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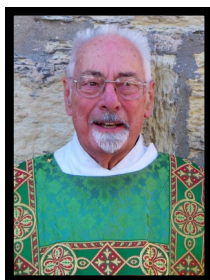
# The Shining Son

THE SHINING SON

JULY 2012

## We Are Commissioned

By: Deacon Vince Slomian



Dear TECites,

WOW!

The summer is almost over. I

hope that you are all having an enjoyable one. Work, work and some play.

Maybe even a vacation trip.

Some of our Youth Ministry teens in Mendota have gone to a Catholic Work Camp in Wisconsin this year.

They have really sacrificed by giving up a

week of summer vacation to help and aid the underprivileged and poor.

We certainly want to applaud them for listening and following through what Jesus did with his apostles.

The gospels lately have been about Jesus commissioning the apostles to go out and evangelize, sending them out two by two and then sending the 72 out to different regions to spread the Good News.

As members of the Church, we have inherited that mission.

We should see it as an exciting challenge.

On Monday of our TEC weekend, we were commissioned to do the same. At that time we were excited to do just that.

Sad to say, many of us consider it as a burden placed on our shoulders.

It's tragic irony that we who have the fullness of the Good News now, do not proclaim our faith with the same fervor and zeal as so many other denominations do.

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**TEC Reboost is July 28, from 1-5p.m.**

## Feast of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680), also known as Blessed Catherine Tekakwitha, is honored by the Catholic Church as the patroness of ecology, nature, and the environment.

Tekakwitha's baptismal name is

Catherine, which in the Iroquois languages is Kateri. Tekakwitha's Iroquois name can be translated as, "One who places things in order" or "To put all into place."

Other translations include, "she pushes with her hands" and "who walks groping

for her way" (because of her faulty eyesight).

Tekakwitha was born at Ossernenon, which today is near Auriesville, New York.



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# Native Amer. Becomes Christian

*From page 1*

Tekakwitha's father was a Mohawk chief and her mother was a Catholic Algonquin.

At the age of four, smallpox attacked Tekakwitha's village, taking the lives of her parents and baby brother, and leaving Tekakwitha an orphan.

Although forever weakened, scarred, and partially blind, Tekakwitha survived.

The brightness of the sun blinded her and she would feel her way around as she walked.

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***She often went to the woods alone to speak to God and listen to Him in her heart and in the voice of nature.***

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Tekakwitha was adopted by her two aunts and her uncle, also a Mohawk chief.

After the smallpox outbreak subsided, Tekakwitha and her people abandoned their village and built a new settlement on the north

bank of the Mohawk River, which today is in Fonda, New York.

Despite her poor vision, she also became very skilled at beadwork.

Although Tekakwitha was not baptized as an infant, she had fond memories of her good and prayerful mother and of the stories of Catholic faith that her mother shared with her in childhood.

These remained indelibly impressed upon her mind and heart and were to give shape and direction to her life's destiny.

She often went to the woods alone to speak to God and listen to Him in her heart and in the voice of nature.

When Tekakwitha was 18, Father de Lamberville, a Jesuit missionary, came and established a chapel.

Her uncle disliked the "Blackrobe" and his strange new religion, but tolerated the missionary's presence.

Kateri vaguely remembered her mother's whispered prayers, and was



fascinated by the new stories she heard about Jesus Christ. She wanted to learn more about Him and to become a Christian.

Father de Lamberville persuaded her uncle to allow Tekakwitha to attend religious instructions.

The following Easter, twenty-year old Kateri was baptized.

Radiant with joy, she was given the name of Kateri, which is Mohawk for Catherine.

Kateri's family did not accept her choice to embrace Christ. After her baptism, Kateri became the village outcast.

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# Go Forth: Be Witnesses, Disciples

Remember TEC 180

*From page 1*

A common problem is that we are fearful of evangelizing because we are not as clear as we should be about the message that we should proclaim.

Our message should be: “The kingdom of heaven has arrived in Jesus. It’s His victory over sin and death that enables us to proclaim: “Christ has died,” (Saturday, Die Day); “Christ is risen,” (Sunday, Rise Day); and “Christ will come again” (Monday, Go Forth Day).”

Another difficulty for us is the fear of our own

weaknesses.

