

15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Ordinary Time. 7/14/2021

**Kateri Tekakwitha.**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

We hear today in the Gospel how God reveals himself to the little ones, to the childlike, not to the wise and the learned in the eyes of the world. In the first reading we hear about the revelation of God to Moses in the burning bush. Moses is an old man when this happens, but he is childlike. We read somewhere else in the Bible that Moses, this towering figure in the history of Israel and in our history, Moses was the humblest person on earth.

In humility, one recognizes the truth of things, and especially the truth about oneself, how much it is that we

have received. This is a childlike attitude. A child does not presume to know or to seriously project a certain image. A child understands that the immensity of creation, is open to appreciate beauty, to contemplate things with joy, without having to dissect them or to control them. A child is aware that he or she is not self-sufficient but has a total dependency on someone else. A child is open to receiving. Perhaps Moses, through his life experiences of being saved as a baby in the Nile and later in the desert, developed this sense of his dependency on God, whom he is going to meet like no other man on earth.

The saints know the need and the blessing of being childlike as they develop an ever more intimate relationship with Christ.

Today we remember Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks, the first native American recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church. She lived in the 1600s in New York state and in Canada. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012. She was a little one. She lost her parents at a young age to an epidemic of smallpox, and she herself contracted the illness, which left many scars in her face. She embraced the Catholic religion preached by Jesuit missionaries and suffered rejection from her people because of it. She was baptized when she was 19. She did not marry but lived in a mission until she died, when she was only 24.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha has a special connection with our region, because her second miracle for canonization was the healing a boy here in Washington state in 2006. You

may remember when this was in the news. The boy had a flesh-eating bacterium affecting his face and doctors had given up. His parents and classmates prayed for the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha, and the boy was healed. Let us pray to Kateri Tekakwitha and to all the saints, to help us become more childlike, recognizing that everything we have comes from God, and embracing him with love and gratitude.