

**Gospel Truth versus Colonizing Practices**    Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time    Friday,  
July 14, 2017    8:15 AM    Gn 46:1-7, 28-30;    **Mt 10:16-23**    **St. Kateri Tekakwitha,**  
virgin    (We all have the responsibility of once again bringing to the fore the actual teachings  
of Jesus Christ.)

**“Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”**

I don't mind telling you no one knows what that means. Some think **Jesus** believed that the end of the world was coming very soon, soon from his viewpoint; that may be true. He often said he didn't know when the end was coming, only the Father did. So in his human mind, in his human nature he **did not know the future. But it is possible that he shared the expectation of many of his coreligionists that the end of the world must be on the horizon.**

On the other hand, it could refer to the fact that the Son of Man would rise from the dead and in that way come, but that would not effect persecution. And **this is really predicting persecutions.** Again, this is not really knowledge of the future as much as it's **knowledge of human nature. Human beings persecute what they don't understand.** And human beings tend to fight change whenever it involves their own discomfiture or their own loss of identity or meaning. **This is repeated every time the gospel has been planted into a new culture.**

Now there are some cultures that seem to embrace the gospel, like for example the culture of the Irish. They were as thoroughly pagan as any other nation was, given over to various myths and cults, but they embraced Christianity rather quickly. A few others have as well. But very often no. **Very often Christianity was greeted with hostility and sometimes for good reasons because Christianity didn't always come with just the pure gospel.** It was often the baggage of colonizers, especially European colonizers. **When Europeans colonized they were not looking to the well-being of the natives in whose land they were colonizing.** In fact the whole idea of colonizing is go and take what is not yours and push out those who are there. So we can see that because that is often the way Christianity was introduced, especially in the Western Hemisphere, we can see why there was a great deal of hostility among the natives, the indigenous people already there.

Today we celebrate the **memorial of Kateri Tekakwitha**, who was an Indian girl, woman, who was very taken up with the gospel amidst people that were very hostile to the gospel. Of course they didn't hear the gospel as she did. **She heard the gospel as the word of God. They saw the gospel as a white thing, part of the white supremacy culture coming to dominate.** And you can't blame them because European colonists all had this white supremacy idea. And for the most part **it's still a dominant factor** in the world, and not only in Europe or the Western Hemisphere but **throughout the world.**

Now it is true that white culture in many ways is more advanced, for whatever reason. We can all study that and figure out why. But the point **from the gospel viewpoint is wherever one is more advanced and more gifted those gifts and those advances** are not just for oneself. They are for all, and they **are to be put at service to everyone. This is a fundamental gospel teaching**, not always practiced, as you know, by believers. Believers have tended to be very selective about what beliefs they live by.

So Kateri was someone who perhaps through the extraordinary grace of God was able to accept the truth of the gospel and live it with great vigor, austerity, and innocence, and for that reason the Church holds her up, and it is hopefully **through her intercession that many people, especially people of color, will come to see the goodness of the gospel, the freedom that is in the gospel, and not take the format in which it was originally introduced as basic**, but to recognize that the way in which the gospel was introduced to many peoples and in many lands was unfortunate. So in our own age now, in this age of so-called globalization, **we all have the responsibility of once again bringing to the fore the actual teachings of Jesus Christ**, the actual gospel of truth, and presenting it as best we can to those that we communicate with, whoever they are, whatever their background, whatever their understanding or misunderstanding.