

# Katopii

# Notes

**OUR SHRINE-MUSEUM SEASON** opens officially at the beginning of June. We welcome visitors, individually and in groups. If you wish to arrange to come with a group, we will be happy to know, so we can plan around it and set it in our schedule. Even a specially scheduled Mass on Sunday can be arranged. With advance notice, we can even arrange to provide a snack for the group. Or we can make reservations in a local restaurant to take care of your luncheon needs, at MAZE HOTEL in Fonda. They also serve full-course meals, reasonably.

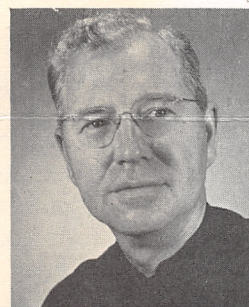
**SUNDAY MASSES:** In addition to the traditional 10:00 AM Mass of former years, we will try out a 12:00 Noon Mass. If the response is satisfactory, two Masses will become the regular Sunday morning schedule in St. Peter's Chapel.

**LOCATION OF SHRINE-MUSEUM:** To come here, visitors can travel via the NY State Thruway, from east or west, to Exit 28 at Fultonville. Leave toll both, turn left (River Rd.), to bridge; right over bridge (Rt. 30A); west (left) on Rt. 5 (Main St., Fonda), 1/4 mi. past the Village of Fonda — large sign on right (pictured). Non-Thruway visitors: From Utica and west, travel east on Rt. 5, past Palatine Bridge about 10 mi., SHRINE on left. From Albany and Schenectady, travel west on Rt. 5 past Fonda, SHRINE on left.

**NOTABLE EVENTS:** The most recent event to affect our shrine was the death, on April 3, 1974, of our Associate Director, Fr. Claude Simson, OFMConv. He suffered from cancer, which caused him severe pain throughout his body for the better part of a year, but especially for the last few months. He is already sorely missed. He took care of many of the electrical, electronic and mechanical chores throughout the property.

He was the third member of the shrine staff to be called by God in three and a half years, preceded by Fr. Thomas Grassmann, OFMConv., Oct. 1, 1970, founder and first director of the shrine, and Fr. Manus McGettigan, OFMConv., Oct. 12, 1971, dying as a result of an auto accident, only one year after he succeeded Fr. Thomas as shrine director.

Fr. Claude, baptized Aloysius Simson, was born in Buffalo, NY, Feb. 6, 1914. He made his profession of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the Franciscan Order on Sept. 5, 1933, and he was ordained a priest at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany, NY on June 11, 1938. Most of his first 25 years were spent as a teacher at Trenton Catholic Boys' High School, Trenton, NJ, with a brief period as assistant pastor at Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Camden, NJ. Later, he was assigned to our Franciscan magazine "The Companion" in Toronto, Canada, to our Brothers' Training School at Watertown, NY. Before coming to Fonda Shrine, he was also stationed at St. Anthony-on-Hudson, Rensselaer, NY and St. Francis School, Staten Island, NY. He was here from April, 1971. He died at Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo.



*Fr. Claude*



*Fr. Manus*



**THE MOHAWK INDIAN VILLAGE, CAUGHNAWAGA** was officially listed on the *NATIONAL REGISTER* of Historic Places on August 28, 1973, in recognition of its historical and archeological significance, by the US Dept. of Interior, upon nomination by the State Preservations Office, under provisions of the National Preservations Act of 1966.



**ORIGINAL DRAWING:** A pen and ink composite of the main features of the Fonda Memorial Shrine of Catherine Tekakwitha has been added to the items representing

