



TEKAKWITHA NEWS

Spring 2025

Hello, friends!

The passing of Pope Francis has been the cause of both sorrow and reflection. As a Franciscan ministry, this “Jesuit with a Franciscan heart” was special to us. His ecological exhortations such as *Laudato Si* and *Querida Amazonia* were deeply inspiring for our ministry and its mandate to care for Creation. And Pope Francis’s recognition of universal human dignity, made explicit in writings like *Fratelli Tutti*, were a guiding light in our call to provide a place of peace and healing for all people here at Saint Kateri’s home.

We continue to try to fulfill our mission in opening wide our doors to all members of the community. This Easter we once again hosted an ecumenical sunrise service, which was led by the Reformed Church communities that form the Glen Mohawk Clergy Association. The service drew close to 100 attendees from the local community, and we hope to see many of those faces again as our Summer Season progresses.

We also are excited about welcoming folks who are interested in the Revolutionary War to our site this year. This May marks the 250th anniversary of the first bloodshed in what was then Tryon County, which occurred here on the Shrine grounds. We’re working with our friends from County Tourism and County History & Archives to host a day-long event whose highlight is a reenactment of the Liberty Pole raising that led to that conflict.

This event is also the catalyst for some changes in our museum. Throughout the summer, we’ll be hosting an exhibit by historical artist Mark Maritato. These paintings, which were commissioned by the National Park Service, depict the events at Valley Forge. We are also installing a new exhibit that interprets land documents in the Shrine’s archival collection. “Confederacy, Revolution & Statehood in the Mohawk Valley” talks about the area’s inhabitants from the 1600s through the present, also addressing the various roles of Haudenosaunee nations during the Revolutionary War.

[OVER]



Melissa Miscevic Bramble, our Director of Operations, attended a private audience with Pope Francis in March 2024 as part of her participation in a conference in Rome.



The Glen Mohawk Clergy Association led a joyful group in prayer during this year’s Easter Sunrise Service. We are grateful for their continuing friendship and to everyone who got up early in chilly weather to come here and celebrate the risen Christ.

MONTGOMERY
★ COUNTY, NY ★
CELEBRATING
250
YEARS OF FREEDOM

SAVE THE
DATE!
Liberty Day &
Pole Raising!
★
May 17th, 2025

Although we are just starting our 2025 Summer Season, our community has continued its year-round work. In March, two of our Advisory Council members led a Lenten reflection with a Franciscan perspective. And many of our volunteers gathered at the end of April for our annual Earth Day-inspired clean-up of the Shrine buildings and grounds, to help prepare for this year's visitors and pilgrims.

As we wait for the election of a new pope, we look forward to celebrating other extraordinary observances in the Catholic Church in 2025. As many of you know, this is a Jubilee year, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope." As part of this celebration, the Church is making plenary indulgences available to those who complete certain spiritual practices. In the U.S., that includes visiting a national shrine, such as this one. For more information about the Jubilee plenary indulgences, you can visit the resources linked from our website's News & Events page.

This year also marks the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Creatures, as well as the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis's *Laudato Si*. We hope you take advantage of some of the opportunities we're providing as we mark these anniversaries to reflect and to engage in spiritual renewal.

This summer's events, both continuing and new, were highlighted in our Summer Calendar of Events, which was sent out in March. If you missed it, some upcoming programs are presented here, and you can always find out more on our website.

We can't end this update without taking a moment to thank Fr. John Ruffo, OFM Conv. With the retirement of Fr. Joe Angelini, Fr. John has agreed to join us as chaplain for the summer. You may have seen him at events such as 2024's Blessing of the Animals, and we're very happy to have him back, even if it's just for one season.

Hope to see you before too long! In the meantime, you all will be in our prayers. Wishing you peace and all good things.

Join Our Community! Become a Volunteer!

Gardening: Experience welcome but not required...just the willingness (and ability) to get down on your hands and knees and get your hands dirty. BYO gloves, shared garden tools available or BYO, kneeling pads provided. Give an hour or two...or more if you can! Need is ongoing April through November, although tasks vary throughout the year. Contact info@katerishrine.org or call the office.

Liturgy: We would love to have your help to greet congregants and hand out materials, lector, serve at the altar, help distribute the host, help collect the gifts. Just let our staff know!

Fundraising: Do you like talking to people? Help stuff envelopes for the monthly fundraiser mailing, contact potential sponsors, or solicit donations for online auction. Let us know how you'd like to help!



We were thrilled to see so many friendly faces, both indoors and outside, during our Earth Day clean-up weekend. We're always looking for volunteers, so if you'd like to help out, please let us know!

Three Sisters Festival

Saturday,
May 31
1-4PM

3636 Route 5
Fonda, NY
www.katerishrine.org

- learn about the Three Sisters -- plant your own corn, beans, and squash to take home
- make your own corn husk dolls
- and more!

WORLD PEACE & PRAYER DAY

Come join our interfaith service

June 21, 2 PM

for peace and healing
for Creation

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
NATIONAL SHRINE & HISTORIC SITE

welcomes
Sr. Linda Neil, CSJ
as she leads an Afternoon of Reflection
"Earth: Our Common Home"

Saturday, June 28
1-4 PM

Embrace by Marion Honors, CSJ

Grassmann Hall
Saint Kateri Shrine
3636 Route 5
Fonda, NY

DETAILS TO COME: REGISTRATION REQUIRED