

PILGRIM

from the **MARTYRS SHRINE**

Auriesville, N.Y. 12016
INDIAN SUMMER VOL. LXXXVIII
1977 No. 3

MOHAWKS HONOR KATERI AT SITE OF HER BIRTH

Catholic Mohawks from Caughnawaga near Montreal and Akwesasne (St. Regis) on the New York - Canada border assembled at the Martyrs' Shrine on the two days preceding Labor Day for the annual pilgrimage to their ancestral home and the 1977 Kateri Weekend.

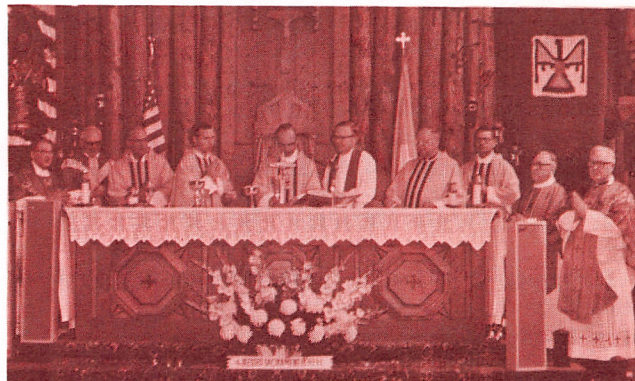
This year's celebration was distinctive in that a member of the hierarchy, the Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brzana, Bishop of Ogdensburg, was the principal concelebrant and homilist at the 12:30 p.m. Sunday mass. The New York portion of the parish at St. Regis falls within the confines of his diocese.

Other concelebrants of the mass included the Very Rev. Joseph C. Towle, S.J., newly appointed vice-provincial for pastoral ministries of the New York Province of the Society of Jesus; Fr. Henri Bechard, S.J., and Fr. Joseph S. McBride, S.J., vice-postulators for the cause of Kateri in Canada and the United States respectively; Fr. Michael Jacobs, S.J., co-pastor of the St. Regis parish; Fr. Ronald Schultz, O.F.M. Conv., director of the Tekakwitha Shrine at Fonda; Fr. Francis X. Weiser, S.J., professor emeritus at Boston College and author of a noted biography of Kateri; Fr. Ronald W. Sams, S.J., alumni director at Canisius High School, Buffalo; Fr. James Shurtleff, secretary to the bishop, and Fr. Thomas F. Egan, S.J.,



Fr. Jacobs leads Bishop Brzana through the main gate of the Martyrs Shrine on the way to the dedication ceremonies outside the Kateri Center.

1977 KATERI WEEKEND



Concelebrants at the Mohawk mass, left to right, were Fr. McBride, Fr. Bechard, Fr. Schultz, Fr. Vice-Provincial Towle, Bishop Brzana, Fr. Shurtleff, Fr. Jacobs, Fr. Sams, Fr. Weiser, and Fr. Egan.

The St. Francis Xavier Choir of Caughnawaga, preserving a privilege received in 1710, sang the chants and responses of the liturgy in their native Iroquois. After the mass the bishop accompanied by the clergy, the choir and many of the congregation, marched solemnly through the grounds to the entrance of the Shrine cafeteria where he blessed and dedicated the National Kateri Center.

Fr. Jacobs, who for 55 years has held the distinction of being the only Mohawk member of the Society of Jesus, unveiled a series of surprises for the pilgrims. Assisted by a troop of his youthful parishioners in tribal regalia, he presented first the shawl of hospitality and then the multi-feathered bonnet of a sachem to Bishop Brzana, thus conferring honorary membership in the Mohawk nation.

See KATERI WEEKEND — page 4



Bishop Brzana poses with Arthur Wesselman of Cincinnati (left), donor of a new statue of Kateri in memory of his wife and daughter. Fr. McBride and Fr. Bechard stand at the right.

BISHOP BRZANA EXTOLS KATERI AT MOHAWK MASS

EDITOR'S NOTE: The homily of Bishop Brzana at this year's Mohawk mass dealt with the life of Kateri and the efforts of Catholics on this continent to promote her eventual canonization. As it contains a clear summary by a member of the hierarchy on the status of Kateri's cause, we asked Bishop Brzana for permission to present it in its entirety to the readers of the PILGRIM.

Greetings to all of you who have come as pilgrims to this Mohawk Indian Day and Kateri Weekend at the Martyrs' Shrine here in Auriesville.

