



Archdiocese of Vancouver

ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

October 20, 2012

Dear students, faculty and staff,

Thank you very much for accepting my invitation to this Fourth Annual University Students' Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Tomorrow, in Rome, Pope Benedict XVI will canonize a laywoman who died near Montreal in 1680 at the age of 24. Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is known as the Lily of the Mohawks because of her love of purity. She is the patron saint of First Nation peoples, as well as of those who are ridiculed for taking their faith seriously.

The Holy Father recently described the Year of Faith, which we are now celebrating as "a pilgrimage in the deserts of today's world, taking with us only what is necessary: the Gospel and the faith of the Church, of which the [Second Vatican] Council documents are a luminous expression, as is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*" (Homily, Opening of the Year of Faith, 11 October 2012).

In order to commemorate this Opening and as a souvenir of this grace-filled occasion, I am happy to offer you 150 Youth Catechisms, which will be handed out at Holy Rosary Hall after the Mass. Study this YOUCAT produced for World Youth Day 2012. It is an accessible and engaging presentation of our Catholic faith. You need to know clearly and intelligently what you believe, and this Catechism will help answer questions and stimulate further inquiry.

Finally, let us not forget two holy pastors recently beatified who are undoubtedly watching over us tonight. Blessed John Henry Newman's relic is in the sanctuary; his feast day was October 9, the day of his "coming home" to the Catholic Church. He was a great scholar and a courageous apologist for the faith. Also present with us this evening is Blessed John Paul II, who prayed here in our Cathedral in 1984. May their prayers help to keep us open to the saving truth of the Gospel!

With cordial best wishes and the assurance of my prayers that the Lord will lead you on the path of life, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ J. Michael Miller CSB

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