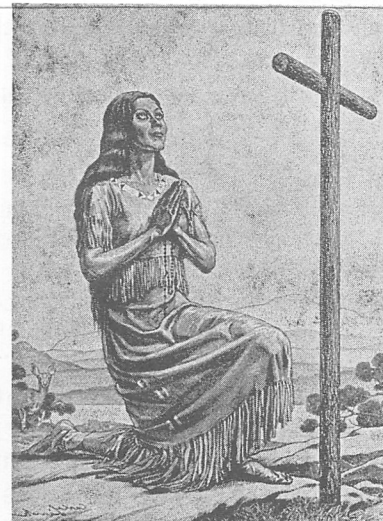
Montgomery County at the 52 county "PEAKS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE EMPIRE STATE," exhibited in the Legislative Office Building in the South Mall of the State Capitol in Albany. The Exhibit was assembled under the direction of Sen. John H. Dunn of Mineola, NY. The drawing was executed by Albert H. Van Vliet of Fultonville, NY, well-known in the Mohawk Valley for his historic illustrations. Picture: Building at right was a restored post-Revolutionary barn, now St. Peter's Chapel and the Mohawk-Caughnawaga Indian Museum. Long-houses represent Caughnawaga Castle (1667-1693), the only completely excavated (1950-1956) Iroquois Village in the US, where Kateri Tekakwitha, the saintly "Lily of the Mohawks" lived for ten years and was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676. The Shrine and Museum, open May 15 to Oct. 15, is under the direction of the Conventual Franciscan Fathers. Pictured are (l to r) Mr. Van Vliet, Fr. Ronald Schultz, OFMConv., Director, and Fr. Salvator Pantano, OFMConv., Associate Director.



**WHO WAS KATERI?** She was the Mohawk Indian maiden, born of an Algonquin Christian mother and a Mohawk father. Her mother had been carried off by the Mohawks as a prisoner and slave in a raid of the city of Three Rivers, south of Montreal. In due time, the Algonquin slave was married to the captain of the Mohawks, by whom she bore two children, a boy and a girl, the latter's accepted year of birth, 1656. When Tekakwitha was four years old, her father, mother and younger brother died of small pox. She herself was stricken but recovered, although her sight was impaired and her face disfigured with pockmarks which she carried until her death. The orphaned girl lived with her paternal uncle, one of the most important leaders of the village. Her aunts gave her a good upbringing.

The years 1656-1666 were spent in villages located on the south side of the river first at Ossernenon, later at Kaghnuwage. After the devastation of these villages by De Tracy in 1666, the Mohawks rebuilt new villages on the north side of the river. The one nearest Ft. Orange (Albany), called Gandaouague (Caughnawaga), belonged to the Turtle Clan - this is the excavated village on our property.

Through a treaty with the French in 1667, three Jesuit missionaries came to Caughnawaga to evangelize the Mohawks. They were given lodging in the cabin of Tekakwitha's uncle, and she, then





eleven, was appointed to take care of them. At least from 1670, a permanent mission station was established under the patronage of St. Peter. Until 1675, Tekakwitha "never dared to approach a missionary with a view to discuss the Christian faith or the question of Baptism," because of her extreme shyness and fear of her uncle, one of the chief opponents of the missionaries. But in the fall of that year, while she was ill in the house, Fr. de Lambertville visited her, and she disclosed her desire and intention to become a Christian, and the difficulties that would confront her. He found that she had won the esteem of all. She was given a special course of instruction. Because of her rapid progress and earnest pleas, it was decided to admit her to baptism in the spring of 1676, Easter Sunday. She took the name Katherine (Kateri). She was then 20 years of age. After her conversion, Kateri became an object of scorn to some non-Christian Mohawks, who hooted and jeered at her when she went to church; even children threw stones at her. Another cause of abuse was her refusal to marry.

Many Christian Mohawks in the past had taken up residence at Sault St. Louis, and would visit their relatives at Gandaouague. At their departure, Tekakwitha had a great desire to follow them, especially since her recently married adopted sister had journeyed there. This desire was fulfilled in 1677, when three visitors, one of whom was her new brother-in-law, came to the village. They arranged to start out while her uncle was at Ft. Orange on business. On his return, he learned that Tekakwitha had fled, and tried to pursue her, but failed to apprehend her. The travelers arrived at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier at the Sault and were welcomed by the Jesuit Missioners. Fr. de Lambertville had sent letters testifying to Tekakwitha's reputation and character. Here, her Christian life developed and gained her a reputation for charity and holiness of life. She received her First Holy Communion on Christmas, 1677. She died on Wednesday of Holy Week, April 17, 1680. in her 24th year. Immediately, her face changed completely. The ravages of sickness, the lines of bitter suffering, even the pockmarks disappeared; it showed the attractive hue of a healthy Indian child; the touch of a gentle smile played around her lips.