In today's special second reading St. Paul tells the people of Athens: "From one stock he (God) made every nation of mankind to dwell on the face of the earth. It is he who set limits to their epochs and fixed the boundaries of their regions." (Acts 17, 26). In other words, it was under the providence and care of God that the various nations and peoples of the world arose and flourished at various times and places. This was true of the Indian people of North and South America. It was also true of the Iroquois nations — the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas — the "people of the longhouse."

The Mohawks, "keepers of the eastern door," lived nearest to the Hudson River. They were courageous warriors, and the great war chief of the Iroquois was taken from their number. From the Mohawks has risen a courageous maiden who also waged war, but not against other people. By her prayers and penance she fought against Satan and the evil spirits of darkness. Otherwise, she was a woman of peace. Her name was Kateri Tekakwitha.

Life of Kateri

Tekakwitha was born in 1656 here at Ossernenon. Four years later she lost her parents and brother in a small-pox epidemic, which she survived with pock marks on her face and weakened eyes. She was adopted by an uncle and two aunts.

Tekakwitha was attracted to the Gospel preached by the Jesuit missionaries and she was baptized on Easter Sunday, 1676, at the age of 20, taking the name of "Catherine" or "Kateri." She suffered strong opposition and harassment from her own family and others. She understood well the meaning of the words of Jesus spoken in today's Gospel: "If anyone comes to me without turning his back on his father and mother, his wife and his children, his brothers and sisters indeed his very self, he cannot be my follower. Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27-28).

In 1677 Kateri escaped to the Christian Indian village of Caughnawaga in Canada. There she led an intense Christian life of prayer and penance, and gave a shining example of modesty, purity, and love. On Christmas Day, 1677, she made her First Holy Communion. On March 25, 1679, on the Feast of Annunciation, she did something unheard of for an Indian woman of that time: she promised God to observe perpetual virginity, and dedicated her life in a special way to Jesus and Mary. She changed her red blanket to blue.

In 1680 Kateri Tekakwitha became ill, and on April 17, 1680, Holy Thursday, the great feast of the Eucharist, which she loved so much, she died.

Process for Kateri's Canonization

In 1884 the Bishops of the United States petitioned the Holy See to begin the process for the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha. In 1931 the cause was formally instituted by Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons of the Diocese of Albany. In 1943 the Holy See declared that Kateri's virtues were heroic, and gave her the title of "Venerable."

The next steps are to have Kateri declared "Blessed," that is, beatified, and then to have her declared a "Saint," that is, canonized. What is necessary for that is a number of verified miracles. The Church conducts a thorough investigation of the life and virtues of a candidate for sainthood. But she also requires miracles which are a kind of seal of approval from God himself.

When the miracles will occur and when beatification and canonization will take place is known only to God, who works in His own ways and according to His own calendar. Today's first reading from the book of Wisdom tells us: "For what man knows God's counsel, and who can conceive what the Lord intends?" (Wisdom 9:13).

However, there is something we can do about this matter. We can pray. Jesus told us: "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and you will be admitted . . ." With deep faith, trust, courage, and perseverance we should ask the good Lord for cures and miracles through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha. This will be particularly true when we come across special cases of illness which require God's compassion — a child with leukemia, a young mother with cancer, a father of children going blind, etc.

To further promote the cause of Kateri Tekakwitha, after this Mass we will solemnly dedicate and bless the national Kateri Tekakwitha Center, where Fr. Joseph S. McBride works as vice-postulator of the cause.

BISHOP PERNICONE RIDES TO COLISEUM IN SICILIAN CART



On August 21 the Most Rev. Joseph M. Pernicone, auxiliary bishop of New York and pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Poughkeepsie, came to Auriesville, as he had nearly every year for four decades, to offer the pilgrimage mass on Italian Day.

Tom Constantino, the Shrine's resource person extraordinaire, had his own donkey and cart at the main gate for the bishop to board at 3:45 p.m. When the donkey took off at a brisk trot, Garth Bruce and Jerry Richards drew on reserves of strength to rein the animal in. To the delight of a long line of pilgrims the Bishop rode quickly to the Coliseum where he was greeted by Fr. Fullam and Fr. Egan. To the left of the bishop is Philip Vicinanza, while to the right is his older brother Paul.

