Saint Kateri's indigenous and cultural character, her relationship to nature, her role as patroness of the ecology and more intimately, her experience of faith in Christ Jesus, which transcends ethnic and cultural barriers without destroying our identity or history.

I am happy to have been able to help honor this saint who lived her faith in God in the land of Kanada and who continues to intercede for all those who implore and venerate her. Through Michèle Bouchard, a great friend of the Lac-Etchemin Community and a devotee of the cause of Saint Kateri, we offer you a reproduction of the icon. If you think that this icon deserves to be known and made available to your parishioners and friends, please contact the pastoral team of the parish of Sainte-Kateri-Tekakwitha des Etchemins. The first prints were drawn from the work of the professional photographer Mr. Claude Bouchard, in connection with the Museum of Civilization in Québec. Other copies should follow eventually.

Yours truly.

Sylvain Lalonde priest-iconographer

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