



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Show Us Your Face

A prayer based on Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation Rejoice and Be Glad.

Father and Creator,

Show us *your face* reflected in *the faces of our brothers and sisters*, especially the least, the most vulnerable, the defenseless, and those in need.

In refugee families fleeing violence or war, *show us your face.*

In those suffering from hunger, *show us your face.*

In children not yet born, *show us your face.*

In those enslaved by drug addiction, *show us your face.*

In parents who work two jobs but still struggle to get by, *show us your face.*

In those on death row, *show us your face.*

In young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, *show us your face.*

In those aging and alone, *show us your face.*

In all faces, we know that your divine image is reflected. Help us to recognize always that image.

Help us to work together to protect the dignity of all people—each one created in your image.

Lord, in our families, communities and world shape your final work of art with the scraps of our frail humanity (cf. GE, no. 61).

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, walk with us.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the only Native American saint, died at the age of 24. Her feast day is July 14.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is a true witness and model of one who followed in Jesus' footsteps during her life on Mother Earth. St. Kateri's prayerful life exemplifies her close relationship with her Creator God.

This young Mohawk–Algonquin girl, named Sunshine by her father, was orphaned at the age of four after losing both parents and her younger brother to the smallpox epidemic that swept through the Mohawk village which today is called the Mohawk Valley, along the Mohawk River, in central New York State.

Even as a very young girl, she was quite different from the others her age—some of it due to the exterior scars on her face from the smallpox, but interiorly, she seemed to have different values from those girls her age and older. Already deep within her being, she seemed to be searching for more. Tekakwitha was definitely not a follower just to "fit in" with the other members in the village. She faithfully performed her household duties and all other chores that were expected of her by her aunt and uncle's request. She seemed to appreciate any free time to be alone, to walk outdoors and enjoy nature. There was an inner call to something more.

The Universal Church raised this young 24-year-old of the mid-seventeenth century to the altars of the Church in October 2012. She is teaching us today, as a true native elder, that we, too, can follow an inner call leading us to the unknown. With faith, trust and love, Christ Jesus will lead us to fulfill dreams and achieve goals that will make us more human and Christ-like, like himself. St. Kateri Tekakwitha, inspire and walk with us.