

The feast of Epiphany is the celebration of the appearance of God in human flesh. Today through Jesus God is manifested to the Gentiles, the non-Jewish world, through this child. There was an urgency in the heart of God to reveal His love for every human person, an urgency to reveal His forgiveness and now here is God in our human flesh.

One person who makes this so real to me is Catherine Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks. I first learned of her more than 70 years ago. My love for her deepened through my friendship with Bishop Gibbons. He had a great esteem for her. He promoted her cause for canonization and the Mohawk Indians made him an Indian Chief. St. Kateri suffered for her faith in Jesus and died in exile in Canada. I had the privilege of attending her canonization in Rome.

She is a reminder that we are all called to reveal to each other the love that God has for each one of us. If ever there were a time when we need to open our hearts to the presence and love of God it is now! Kateri demonstrates this urgency by her way of living.

Now is the time! After all it is the New Year! We start with ourselves. We can start out fresh, begin over again. I want to suggest to you the Sacrament of Freedom, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It can lead us to great freedom. Your sins are forgiven, you are free.

It is also a wonderful time to renew the love in your marriage and in your family. And try to find ways in which you can tell your friends and fellow workers how much God loves them. And please don't be afraid to forgive. If ever there were a way to greater peace and freedom it is through forgiveness. It takes courage and humility, but the reward is fantastic.

Beware; you bear this message in your heart. You have a tremendous opportunity. Each of us can make a difference!

And please pray for our young people. The pressure on them is overwhelming. You can make a difference. They really need people to give them good example and encouragement. Remember my friend Kateri Tekakwitha – a brilliant light for me and I hope for you.