

TEKAKWITHA NEWS

National Shrine of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

SPRING 2017

Seasons of Hope



Spring has sprung, and so we begin our 79th season at Saint Kateri's National Shrine. This is the Easter Season, and we remember with joy the baptism of our beloved Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Kateri was baptized on Easter Sunday in 1676 with the sacred water that flows here at her shrine.

With each season comes change, and this season brings significant changes to the shrine. At the end of May, we will say goodbye to Friar Mark. Fr. Mark will depart on May 23rd to return to Canada. We are blessed that Fr. Mark has celebrated so many wonderful Masses and special occasions with us. His homilies, always infused with deep meaning, greatly affected our lives. He has been responsible for many improvements to the shrine. We will hold a farewell gathering for Fr. Mark after the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, May 21st in Grassmann Hall. There will be no Tuesday and Thursday Masses at the shrine after May 18th.

We also say goodbye to our gift shop manager, Ellen DiStefano, who is leaving to pursue other interests. We will miss Ellen and her warm and welcoming spirit.

Our property manager, Tom Gray, has been busy getting the shrine ready for our spring opening. Tom has spruced up Kateri's Spring...removing leaves that collect over the winter, patching leaky concrete, and building a new bench for people to sit on comfortably while in prayer or quiet contemplation. Tom has nearly finished renovating the public restrooms behind Saint Peter's Chapel. There are new doors, trim, and paint. The floors will be painted soon. Other renovations are planned for this season, such as the replacement of the large peace grove sign behind the pavilion and the installation of new trail markers.

Bill, Rita, and our Shrine Council have been busy upgrading our office systems and developing plans and programs that will enable the shrine to face the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Easter is a season of hope for the future. Spring reflects that hope. We ask for your prayers to guide us as we strive to keep the shrine vibrant, relevant, and alive as the seasons and the world continue to change. Saint Kateri, pray for us.

Yours in Christ and Saint Kateri,

Bill Jacobs, Shrine Director
Rita Gullion, Assistant Director

*The shrine is a ministry of the Conventual Franciscan Friars of
Our Lady of the Angels Province, Ellicott City, MD.*