

FAITH FUNDAMENTALS

Helping Catholics to Learn, Live, and Love their Faith.

JULY 2025 SUPPLEMENT

Saint of the Month



St. Kateri Tekakwitha (Feastday, May 26

Even though St. Kateri (1656-1680) was just 19 when she converted to the Catholic faith, she had heard about Jesus from the Jesuit missionaries to New France (Canada) and decided to dedicate her life to Him alone. She was baptized on Easter Sunday of 1676 and took the name Catherine in honor of St. Catherine of Siena.

Her short life of only 26 years was full of suffering. She contracted smallpox when she was 4, which left marks all over her face. Her whole family died of it, and she had to live with her uncle's family who were hostile to Christianity. After her conversion she was persecuted by her people and forced to move to a community where she could be safe from threats of violence. The saint's last words before she died were, "Jesus, Mary, I love you."

Back to Basics



TWO TYPES OF CONVERSION – It is common to refer to a person's "conversion" as a singular act of repentance, but it is much more than that. Our Church believes that conversion is a lifelong process that has both a personal and a communal dimension:

Conversion to faith: When a person changes from another religion to Catholicism or changes from no religion at all to a life of Christian faith, we call that a conversion to faith, which for Catholics includes incorporation into a community of believers. We are obliged to share our faith with others so that souls may embrace the fullness of the Christian faith that we have in the Church that Christ founded.

Conversion within the faith: But faith is also a journey into the life of grace (holiness), so in another sense it is a life of constant conversion *within* the faith we profess. Our ongoing conversion starts with a rejection of sin and then leads

us along the path of deeper conversion from sin as we "grow to full maturity in Christ" (Col 1:28) as St. Paul describes it. This type of conversion may have many enlightenments or even a "reversion" (a return) to the practice of the faith after a period of time away from the Church.

Either way Catholics are either helping others to come to faith or opening our hearts to the deeper workings of grace in Christ.

"One single soul...is worth more than the entire universe. But in order to be aware of this, we need inner conversion." ~ Pope Benedict XVI



Catechism Connection

PURITY OF HEART – The saints are distinguished by their heroic virtues, above all by their purity in body, soul, and spirit. Being pure in heart is one of the beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew, which the *Catechism* calls a necessary condition for seeing God:

Purity of heart is the precondition of the vision of God. Even now it enables us to see according to God, to accept others as "neighbors"; it lets us perceive the human body - ours and our neighbor's - as a temple of the Holy Spirit, a manifestation of divine beauty. (CCC, 2519)

Those who are pure in heart enjoy the fullest expression of love of self, love of neighbor, and love of God.

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