

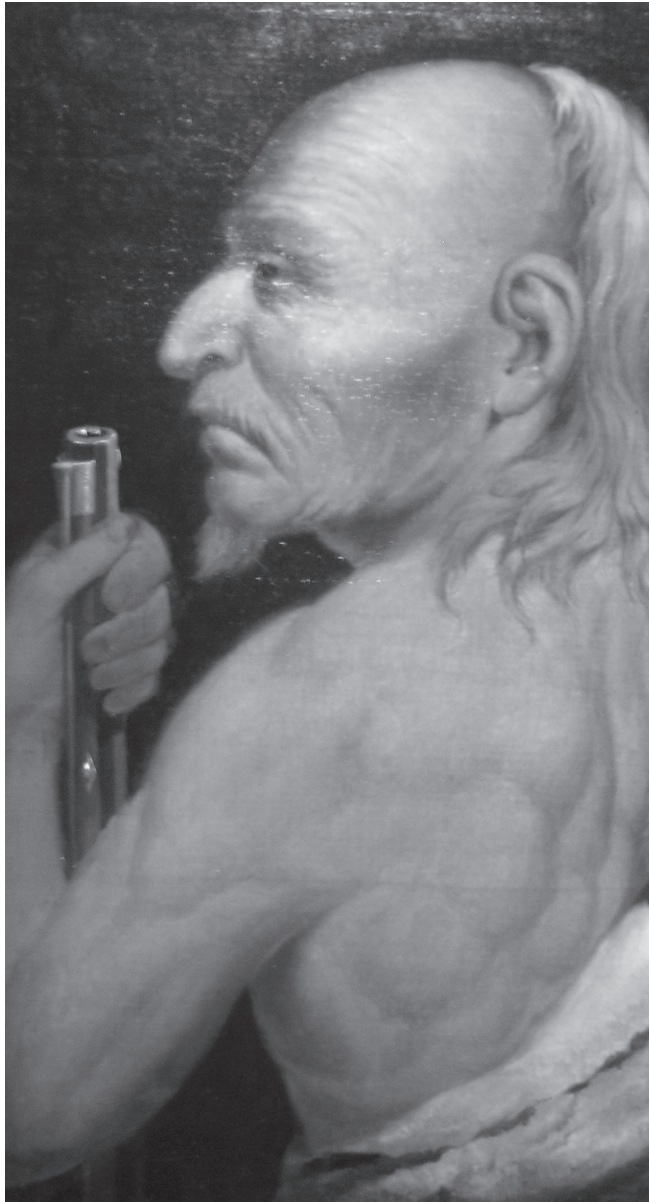


A VIRGIN'S COURAGE

A RETREAT GUIDE ON ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA

COMPANION GUIDE

FR. JOHN BARTUNEK, LC, STHD



FIRST MEDITATION

“Come, Follow Me!”

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION/GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Reflecting back on my life, what are the times and ways in which God was working behind the scenes, preparing me to receive his grace? Savor and thank the Lord for this hidden work of love.
2. When have I had to face opposition or obstacles to the living out of my faith? How did I react? Speak to the Lord about these experiences, and about what he wants to teach me through them.
3. What influences or habits in my life are impeding the flow of God’s grace into my heart and mind? What can I do about them?

QUOTATIONS TO HELP YOUR PRAYER

“Great crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and addressed them, “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers



SECOND MEDITATION

Kateri's Secrets

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION/GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What do I do to carve out time for prayer in my life? Is it enough?
2. What is my attitude towards sin in general? Towards my sins? How do I tend to react to physical suffering and discomfort? How could I use those experiences to make reparation for sin?
3. Am I trying to make my journey of faith as a Lone Ranger? How much am I investing in relationships with people who share my faith, people who through God's providence may be able to become partners in our pursuit of holiness?

QUOTATIONS TO HELP YOUR PRAYER

☞ Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

—Mark: 1:35–39

NABRE



CONFERENCE

Are All Religions Really the Same?

PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What idea or ideas resonated the most with me
How would I explain in my own words why some people tend to think that all religions are the same?
2. How would I explain in my own words why it is actually disrespectful to claim that all religions are the same?
3. How would I explain in my own words why it is important to acknowledge human nature itself as a point of unity among people of different religions?
4. Why does mutual understanding require a deep knowledge of one's own faith?
5. Why is mere tolerance a superficial solution to the problem of religious division? What important questions does it leave aside?
6. How deeply do I probe the reasons for my own faith and the faith of others? How frequently do I raise deep questions in my own reflection or in conversation with others?
7. When I am with non-Christian friends or acquaintances, how do we talk about religion? Respectfully, with openness and an interest in learning from each other? Do we fall into sterile debates—or do we whitewash our differences as if they didn't matter?

FURTHER READING

If you feel moved to continue reflecting and praying about this theme, you may find the following books helpful:

Kaiatanoron Kateri Tekakwitha
by Henri Béchard

Saint Kateri: Lily of the Mohawks
by Matthew and Margaret Bunson

Nostra Aetate
by Second Vatican Council

The Complete Christian Collection
by Fr. John Bartunek, LC

Crossing the Threshold of Hope
by St. John Paul II

*KATERI Native American Saint: The Life
and Miracles of Kateri Tekakwitha*
by Giovanna Paponetti

EXPLORING MORE

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