



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! Today, July 14, the Church in the United States remembers one of her own: St. Kateri Tekakwitha. This Native American girl who passed away at 24 years of age, continues to live, work miracles and inspire Christians on the Way. And so with the start of the Eucharistic Congress this week and in the light of St. Kateri, I share a word on the Eucharist as medicine, healing and strength.

Kateri Tekawitha knew her fair share of medicine growing up. As a native American, living amidst plaques and disease, she was familiar with the medicine men of her day who had plenty of rituals, potions and remedies for illness. Unfortunately, no medicine could heal the ailment of SMALLPOX which ravaged her community, took the life of her family and left her with severe scars on her face. Her name “Tekakwitha” was actually a nickname, “meaning the girl who pushes things”; Such was the effect of those facial scars which left her virtually blind, bumping into things.

While scarred by the effects of Smallpox, Kateri thrived in the Way of Life, she found and received through the Sacraments of the Church and the early Christians who proclaimed Jesus to her. She was baptized into Christ and fed on Him often in the Eucharist. Unlike the medicine men of her day, She found Jesus, her Savior, Lord, and on-going Friend – particularly in the Eucharist.

From the earliest days of the Church (Ignatius of Antioch) to our own days (Pope Francis), we find the Eucharist described as “medicine for immortality”. This reflects Jesus own words, “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day.” (Jn.6, 53-54) The Eucharist is healing medicine; but it’s one that follows Baptism; medicine for those already united in Christ; medicine for on-going strength, healing and salvation. It’s the Way in which the Life of Christ, already in us, is nourished.

Recently, I met with someone who reported that he had lost the Life of God in him through Sin and had a great desire to be baptized again. That was actually, his request to me. I shared with them the beauty of our faith: that being baptized again happens through Confession and then thru Eucharist, the restored Life of Christ in us is strengthened. How beautiful, the Way of God for us and with us.

This week, as the Great Eucharistic Congress begins...let us thank God for what He has started and how it all continues through the Church and her Sacraments. God healing us, not with magic potions; God with us, not as a medicine Man. But rather, as Savior and Lord.

As we celebrate St. Kateri this week, ask her intercession; Ask for the grace of knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord and the on-going friend who sustains salvation in us. For more information on St. Kateri and this topic, join us this Wednesday after the 7PM Mass in the St. Joseph Room.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



Do you have a desire to serve your parish family? If so, the Parish Council Needs You!

St. Patrick’s Pastoral Council is seeking a few good men, women, and young people to represent all the people of our growing parish. In particular, we are in **need of three new members** to join us this year.

Pastoral Council is an advisory body of nominated and selected members of our parish community that meet monthly with Father Rogers to foster,

extend, and advance the mission and vision of our parish community. Members work together in a spirit of trust and openness, sharing their gifts and talents for the good of our community.

If you are interested in learning more about Parish Council or would like to nominate yourself, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Jen Keller in the Parish Office at jenkellersp@gmail.com