



81st Annual Tekakwitha Conference
July 15-19, 2020 – Raleigh, NC

May 11, 2020

Dear Tekakwitha Conference Family,

As you already know, our face to face Annual Conference has been cancelled. Tina Baldera, Tekconf2020 Co-Chair, Lauren Green, Tekconf2020 Secretary/Treasurer, the Region One Planning Committee, and I are in agreement with the Board of Directors concerning this decision. Your safety and well-being are our first concern.

This is new territory for all of us, and we will all miss each other very much as our Annual Conference is truly a "Family Reunion." While we won't be physically together, we are hoping to bring you, free of charge, an online sharing at tekconf.org from our Keynote and several of our Workshop Presenters. When the presentations are ready, the TCNC Office will notify you. The information will also be in the future issues of the "Cross and Feathers" so all our members can enjoy the presentations. Both Adult and Youth Presentations will be available.

The Tekconf2020 Planning Committee has asked your prayers over this last year, and we thank you for your support and understanding so that we all can be safe and be here for other Annual Conferences in the future. We continue to pray for all of you, and that you will remain strong in faith as the Lord is still in charge. My former Pastor once told me that his Irish mother would say, "You may not understand what God is doing in this situation, so in the meantime, give Him credit!" We all have been through hard times in the past, and we've been strong because we know we have a loving God who truly cares for us; we've been strong because we have our prayer life and traditions; we've been strong because we still have a sense of humor. So, let us be at peace, to the best of our ability, and keep trusting in Him who is our only reason for being. Attached is a prayer to St. Kateri. We hope it brings you strength and comfort.

May God continue to bless and protect you and all your loved ones. May St. Kateri, who truly understood what disease could do to families and communities, pray that we accept God's Will for each of us and bring us through these uncertain times. Stay healthy!

With much affection,

Gail Rando, Tekconf2020 Co-Chair

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PRAYER TO ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA IN TIME OF NEED

Dear St. Kateri, our Patroness and Sister in Faith, we come to you today asking your intercession with our loving Triune God, to give us the strength and the courage to stay faithful to our walk on the Good Red Road.

You truly understand what our world family is facing with this pandemic as you, your family and the community experienced the smallpox epidemic so many years ago. God spared you and He fashioned you, His lovely Lily of the Mohawks, with all the graces you would need to move forward in your life through pain and hardship. Your faith in Him increased as you knew He was your Light, your hope in Him and His plan for your life became an inspiration, and the love in your heart so overflowed in goodness for others that many souls were touched by The Great Mystery. You are truly a model for us, and we thank you for taking care of us, for guiding us along the way, and for praying for all the human family to which we belong.

We lift our prayer to the Father, through your intercession and in the Name of Jesus.

Amen.

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