MRS. BOB HOPE COMES AS PILGRIM TO THE MARTYRS SHRINE



Pictured here are Fr. Egan, Fr. Fleig, a representative of the LaSalle Auxiliary, Fr. Doolan, Mrs. Hope and Fr. Richard Fragomeni who offered mass for the group.

When Bob Hope visited Albany last June for a week's engagement, opening night was a benefit performance for LaSalle Institute of Troy. As a distinguished alumnus His Excellency, the Most Rev. Howard J. Hubbard, new bishop of Albany, was an honored guest. Introduced to Bob and Mrs. Hope, he was surprised when the latter, Dolores, asked how she could get to Auriesville.

Mrs. Hope has long been a devotee of Kateri, having visited Caughnawaga where she was shown around by Fr. Bechard. She and her party met nearly everyone on the Shrine staff and participated at mass in the St. Rene Goupil Chapel on the Hill of Prayer. Recently she wrote to thank her new friends at Auriesville, assuring them that she is resolved anew to spread devotion to the saintly Mohawk maiden.

USE THIS ENTIRE FORM FOR REQUESTS YOU HAVE OF THE SHRINE STAFF YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ARE ALREADY TAPED ON THE REVERSE SIDE

CONCERNING MASS CARDS

Enclose your offering for each Mass. (The usual offering is \$2.00, but larger stipends for the upkeep of the Shrine are gratefully received.) Check or Money Order is preferred.

Date _____

Dear Father Director:

Enclosed find my offering for _____ Mass(es) for M _____ (living) (deceased).

Send Card to: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Before Mailing sign card _____

Mail to: FR. DIRECTOR, MARTYRS' SHRINE,
AURIESVILLE, N.Y. 12016

CONCERNING ENROLLMENTS

In the Martyrs' Memorial Association

The usual offering is one dollar for an individual annual enrollment, five for a family, living or deceased.

Dear Father Director:

Kindly enroll _____

in the Martyr's Memorial Association for _____ year (or years) or perpetually.

Send enrollment to: _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Before mailing sign card _____

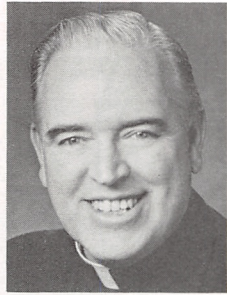
Mail to: FR. DIRECTOR, MARTYRS' SHRINE,
AURIESVILLE, N.Y. 12016

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Pilgrims,

"The Lord gives. The Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." Our readers will remember the headline in the midyear PILGRIM — *MEET OUR EXPANDED SHRINE STAFF*. Among the profiles included was a feature on Father Joseph Edwin O'Brien, S.J., who despite a stroke suffered back in 1971, fought his way back to health and joined our staff five summers ago. Shortly after the appearance of the last issue Fr. O'Brien left the Shrine for a brief visit with relatives and friends in the New York metropolitan area. Stricken with a heart attack in early August, he lingered several weeks in St. Vincent's Hospital. We prayed and hoped here on Martyrs' Hill, but on September 1 he received the Lord's summons. Just a few weeks before he had completed fifty years as a Jesuit.

Much could be said in praise of Father Eddie and to any comments we might make many a pilgrim would most likely want to add contributions of his own. So many felt his warmth when they met him at the gate or



in the confessional. His brother Jesuits here at Auriesville can think of no better tribute than to let Father McCorry speak for us. We agreed with his every sentiment when he spoke at the mass of Christian burial we offered in the Coliseum on Labor Day. The eulogy may be found on page five of this issue.

Only once before have we had the opportunity of offering a funeral mass in the Coliseum. That was six years ago when we bade our farewell to Father Anthony Schirmann. Mention of this giant of a toiler who gave so many years to the care of our pilgrims reminds us of the dedicated and resolute Father O'Brien.

Our expanded staff has once again contracted. Yet the Lord has not left us without help. Like Fr. Schirmann, Fr. Eddie will continue to win blessings on our work and have his steadying influence on us all. May he now enjoy the presence of the Lord.

Devotedly in Our Lord

Thomas F. Egan, S.J.

(Rev.) Thomas F. Egan, S.J.
Director, Martyrs' Shrine

THE MARTYRS' SHRINE
Auriesville, New York 12016

CONTACT US FOR AN ILLUSTRATED TALK
ON THE SHRINE AND THE MARTYRS
THIS FALL OR WINTER

A
HAIL MARY
EACH DAY
THAT KATERI
WILL SOON BE
BEATIFIED

Remember the Martyrs Shrine in your will.