Somehow we are able to accept that the preaching of the first disciples was blessed with all sorts of miracles and other signs. But we have little or no expectation that our efforts will be similarly blessed.

We need to remember that, like the apostles, we are not expected to rely on our own meager resources.

We have Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit. The Good News about preaching the Gospel is that He is always present as we bear witness in His name.

Jesus is the power of conviction, forgiveness,

reconciliation, and salvation; a power so awesome that nothing can stand against it.

In His power and with His love every good thing is possible.

Maybe another obstacle to our witnessing for Jesus is our fear that we may receive ridicule and hostility from our peers or our family members.

When this happens we can know most fully Jesus’ presence in us, for he said: “Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

You have that chance to “go forth” as the apostles and spread that “Good News.”

Sign up to be a team member, a “Wheatie” and sign up a candidate to attend TEC 180.

You can make it happen . . . fill the house. The same challenge is still on. . . .

Let Your Light Shine again and again!

## Clip and Save

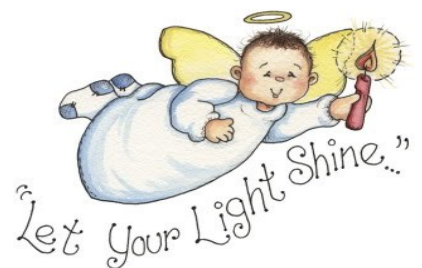
# Important Dates

Please make sure to mark your calendar so that you don’t miss out on all the fun we have at the TEC Hilton, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The following are the important dates:

- + **July 28:** TEC Reboost 1-5p.m.
- + **Aug. 14:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.

**PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!**



*“I am just a humble guy who wants to serve God . . . along with my wife, Nanette.”*

- Deacon Dennis Gillan

## Listening Our Heart Messages

*The following is a reflection written by Deacon Dennis Gillan about his call to the Diaconate. Deacon Dennis was ordained as a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Peoria on May 19, 2012 at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Peoria by Bishop Daniel Jenky.*

We are all called by God to do something.

As many of you have been, Nanette and I were called to marriage and then to raising a family, a rather large family. We have been very blessed over the past 32 years.

Each of us has a “God” calling.

We need to prayerfully discern

where and what we are being called to. We need to listen with our ears and with our hearts.

I felt a different call about 11 years ago from God through other people and in working with the TEC and Cursillo programs, but it took me 6 years to answer that call.

One would think God would give up, but He doesn’t – He is persistent. He keeps calling. Even when there is no answer, He leaves His message on your heart.

Finally, I answered His call to the diaconate and through the course of the application process, interview process, selection process and four and one-half years of discernment that followed, we learned that not one but as the saying went, “Two are called, and one is ordained.”

While being the ONE who was ordained, I know that I am not worthy of



this calling. Bishop Jenky even refers to himself as our unworthy servant.

A couple weeks ago, our priest, Fr. Bob spoke of how Jesus called simple men, fishermen to be his apostles.

This is how I’ve felt over these past few years.

I am not a theologian. I’m not a polished public speaker.

I am just a humble guy who wants to serve God and who along with my wife, Nanette, has spent one weekend a month, for the past five years, plus many hours in between, studying, reading, learning and praying to be “The hands of the Bishop, to serve the people.”

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# Canonization Set Oct. 21

*From page 2*

Her family refused her food on Sundays because she wouldn't work. She was threatened with torture or death if she did not renounce her religion.

Because of increasing hostility, in July of 1677, Kateri left her village to the Catholic mission of St. Francis Xavier near Montreal.

Her determination in proving herself worthy of God and her undying faith, Kateri was allowed to receive her First Holy Communion on Christmas Day, 1677.

Although not formally educated and unable to read and write, Kateri led a life of prayer and penitential practices.

Her favorite devotion was to fashion crosses out of sticks and place them throughout the woods.

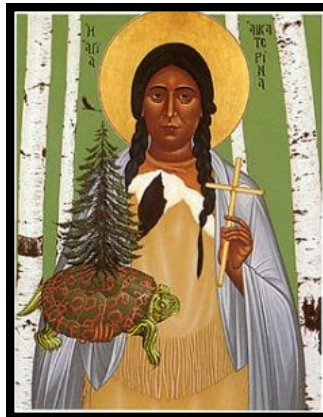
These crosses served as stations that reminded her to spend a moment in prayer.