On May 20, 1939, Pope Pius XII approved the introduction of her cause; On Jan. 3, 1943 was issued the Decree declaring heroic the Virtues of the Servant of God, the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.

#### EXPANSION—GROUND-BREAKING:

On May 21, we officially broke ground for the expansion of the museum, an addition on each side, 75 x 12. When the construction is completed we will re-arrange material now on display, and add many of the items which for years have been stored in other places on the property. Part of the expansion will be new restroom facilities, and a picnic grove with 20 tables. Already finished, we have a new roof on the chapel.

This is just the first phase of our GRAND PLAN of development of Shrine and Museum, towards our target date — 1976 — the bicentennial of our nation and the tercentenary of Kateri's Baptism.





**GIFT SHOP:** Behind the Museum, Indian Souvenirs, Religious Articles, Ceramics, coloring books; A new biography "KATERI TEKAKWITHA" by Francis X. Weiser, SJ, (\$2.50 + tax; "THE MOHAWK INDIANS AND THEIR VALLEY" by Thomas Grassmann, OFMConv. (\$20.00 + tax; mailing extra.) We also have on hand statues of Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha, which are made right here at her Shrine.

**DONATIONS:** We would like you to have a share in our development program, both the current expansion and the long range program. *PROSPECTIVE PROJECTS:* Two or three Scenic lookout points on the fields adjacent to the Indian Village, to view the beauty of the Mohawk Valley; a log chapel in front of the Village; partial or total restoration of the Village, adjacent to the site, the double stockade, the long-houses peopled with life-like figures and furnishings as far as can be determined from documents and excavation field sheets; across the road, an open air amphitheater for annual musical productions depicting the life of the Mohawks, focusing on Hiawatha, the founder of the Iroquois League, and Kateri, "The Lily of the Mohawks." Your gifts, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

**MASSSES** can be celebrated for your intentions by writing to us. **FRANCISCAN MISSION ASSOCIATION** membership enrollments can also be obtained for 1, 2, 3 or 5 years or perpetual. You may send for an explanatory folder.

Vol. II, No. 1

May—June, 1974

**FONDA MEMORIAL SHRINE OF CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA  
MOHAWK-CAUGHNAWAGA MUSEUM**

Fonda, NY 12068 Tel.: (518) 853-3646

*Director: Fr. Ronald Schultz, OFMConv.  
Assoc. Dir. Fr. Bernardine Golden, OFMConv.  
Assoc. Dir. Fr. Salvator Pantano, OFMConv.*

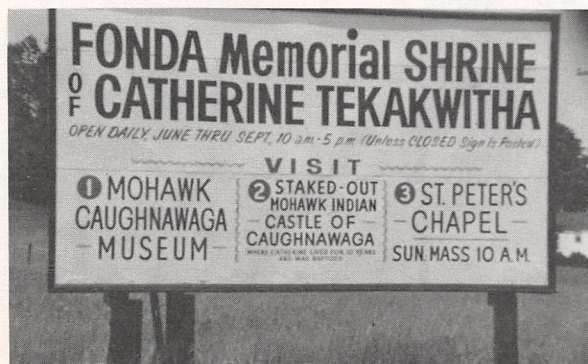
Open: May 15 to Oct. 15: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday Masses: St. Peter's Memorial Chapel  
10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon

**FONDA TEKAKWITHA SHRINE**  
Box 6, RD 1  
Fonda, NY 12068

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Fonda, N.Y. 12068  
Permit No. 4



REV HENRI BECHARD  
KATERI CENTER  
PO BOX 70  
CAUGHNAWAGA PO CAN

**JUN 20 1974**



Vol 3, No 1

# Kateri

# Notes

July, 1975

FONDA MEMORIAL SHRINE OF CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA  
MOHAWK-CAUGHNAWAGA MUSEUM  
Fonda, New York 12068

Director: Fr. Ronald Schultz, OFMConv.  
Assoc. Directors: Fr. Bernardine Golden, OFMConv.  
Fr. Salvator Pantano, OFMConv. Editor

Open: DAILY, May 15--Oct 15: 10:00 AM--5:00 PM

Sunday Masses: 10:00 AM & 12:00 noon, St. Peter's Chapel  
Daily: 9:00. Or by special arrangement for groups

