



TEKAKWITHA NEWS

Autumn 2024

Hello, friends! Another Summer Season is in the books, and we are grateful that so many of you were able to join us in person this year. We were blessed with many visiting groups and pilgrims, both familiar faces and new ones, as we continued our services and events.

In our last newsletter, we shared moments from our commemoration of Saint Kateri's feast day, Three Sisters Festival, World Peace and Prayer Day interfaith service, and the annual pilgrimage of our local Secular Franciscan region, among others. Although we can never capture all the conversations and connections that take place here, we have some more moments we'd like to share with you.

Our Masses and most active season continue through the end of October. In September, we welcomed back the folks from Veterans for Peace, Women Against War, and Pax Christi New York State, as they held the 26th Annual Kateri Peace Conference here on the Shrine's grounds. On September 30, we held our 3rd Orange Shirt Day reconciliation prayer service. Orange Shirt Day is when we recognize and ask for healing for the individual and community damage done by the Indian boarding school systems in the U.S. and Canada.

As a Franciscan ministry, we're always happy to start October with our observances of the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. Transitus is a moving, candlelight vigil service, an opportunity to reflect on the changes that life brings to us all. It's followed by our Mass for Saint Francis's feast day. This year, as we recognize the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis receiving the stigmata, our chaplain, Fr. Joe Angelini, shared reflections on the Christ-like pain and love that Saint Francis invited into his life.

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Shrine Chaplain Fr. Joe Angelini, OFM Conv., said a beautiful Mass in Grassmann Chapel during this year's feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi.



Shrine Advisory Council member Terry Steele (Algonquin) led the reflection during our Orange Shirt Day service.



We were happy to have the assistance of Fr. John Ruffo, OFM Conv., for this year's Blessing of the Animals.

Of course, arguably the most fun part of observing these Franciscan traditions is when we get to hold Blessing of the Animals. This year, Fr. John Ruffo, OFM Conv., helped us celebrate this beloved event. We had beautiful weather and a whole host of furry friends!

October is also the month that we honor the Native peoples of North America during Indigenous Peoples Weekend. Fr. Daryold Winkler (Ojibway) made the trek from Canada to join us as main celebrant this year. He led us in a Four Directions blessing during the Penitential Rite and led the burning of prayer petitions. Migwetch, Fr. Daryold!

New York State also holds a Path Through History Weekend during the second weekend in October each year, and we have used this opportunity to talk about the historic aspects of these grounds for the past couple of years. On this occasion, Nathan M. Turowsky MTS, our Museum and Archives Assistant, used the pairing of Path Through History and Indigenous Peoples Weekend to talk about the history of land transfer and ownership when Native and European peoples were first interacting here in the Mohawk Valley.

The end of this Mass season also marked the end of another era here at the Saint Kateri Shrine. Fr. Joe has retired as our chaplain. While he promises to be back to lead special programs, and has already planned a couple of book discussions here for Spring 2025, we will miss his spirited homilies and wry humor!

We won't have to wait too long to see Fr. Joe again. He will be celebrating our Mass of Remembrance on November 16. We hope you will join us to commemorate our beloved dead and all the poor souls who have passed.

We also would love to have you join us as we prepare for Advent. Our wreath making workshop is November 23 — space is limited, and you can sign up through our online gift shop. We will also be holding our sunset Candles & Carols service on December 7. And our holiday preparations wouldn't be complete without our annual online fundraising auction. Check out our website and social media for more information on all of these events, and more. Wishing you peace and all good!



Karla Aurora Kozach, a member of the Shrine's Advisory Council, plays the Native flute during our Orange Shirt Day service.



Nathan M. Turowsky MTS, our Museum and Archives Assistant, delivers a talk during NYS Path Through History weekend.



Fr. Joe Angelini, OFM Conv., delivers his homily during his last regular Mass as our Shrine chaplain.



Fr. Daryold Winkler (Ojibway) sends up prayers with the burning petitions during Indigenous Peoples Weekend.