Kateri's motto became, "Who can tell me what is most

pleasing to God that I may do it?"

She spent much of her time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, kneeling in the cold chapel for hours.

When the winter hunting season took Kateri and many of the villagers away from the



village, she made her own little chapel in the woods by carving a Cross on a tree and spent time in prayer there, kneeling in the snow.

On March 25, 1679, Kateri made a vow of perpetual virginity, meaning that she would remain unmarried and totally devoted to Christ for the rest of her life.

Kateri's health, never good, was

deteriorating rapidly due in part to the penances she inflicted on herself.

The poor health which plagued her throughout her life led to her death in 1680 at the age of 24.

Her last words were, "Jesus, I love You." Like the flower she was named for, the lily, her life was short and beautiful.

Moments after dying, her scarred and disfigured face miraculously cleared and was made beautiful by God.

Kateri is known as "Lily of the Mohawks."

The Catholic Church declared Kateri venerable in 1943. She was beatified in 1980 by Pope John Paul II.

Kateri is the first Native American to be declared Blessed. Her feast is celebrated on July 14.

On December 19, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI signed the decree necessary for the canonization of Blessed Kateri, who will be canonized as a saint on October 21.

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# TECite Becomes Permanent Deacon

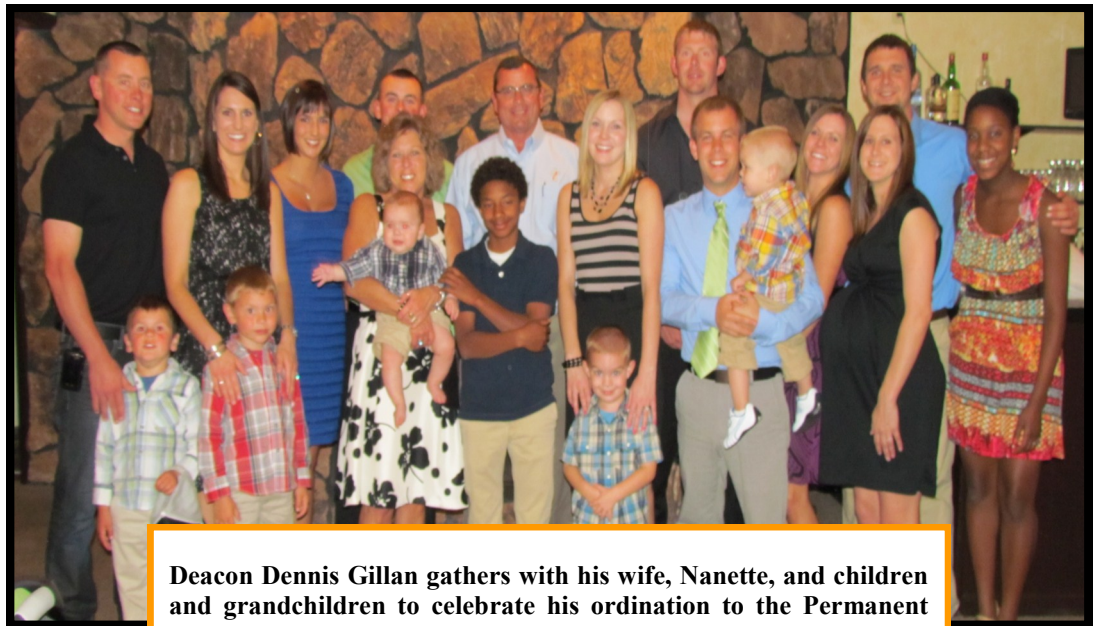
*From page 4*

Some have asked if it has all been worth it, and I have to say, “YES! I have answered the call that I felt 11 years ago to become a Deacon, a servant for Christ. How could it not be worth it to share in the mission of spreading the message of Jesus and our faith to others?”

So now let me ask you...

What is God calling you to do?

Has He been leaving messages on your heart?



**Deacon Dennis Gillan gathers with his wife, Nanette, and children and grandchildren to celebrate his ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. Deacon Dennis was ordained May 19, 2012 by Bishop Daniel Jenky.**