

Dear St. Kateri Tekakwitha,

I have been a part of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation national journey on education and diversity in the national capital region and its Ottawa municipality. I had attended catholic parish activities, faith communities, observance of Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J. while learning about the sainthood of Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of The Mohawks. The spiritual formation and ceremonies were done by the Kateri Native Ministry under the direction of late John Corston, Fr. Daryold Winkler and Fr. Hasiniaina Rakotoarisa and Deacon Fred Jardine.

At this time, I restored my Roman Catholic faith, spirituality through *Anishinaabe Haudenosaunee* customs, traditions, values and cultures. This Indigenous scholarship and the wisdom of the ancestors in the Ojibway heritage affirms *mino b'pimadazin* - the good life.

My dedication originates from Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica, Homeland Mass 2014 involves the Archbishop. He presides at The Altar where spiritual integration transpires. Your Holiness placed both the Crozier and the Kateri's Eagle Staff at the altar. Another visitation was the Shrine of St. Kateri Tekawitha attended by the local Kateri Community. This welcoming was a genuine prayer, truths relates the Paschal Mystery. Her presence inside the chapel reflects the power of love; deepening a language of the heart and soul. There was a natural beauty to the waterway, breath of air ignites the candle within to every sacred human being.

The recent advent season held the prayers. These offerings to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of the Family and the Holy Mother of God involves this parish commitment to Indigenous Peoples of Canada and its truth reconciliation. This religious request was a ceremonial part of the new altar and recognition of four saints. On February 2, 2018, the gathering held, similarly, the homeland mass experience enshrined the relic of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Her presence symbolizes justice, peace, and unity among the communion of saints at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica.

We witness this extraordinary event for the recognition and proclamation of the saint. In her holy presence was Our Grand Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Aunts, cousins and relatives. Healing the sacred circle of life empowers relations to Kateri community of Ottawa Kahnawake and Akwesasne. This parish mass was a testament for believing, respecting roles, responsibilities, active listening, ceremony, prayer and song. I very much enjoy sharing this journey with you.

For the love of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of The Mohawks creates a healing pathway for inclusivity faiths, beliefs, cultures and languages. This Indigenous reconciliation interconnects religion to sovereign peoples for aboriginal healing to the Canadian culture. Respecting these sacred laws *Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee*, Peoples of the Longhouse restores the tribal nations and alliances of Turtle Island.

Miigwech, Denise Anne Matchiwita-Boissoneau

Ottawa, St Elizabeth Parish & Kateri Native Ministry, March 11, 2018