

Liturgical Considerations for New American Saints

On October 21, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI, presiding over the celebration of Mass in St. Peter's Square, canonized seven Blesseds, among whom were two Americans: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and Saint Marianne Cope. Large groups of pilgrims from the United States were present, along with many Bishops. The other newly canonized Saints are Jacques Berthieu, Pedro Calungsod, Giovanni Battista Piamarta, Maria Carmen Sallés y Barangueras, and Anna Schäffer.

In the United States, the Memorial of St. Kateri Tekakwitha is on July 14. It has not yet been determined whether there will be any change to liturgical texts (other than the change from "Blessed" to "Saint"). The Latin Church members of the USCCB approved the inscription of the Optional Memorial of then-Blessed Marianne Cope to the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States in November 2011. The Holy See has indicated its intention to grant the *recognitio*, but some questions concerning the proper liturgical texts are still being resolved. The observance for the Optional Memorial of St. Marianne Cope will be on January 23, as determined by the Congregation for Divine Worship. Until such time that the *recognitio* for the inscription and proper liturgical texts is received, it is worth noting that during Ordinary Time, one can celebrate any saint inscribed in the *Roman Martyrology*, using the appropriate Mass formulary from the Commons of the *Roman Missal* (cf. GIRM, no. 355c). If, therefore, it seems appropriate, Mass on January 23 could be celebrated in honor of St. Marianne Cope, using either the Common of Virgins: For One Virgin, or the Common of Holy Men and Women: For Those Who Practiced Works of Mercy.

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