

HEY, CHURCH – DEAL ME IN

DAY 4 COMPANION SHEET

SAVED AS A COMMUNITY NOT ALONE

The grace to ask for today is:

Greater love for the community of the Church.

We pray today's Scripture Passage (Acts 4.32-36)

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need."

During the day if you wish (but only if you find it helpful) you can do the following:

Invite St. Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680) to spend the day with you.

At the age of 20 amid opposition, Tekakwitha, a Mohawk, chose to be baptized and took the name Kateri. Later, according to her spiritual director, Kateri is quoted as saying, "I have deliberated enough. For a long time, my decision on what I will do has been made. I have consecrated myself entirely to Jesus, son of Mary. I have chosen Him for husband, and He alone will take me for wife." Kateri fled the pressures of her relatives and went to Kahnawake, where there was an Indigenous Christian Community. She developed a close spiritual friendship with Marie Thérèse. Her health failed, and surrounded by her close friends, she spoke her last words, "Jesus, Mary, I love you." Within 15 minutes of her death, her smallpox scars disappeared from her face. Her tomb is on the Kahnawake Reserve near Montreal. It is a place of pilgrimage.

Read and reflect on what Pope Francis says:

"No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand are built together." (*Fratelli Tutti*: #8)

"Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity. On the contrary, there is no life when we claim to be self-sufficient and live as islands; in these attitudes, death prevails." (*Fratelli Tutti* #87)

"We need to develop the awareness that nowadays we are either all saved together, or no one is saved. Poverty, decadence and suffering in one part of the earth are a silent breeding ground for problems that will end up affecting the entire planet." (*Fratelli Tutti* #137)

"Difficulties that seem overwhelming are opportunities for growth, not excuses for a glum resignation that can lead only to acquiescence. Yet let us not do this alone, as individuals. The Samaritan discovered an innkeeper who would care for the man; we too are called to unite as a family that is stronger than the sum of small individual numbers." (*Fratelli Tutti* #78)

"There is a temptation to build a culture of walls, to raise walls, walls in the heart, walls on the land, in order to prevent this encounter with other cultures, with other people. And those who raise walls will end up as slaves within the very walls they have built. They are left without horizons, for they lack this interchange with others." (*Fratelli Tutti* #27)

"The real and potentially painful questions (for politicians and for us) will be, 'How much love did I put into my work?' 'What did I do for the progress of our people?' 'What mark did I leave on the life of society?' 'What real bonds did I create?' 'What positive forces did I unleash?' 'How much social

peace did I sow?' 'What good did I achieve in the position that was entrusted to me?' (*Fratelli Tutti* #197)

"Kindness ought to be cultivated; it is no superficial bourgeois virtue. Precisely because it entails esteem and respect for others, once kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles, relationships and the ways ideas are discussed and compared. Kindness facilitates the quest for consensus; it opens new paths where hostility and conflict would burn all bridges." (*Fratelli Tutti*, #224)

Sing to yourself or recite: *We are many parts...*
Google: *We Are Many Parts, We Are All One Body*
(*St. Cecilia's Church, Monmouth*)

We are many parts, we are all one body.
And the gifts we have we are given to share.
May the Spirit of love, make us one indeed.
One, the love that we share:
one, our hope in despair,
one, the cross that we bear.

God of all, we look to you,
We would be your servants true,
Let us be your love to all the world.

So my pain is pain for you,
In your joy is my joy too,
All is brought together in the Lord!

All you seekers great and small
Seek the greatest gift of all
if you love then you will know the Lord!

Additional Scripture Passages:

1 Cor. 12.12-31; Matthew 18.15-20;
Psalm 133; Philippians 2.1-5.