



Triduum Celebration to Prepare for the Feast of Saint Kinga

Day 1: Living Waters

Leader: In the name...

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ, the Way and the Truth and the Life, himself the spring of living water.

ALL: Now and for ever. Amen.

Reader 1: This story is told about Saint Kinga:

“At the time when the holy Kinga was elected abbess – and in this capacity governed her daughters with great prudence and maternal charity – her community was suffering from a scarcity of water. She pleaded with God to come to her assistance. Then she went to a neighboring brook and with her staff traced the course that it should henceforth follow. The water flowed obediently to her monastery, and all the people had fresh water.”

Leader: This story reminds us of the waters of baptism which began God’s life within us and our striving for holiness.

ALL: Intercede for us, Saint Kinga, that we may fulfill our baptismal promises.

Reader 2: Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit” (Jn 3:5). And he said to the Samaritan woman: “Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (Jn 4:14). Moreover, on the last and greatest day of the feast [of Tabernacles], Jesus stood up and exclaimed, “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: ‘Rivers of living water will flow from within him.’” He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified. (Jn 7:37-39).

(A reflection may be shared or a time of quiet prayer may be observed.)

Leader: In response to the Word God, we pray:

ALL: We, who through the tender mercy of the Eternal Father were privileged to be baptized "in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:5) and thus to share in the dignity of being a child of God, wish now in the presence of this same loving Father and by the grace of his only-begotten Son and through the power of the Holy Spirit to renew in all sincerity the promises we solemnly made at the time of our holy Baptism, strengthened at our religious Profession, and lived out every day of our lives in faith, hope, and charity, with conversion of heart and a commitment to community, in order to proclaim the Good News of salvation and enter into the Kingdom of heaven.

Having been buried with Christ unto death and raised up with him unto a new life, we promise to live no longer for ourselves or for that world which is the enemy of God but for him who died for us and rose again, serving God, my heavenly Father, faithfully and unto death in the holy Catholic Church.

Leader: Blessed is the one whose joy is the Lord,

ALL: who is like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season;

Leader: Its leaves never wither;

ALL: whatever that one does, it prospers. (Cf. Ps 1:2-3).

Leader: Pray for us St. Kinga,

ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray: God, our Father, you caused St. Kinga to excel in purity of life, in contemplation, and in wondrous charity to the poor. Grant that through her prayers and example we may go forward rejoicing in spirit along the way of charity through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.



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Day 2: That All May be One

Leader: In the name...

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ, the Way and the Truth and the Life, who is the source, the end, and the energy of our oneness.

ALL: Now and for ever. Amen.

Reader 1: In 1279, after the death of her husband Boleslaw V, the people of the kingdom strove in vain to make Queen Kinga retain the reins of government and continue her charitable works such as visiting the poor and helping the lepers. This godly woman replied that it was her intention to retire from the world and consecrate herself wholly to Jesus Christ. She and her sister Yolande, who had been left a widow some months before, received the habit of St Clare in the convent at Sandek (Stary Sącz). When she entered the monastery, which she herself had founded, she said to the abbess and the sisters, "Forget what I once was; I come only to be your servant." It became her greatest pleasure to do the most menial tasks. She lived among the nuns as a simple sister. She carried water and wood; she took care of the elderly and sick sisters. Her practices of penance inflamed the general admiration of the other sisters. She would spend the rest of her life in contemplative prayer and did not allow anyone to refer to her past role as Grand Duchess of Poland. She died in the monastery on July 24, 1292, at the age of 68.

Leader: This story reminds us of our life in community through which we experience the Father's love, make clear the mission of Jesus Christ, and cooperate with the Holy Spirit toward holiness.

ALL: Intercede for us, Saint Kinga, that we may be one in fidelity to the holy Gospel.

Reader 2: Jesus proclaimed: "I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Mt 18:19-20). And Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "I pray ... that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be one in us, ... so that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me" (Jn 17:20-23).

(A reflection may be shared or a time of quiet prayer may be observed.)

Leader: In response to God's Word we pray:

ALL: Lord Jesus, who prayed that we might all be one, we pray to you for the oneness of our life-in-community, according to your will and according to your means. May Your Spirit enable us to rise above the suffering caused by division, the isolation caused by self-seeking, and pride. May the Spirit also enable us to experience the hope that leads us beyond ourselves and the new possibilities of life-in-community that make our religious life a sign of your Kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Leader: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.

ALL: Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for one's own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others.

Leader: Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus,

ALL: who emptied himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross (Phil 2:1-5,7,8).

Leader: Pray for us St. Kinga,

ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray: God, our Father, you caused St. Kinga to excel in purity of life, in contemplation, and in wondrous charity to the poor. Grant that through her prayers and example we may go forward rejoicing in spirit along the way of charity through Christ our Lord. **ALL: Amen.**



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Day 3: The Salt of the Earth

Leader: In the name...

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ, the Way and the Truth and the Life, who is the Light of the world.

ALL: Now and for ever. Amen.

Reader 1: This is the legend of how the Hungarian princess Kinga brought salt to Poland. When the Polish King Boleslaw sent his envoys to take princess Kinga to Poland to marry him, her father King Bela of Hungary wanted to show a royal generosity by giving gold and silver from his treasury to the Poles. Kinga asked him to give salt instead, since Poles did have gold and silver but they did not have much needed salt. Since in those days salt mines were the equivalent of today's oil wells, the Hungarian King Bela gave his daughter one of the salt mines that were making the Hungarians richer. But the mine was far away from Poland, so the princess realized that it would be very difficult to take advantage of the gift. As she watched the miners working in the pits, she wished she could take the mine to her new country with her. So she took off her valuable engagement ring and threw it into the deepest shaft, while praying to St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare for their help. When Kinga and her husband settled in Poland, she suggested to him that they should look for a place where they could find a mine and extract salt. They left the castle, stopping at a small forestry village called Wieliczka. Unexpectedly, Kinga intuited that this was the place where they should dig. The next day the servants started digging and suddenly hit something very hard. It was a lump of salt. When they broke it, everyone saw what was hidden inside – Kinga's engagement ring!

Leader: This story reminds us of our commitment to proclaim the Good News, to bring Christ Jesus to everyone we meet.

ALL: Intercede for us, Saint Kinga, that we may evangelize and be evangelized.

Reader 2: Jesus spoke to the people, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (Jn 8:12). At another time he said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Mt 5:13-16).

(A reflection may be shared or a time of quiet prayer may be observed.)

Leader: In response to God's Word we pray:

ALL: Merciful God, you call us to be salt of the earth and light of the world. We confess that our witness is often bland and gloomy. Forgive us when we fail to be an influence for good, and when we condone or do what is wrong in your sight. Enable us to proclaim the Good News and help us to flavor the earth with righteousness and reflect the light of your love in a dark world through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

Leader: Everyone will be salted with fire.

ALL: Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor? Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another (Mk 9:49-50).

Leader: Pray for us St. Kinga,

ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray: God, our Father, you caused St. Kinga to excel in purity of life, in contemplation, and in wondrous charity to the poor. Grant that through her prayers and example we may go forward rejoicing in spirit along the way of charity through Christ our Lord. **ALL: Amen.**