Fonda Tekakwitha Shrine  
Box 6, RD 1  
Fonda, NY 12068

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AUG. 20 1975

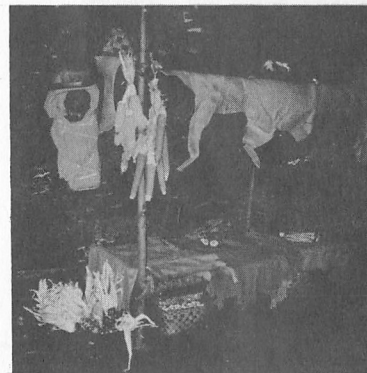


KATERI: PATRONESS OF PRETZELS FOR GOD (PFG): The pretzel was the symbol of

penance, the ancient lenten bread. Their very strict fast excluded milk, butter, cheese, cream and meat. They made small breads of water, flour and salt, shaped in the form of crossed arms, called "little arms" (Latin braccellae, the German pretzel passed into English). It is an appropriate food, symbol that Lent is a special time of prayer and Kateri symbolizes the spirit of prayer and penance. The pretzel is served only during Lent in many places in Europe. The motto of PFG: "Prayer for God; penance for God = Families for God". An 8-page leaflet may be obtained by sending 5¢ and a self-addressed envelope to PFG St. Francis Xavier Church, 4715 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85012.



FONDA FAIR will take place this year on Aug. 28 thru Labor Day. As in the past several years, our shrine and museum will have a booth, depicting some phase of our activity. Volkert Veeder will again work out the setting. Last year's scene was the recreation of an interior section of an Iroquois Long House.



PRAY FOR VEN. KATERI'S BEATIFICATION AND CANONIZATION  
VISIT HER SHRINE

Watch and listen to our slide lecture  
PARTICIPATE AT MASS IN RUSTIC ST. PETER'S CHAPEL  
Enjoy the beauty Kateri's scenic Mohawk Valley



PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION  
OF VEN. KATERI TEKAKWITHA:

O God, Who among the manifold marvels of Thy grace in the New World, didst cause to blossom on the banks of the Mohawk and St. Lawrence, the pure and tender Lily, Kateri Tekakwitha, grant, we beseech Thee, the favor we beg through her intercession (here mention your petition)--that this little lover of Jesus and His Cross may soon be raised to the honors of the altar by Holy Mother Church, and that our hearts may be enkindled with a stronger desire to imitate her innocence and faith. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen

BISHOPS' PETITION: We received the following communication from Fr. Joseph McBride, SJ, Vice-Postulator for the US, Cause of Tekakwitha: On June 17, in Washington, at a meeting of the Administrative Board of the Conference of Catholic Bishops, Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York proposed, and Bishop Edwin Broderick of Albany seconded a motion that the Episcopal Conference express support for the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha. The following is an excerpt of the proposed letter sent to the Holy Father.

"On behalf of the Episcopal Conference of the United States, I write to express the Bishops' interest in the Cause of the Beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha.

"This native American, a member of the Mohawk Indian Tribe, lived 21 of her 24 years in the Mohawk Valley region of New York State. The Bishops of the State of New York have unanimously expressed their hope that the "Lily of the Mohawks" may be beatified. ....

"The Episcopal Conference shares the hope that the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha will be a source of encouragement to the native Americans of this Continent, both in the United States and Canada, as well as an inspiration to all those who believe in Christ, our Savior."

We of the Fonda Tekakwitha Shrine wish to express our sincere thanks for the Bishops' action, which will be a long step toward the realization of our long-sought dream. This may be seen as a positive response to a letter which was sent to all the American Bishops, asking them at their next meeting to send a petition to the Holy See, requesting Kateri's Beatification.

NOTRE DAME DE FOY: A statue of the Blessed Virgin under the title of "Our Lady of Foy" in our St. Peter's Chapel, is an exact reproduction of the original image, venerated at Foy, near Dinant, Belgium, Diocese of Namur. The original statue was discovered on July 6, 1609, in



FIRST KATERI AWARDS were presented in the Albany Diocese, Sat. June 7, to 215 candidates of Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls. The awards took place in the Coliseum at the Auriesville Shrine. Fr. Ronald Schultz, OFMConv., who inspired the granting of the awards in the Diocese, helped Fr. Gregory Weider, Diocesan Scout Moderator, to compose the life of Kateri which the girls must study. Fr. Ronald gave the homily at the presentation. Kateri has been chosen as the Patroness of Catholic Girl Scouting.