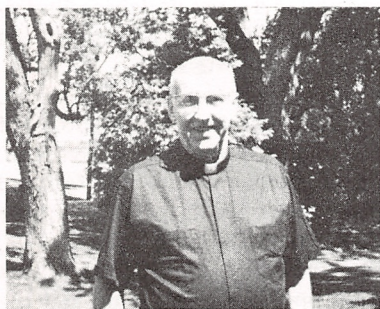


PILGRIM, INDIAN SUMMER, 1977 — Vol. LXXXVIII, No. 3 — Quarterly publication of the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, Auriesville, N.Y. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., President and Shrine Director; Robert L. Fleig, S.J., Secretary and Treasurer; Francis C. Pfeiffer, S.J., Timothy C. O'Dwyer, S.J., Paul J. Gampp, S.J., John M. Doolan, S.J. and Vincent P. McCorry, S.J. Board Members.

Entered as second class matter July 6, 1942 at Auriesville, N.Y. act of March 3, 1879.

IN MEMORIAM — FATHER J. EDWIN O'BRIEN, S.J. 1909-1977

By Father Vincent P. McCorry, S.J.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following eulogy of Father Eddie O'Brien was given by his classmate and lifetime friend, Father Vincent P. McCorry, S.J. of the Retreat House

staff, in St. Francis Xavier Church in Manhattan on September 3 and again in our Coliseum on September 5.

In Memoriam FR. EDDIE O'BRIEN

For better or worse, it has been my appointed destiny to speak publicly in many causes and on many occasions. Never have I been more proud, being asked to speak, than at this moment. Never have my own deepest feelings been so engaged. I must therefore speak carefully, must deliberately choose the low key. The language of the heart is not for public utterance.

Out of a friendship — no, out of a brother-to-brother love that spans more than half a century, I would like to tell you what you already know about Edwin O'Brien, schoolboy, seminarian, teacher, priest, hospital chaplain, army chaplain, Jesuit. My word-picture has but three broad lines. You will supply the rest.

First, Edwin was a man genuinely possessed of an exceedingly rare quality: simplicity. Simplicity, for most of us, isn't even specially comprehensible, because we are so interiorly complicated, divided, ambivalent, defensive, crazily self-absorbed. Not Edwin. All his reactions were natural and straightforward. He was a remarkably harmonious person, interiorly, and that is why people found him so soothing and restful. I don't think he ever worried much, or for long. His adjustment to severe disability was almost casual, it was so cheerful. His capacity for enjoyment was large, yet he was not really worldly, nor pretended to be. His whole view of life was uncluttered. When he and I were seniors here at Xavier we marched out to military drill one spring afternoon, resplendent in our uniforms, our officers' insignia and swords. Suddenly Edwin said to me, "Are you going to St. Andrew?" (St. Andrew, at Poughkeepsie, was then the Jesuit novitiate.) I answered shakily, "Well --- yes. I would like to try it."

Eddie sighed. He said, "I think I will, too." And then: "There's nothing else I really want to do." That will serve for a splendid epitaph, won't it? This was his simplicity: there was just one thing he wanted to do, and he did it; did it beautifully for fifty years.

Second, Edwin was again that very rare thing, a truly humble man. It is even more difficult to talk about humility than about simplicity, because we would all like to enter some claim to be decently modest and reasonably humble. Herein, of course, lies much humbug. Not with Edwin. I don't think I ever heard him boast; and men, religious as well as other, find it very hard not to boast, whether subtly or unsubtly. He had, in fact, too low an opinion of himself and his endowments. Still, in a world of brassy self-assertion and noisy self-advertising, such deep-down humility comes as a relief, doesn't it? Here is another reason why Edwin's company was always restful. Some day you and I are going to find out what Jesus meant when he said, "The last shall be first."

Finally, and best of all, Eddie was one who loved. I think I have never in my life seen, as in Edwin, the truth of the saying, "If you want to be loved, love." He was simply and plainly and unfeignedly fond of people. He would not go with me through Europe; he wanted to tour our west coast — where there were people he knew: men he had met in the army, some of whose marriages he had performed. He wanted to see them, their wives, their children. He was never happier than at a party: a wedding, a baptism, an anniversary, anything. I have been going through his mail and his address-book-with-comments. I am touched, astonished, envious. He loved people; and oh, how people loved him!

