

“KATERI would go to Church barefoot in the dark, at four o’clock in the morning and converse with the Good Master, far from noise and distractions. She would attend the first mass at dawn, the next one at sunrise, return to the Chapel several times during the day and in the evening after work, and remain there quite late at night; it could be said that she was the first one in and the last one out. On Sundays and feast days, she spent the whole day in the holy place, coming out only to have something to eat.” ⁹⁵

“Catherine Tegakouita will live at the Sault. I ask you to please take charge of directing her; it is a treasure which we are giving you, as you will soon realize. Guard it well and make it bear fruit for the Glory of God and the salvation of a soul which is certainly very dear to Him.” - Letter of Fr Jacques de Lamberville (Fonda, NY - USA) to Fr Pierre Cholenec (La Prairie, « Praying Village » - Canada) ⁹¹

KATERI’S WORDS...

“Who will teach me what is most pleasing to God, that I may do it?” ¹²⁴

“Thank you, Jesus, for coming to my help in danger...” (after recovering from an accident: tree crashed on her) ¹⁰⁶

“This wooden chapel was not really what God wanted the most, but He wanted to live within us.” ¹⁰⁷

“My Jesus, I must take a risk with You; I love You but I offended You. I am here to satisfy your justice. Please, Oh my God, discharge your anger on me.... I am extremely touched by the three nails which fixed Our Lord to the Cross; yet they are but an image of my sins.” ¹⁰⁹

“Oh Father; I cannot give in to this; I dislike men and I have the utmost aversion to marriage; this is not possible.” ¹¹⁴

“I am not afraid of the poverty with which they threaten me; it takes so little to provide for the needs of this miserable life that my work will be enough to take care of it, and I will surely find a few lousy rags to clothe myself.” ¹¹⁴

“...renounce marriage in order to have no other spouse but Jesus Christ and that I would count myself fortunate to live in poverty and misery for His love.” ¹¹⁶

“Oh Father! It is true that there is plenty of food for the body in the woods, but the soul languishes and starves to death there; while in the village, if the body suffers a little because it is not well fed, the soul is fully satisfied, being closer to Our Lord. Therefore, I abandon this miserable body to hunger and to all that may happen as a result, as long as my soul is content and has its usual food.” ¹²⁰

“Takwentnr, Sewennio: Lord have mercy... Wari saiatatokenti, takwaterennaienas: Holy Mary, pray for us!” (Mohawk) ¹²⁵

“Make a Novena of scourging after my death” (asked Mary to do) ¹⁵⁰

“Oh Father, I committed a sin.” (excessive penances) 147

“Courage my dear sister oh! How happy I am with the life you are leading: how agreeable it is to all those in heaven. ... I even know where you are coming from just now, and I can assure you that all you do is well done and most agreeable to Our Lord. Take courage and continue to persevere; pray for me after I die that I may come out of purgatory as soon as possible. I shall repay you in paradise, I promise!” 151

“I’m leaving you, I am going to die. Always remember what we have done together ever since we knew each other. If you change, I will accuse you before God’s tribunal. Take courage. Disregard the words of those who have no faith. When they want to persuade you to get married, listen only to the fathers. If you cannot serve God here, go away to the Mission of Lorette (near Quebec). Never abandon penance. I shall love you in Heaven, I shall pray for you and help you.” 152

Her last words on her death bed:

“Iesos, Wary (Jesus, Mary)...” (Mohawk) 152

During apparitions after her death:

...to Fr Chauchetière (Easter Monday, April 22, 1680) – Kateri spoke in Latin

“Adhuc veni in dies” (I appear every day) 158

...to her spiritual mother, Anastasia (April 24th, 1680):

“My mother, look carefully at this cross which I am wearing. See how beautiful it is; Oh! how I loved it on earth, oh! how I still love it in paradise! How I wish that all those of our cabin loved it and valued it as I did!” 158

...to Mary Theresa: (around April 24th, 1680)

“Good bye, I come to say good bye, I am going to Heaven. Go and tell Father that I am going to Heaven.” 159

...to Fr Chauchetière (Sept 21, 1681) – Kateri spoke in Latin

“Inspice et fac secundum exemplar” (look and do according to the model) – He then started painting) 162

Source: Kaia’tano:ron Kateri Tekakwitha – Fr Henri Béchard (1994)

The numbers near the citations refer to the page number in the book.