



Week ending 3 March 2017

## Celebrating WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Issue Number 1091

### Katherine Drexel

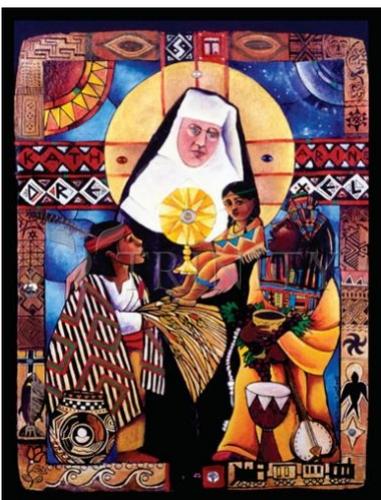


Katherine Drexel

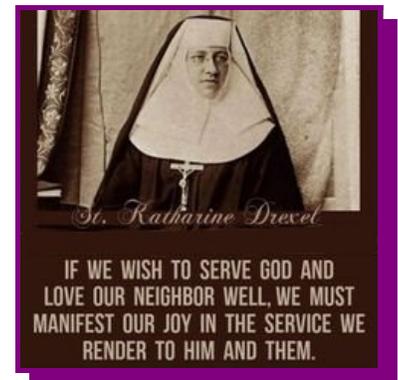
Our newest Capuchin friary, St. Katherine Community, is in Crow Agency, Montana, named for Katherine Drexel. In honor of *Women's History Month*, we are highlighting her legacy.

Katherine Drexel came from one of the wealthiest families in America. Her father was an extremely successful banker, a Catholic of Austrian descent. Katherine did not know her mother, who died five weeks after her birth. But a year later her father was remarried to another eminent Catholic, Emma Bouvier, who exerted a strong influence on Katherine and her two sisters. When Francis Drexel died he established a trust for his three daughters of \$14,000,000. Inspired by their Catholic faith, they all three regarded this fortune as an opportunity to glorify God through the service of others.

Katherine realized that it was not enough to simply share her wealth. God was calling her to give everything. Consequently, she embarked on a long search to find a religious order corresponding to her own sense of mission. But when none could be found, she received the support of her bishop to establish her own religious congregation. In 1891 she was professed as the first member of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. Within the year then other women had joined her order.



Though Katherine embraced a vow of personal poverty, she continued to administer the income from her trust — the sum of \$400,000 a year. She might well have spent the money to endow the establishments of her own congregation, but she insisted that her own sisters rely on alms. The money would continue to be used to support other projects of service to Indians and blacks. Among her gifts, over time, were a total of a million dollars to the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and \$100,000 a year to support mission schools on the reservations. In the 1920s she contributed \$750,000 toward the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic college established for blacks. All told she was personally responsible for establishing 145 Catholic missions and 12 schools for Indians, and 50 schools for black students.

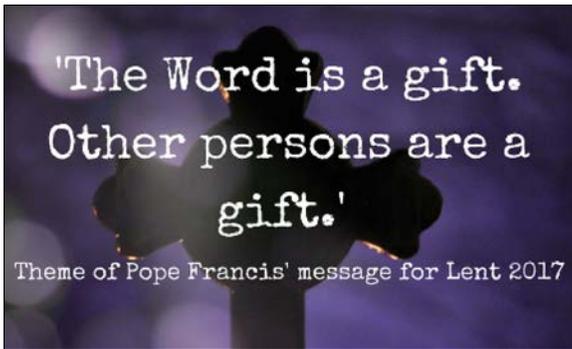


Katherine Drexel was beatified in 1988, and canonized in 2000.

*The above is excerpted from All Saints: Daily Reflections of Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time, by Robert Ellsberg. Her feast is celebrated on 3 March.*

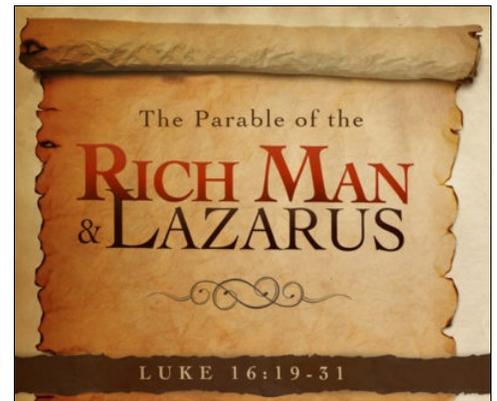
## Pope Francis on observing Lent 2017

Following are excerpts from the pope's message for this year's observance of Lent.



Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Lk 16:19-31). Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion.

Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbor or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.



The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that "we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it" (1 Tim 6:7).



## *Solanus shows up at Good Will!*

Amy Peterson (director of our Office of Pastoral Care & Conciliation) likes to stop in at the local Good Will store, often finding little “treasures.” Recently, she found a small brass box with a relief of St. Patrick on the lid. Being of Irish descent, she purchased it for \$1.95 without opening it (it was taped shut). Once she got home, she removed the tape and found a few coins and religious medals inside, *and a Solanus Casey badge!* Probably not much of a miracle, but an interesting coincidence that it should be accidentally found by a provincial employee!



*Joseph Panakkalody*

## *Welcoming yet another brother to our province!*

In the month of June we will welcome Joseph Panakkalody (Jose, for short, pronounced like "nose") the first friar from the Pavanatma province in Kerala, India to live at Saint Bonaventure Monastery and minister at the Solanus Casey Center!

## *The sea, the fear...a place to stay!*

Our Capuchin friary in Rovereto, Italy is opening its doors to refugees. Fifteen women from the Ivory Coast and Nigeria, all in their twenties, and three children have been guests since the beginning of December in seven rooms, bathroom, kitchen, and living room. They have been staying in other places, but because of renovations and given the need...even a Capuchin friary can work! The women, as they wait for their requests for asylum, are being assisted by volunteers, and have been attending courses.



In Cava de' Tirreni, next to the Capuchin friary that serves as the inter-provincial postulancy program for southern Italy, there is a rest home belonging to the province that welcomes people of humble means. For some months now, the government of the city of Salerno has requested to manage the house in order to welcome thirty refugee women from Nigeria who reached the coast of Italy after a long and dangerous voyage across the Mediterranean Sea. The friars have offered help, and together with the personnel of the house they have prepared a floor of the structure to welcome the women. Among these very young women, one girl lost her mother during the voyage, and another two are pregnant. Thanks to our brothers for letting themselves be moved by the anguish that cries out in search of a better tomorrow!





Bill Sullivan (brother of Michael Sullivan) was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Albert Sandor was hospitalized recently for bleeding.

John Holly underwent hip replacement surgery after sustaining a fractured hip from a fall.

Gilbert Minoso (uncle of Zoy Garibay) recently began chemotherapy sessions.

We want to thank all the Capuchins who were praying for God's graces during our son's ordeal in the wilderness. We were overwhelmed with the thoughts and prayers offered for Mike. We needed that support to keep us optimistic when the situation was not looking too rosey. We are greatly indebted to all of you. — Ray & Carol Zelinski

Thank you for all the prayers offered for my nephew Bill and his children. It was a difficult situation, but good has come from it. Your prayers helped a great deal. — Bob Wheelock

**MARCH**



1 ..... Ash Wednesday

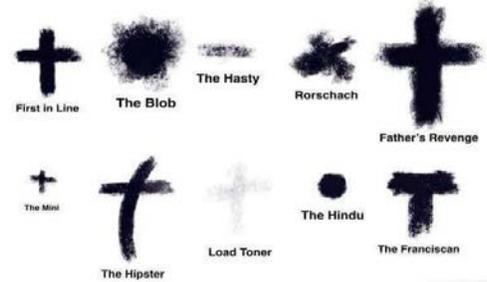
5 ..... **Niles Kauffman (B)**  
**José Martinez (B)**

7 ..... **Building & Maint. Comm. Video Conf**

8 ..... **NAPCC, Scottsdale AZ**



**A Catholic Guide to Ashes**



***A Prayer for Women Leaders Around the World***

- Praise to you, women leaders of the seven continents, for your many works of justice.
- Praise to you, women leaders of Asia, for confronting trafficking of women.
- Praise to you, women leaders of Africa, for raising your voices to stop AIDS.
- Praise to you, women leaders of Europe, for your peacekeeping.
- Praise to you, women leaders of North America, for confronting economic inequities and racism.
- Praise to you, women leaders of South America, for struggling against domination of your land.
- Praise to you, women leaders in Antarctica, for your scientific research.
- Praise to you, women leaders of Australia, for supporting indigenous cultures.

*~ Diann Neu, co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual*