This was Edwin O'Brien. Yes, it's hard, it hurts so much now to begin to do without someone like this. But — how nice it was of God to give him to us. Having him was good for us; we are all the better for him. And since the evening shadows are undeniably lengthening for those of us who knew him best, we know, quite factually, that this present separation cannot be for long. And then, ah then will come a party — a reunion party — which he and we, in the loving presence of the blessed Trinity and Mother Mary, will really enjoy; for we will enjoy it without end.

So long for now, Eddie. We won't be late for the party. Meanwhile, enjoy the new addition to your service medals and honors, the citation you have already received from the lips of Christ himself: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Master."

KATERI HOMILY — continued from page 2

Benefits to Result from Canonization of Kateri

At the present time the Indian people of the United States and Canada are insisting more on their origins, their ancient culture, and their rights. When beatified and canonized, Kateri Tekakwitha would be the first representative of the Indian race now on the calendar of Saints. How proud would be the Indian people of North America, and how especially proud would be the Iroquois and the Mohawks! Many non-Christian Indians would be inspired to be baptized and to follow Christ. Many Christian Indians would be inspired to follow her example of faith, love, prayer and penance.

Many people today study nature all around us, and are concerned to preserve the ecological balance of woods, streams, lakes, and wild life. Unfortunately, some lovers of nature do not recognize God who created nature, who sustains it and is revealed in its beauty. Kateri was a child of nature in the best sense. Her beatification and canonization would raise the minds and hearts of the lovers of nature to the beauty of God Himself the author of nature.

Women who today are struggling in the Women's Liberation Movement would be inspired by Kateri to seek the true liberation from sin and vice, and to enjoy the freedom of God's love.

Our Country already has several Saints: Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf and the North American martyrs; Frances Cabrini, the first U.S. citizen to be a Saint; Elizabeth Seton, the first person born in the U.S.A. to be canonized; and John Neumann the first male citizen to be canonized. It would be great to have Kateri Tekakwitha as the first Saint of the original "native Americans!"

All those in heaven are Saints, whether they are canonized or not. While working for the cause of Kateri we must not forget our own obligation to strive for virtue, holiness, and eternal life. Jesus challenges all of us with words: "Be you therefore perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect!"

We hope and pray that with the help of God Kateri Tekakwitha will eventually be raised to the honor of the altars. We hope and pray that with the intercession of Mary and the help of God all the Mohawks, all the Iroquois, and all the Indian people will be saved and brought to eternal life. There they will sit at the council of the great Spirit, with the great Christian Chiefs, spiritual warriors, and heroes, and with Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks!

KATERI WEEKEND — continued from page 1

Authentic seventeenth-century Mohawk bonnets were also bestowed on Fr. McBride and Fr. Egan. The young braves and maidens then demonstrated a series of dances illustrative of Mohawk folklore and tutored the bishop and the two Jesuits in the execution of intricate steps.

The 4 p.m. mass on Saturday, offered by Fr. Jacobs, Fr. Bechard, Fr. Weiser, and Fr. Robert L. Fleig, S.J., of the Shrine staff, formally opened the Kateri Weekend. A cultural program in the Coliseum at 8:30 p.m. featured the premier of a play by Mary-Eunice Spagnola, *Star Over the Mohawk*. Directed by Fr. Raymond B. Fullam, S.J., of the Shrine staff, the presentation drew on the talents of the youths who make up the sacristy team and the young ladies who assist the Shrine as secretaries.

Mary-Eunice, long known at the Shrine for her dramatic characterizations of Kateri, introduced a new monologue in which Marie-Therese, an Oneida girl who also took up residence at Caughnawaga described the last years of her friend, Kateri.

Auriesville's Newest Actors' Guild



Styling themselves the Actors' Guild of the Auriesville Center for the Performing Arts, the cast of Star over the Mohawk gave a new dimension to the Kateri story. Eloise Etzkorn, at lower left, played the title role. Extending in an arc from her are Dave Warner, Bob Roszak, Phil Vicinanzo, Dennis Harrington, and Rich Roszak, with Linda Roszak and Jeanne Vicinanzo in the right foreground. In the rear from left to right are Tim Riley, Paul Vicinanzo, Lori Muscatello, Emily Etzkorn and Bill Reich