TEKAKWITHA SPRING is located down the embankment northeast of the excavated Caughnawaga Castle Site. It supplied the water for that village (1667-1693), and was named after the "Lily of the Mohawks", since the water used for her Baptism on April 18, 1676, was drawn from this Spring. This same water is now drawn and blessed for Holy Water for the Chapel. A 1932 Education Dept. sign calls attention to it. Fr. Bernardine Golden, OFMConv. is presently engaged in improving the site of the spring and the approach to it.

FRANCISCAN RADIO VISITOR: Our readers in the Albany, NY area might be interested in a program for shut-ins, the visually handicapped and senior citizens, broadcast on FM Station WVCR (88.3), Siena College, 8:00-10:00 AM. The MC is Fr. Angelus Netzer, OFMCONV., of St. Anthony-on-Hudson, Rensselaer, NY. It is aired Monday to Friday.

TRUSTEES' MEETING: A notice was sent out in February, announcing a meeting of the Trustees and advisers of the Mohawk-Caughnawaga Museum. That meeting was called to order on March 22, the first meeting of the trustees held since 1966. A quorum was present. Several new trustees and advisers were voted in. Volkert Veeder was elected Curator-Secretary.

PAVILION: Fr. Bernardine built a new pavilion 24x32 at the rear of the blacktopped parking area to the west of the museum. Several new picnic tables were also added to our outdoor facilities for the convenience of those who wish to enjoy their meals and a pleasant day in outdoor surroundings.

MASSES: We will be happy to accept your offerings for Masses for your intentions. You may request specific dates or particular Sundays for these Masses. You are also invited to send for a folder explaining the benefits of membership in the FRANCISCAN MISSION ASSOCIATION (FMA) for either a living or deceased person. ALL ENROLLMENTS are for a single individual, except for the FAMILY PERPETUAL ENROLLMENT (\$25 offering).



Honorary Chairman. Msgr. Joseph Conway, V.G. officially represented the Diocese at the session on April 20, and was the principal Celebrant of the Mass. Fr. Ronald delivered the homily. Fr. Joseph McBride, SJ, the US Vice-Postulator presided and Fr. Henri Bechard, Canadian Vice-Postulator lent the dignity of his official position to the meeting. Cochairing the Committee are Dr. & Mrs. Solomon Cook of St. Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation. April 20 was publicised as National Prayer Day for the Beatification of Kateri. The



The main elements for the International Eucharistic Congress at Philadelphia in 1976 were worked out. These will be: a BOOTH for the distribution of Kateri Literature and other attention-attracting features; a TWO HOUR PROGRAM centering on Kateri, and the Mohawks, then and now; a CONCELEBRATED MASS petitioning God to hasten the day when Kateri will be raised to the honors of the altar.

LOCAL BICENTENNIAL YEAR PROGRAM was initiated on the GROUNDS of the FONDA TEKAKWITHA SHRINE and the MOHAWK-CAUGHNAWAGA MUSEUM. On May 10, 1975, a LIBERTY POLE was raised; an historical event was reenacted, to commemorate the thwarted attempt, two centuries ago, May, 1775, to raise a liberty pole, to show solidarity with the patriots of Lexington and Concord. The scene depicted the first shedding of blood in the cause of Freedom in the Mohawk Valley. A plaque, recalling this incident, mounted on an historic stone, was erected by the Education Dept. in cooperation with the Caughnawaga Chapter of the DAR, on an embankment at the junction of Hickory Hill Rd and Rt 5, in 1934. This monument was reerected in the open area in front and east of the museum, in front of the liberty pole. A 1932 Education Dept. sign marks the site for passers-by.





the trunk of a very old oak tree, by a woodcutter, Charles de Wanlan, who had cut down the tree and was dividing it into sections. Devotion to Our Lady under that title was the result.

Copies of the statue were made and sent to the Missions. One Replica arrived at the Mohawk Mission of St. Peter and was venerated by the Catholic Indians. This was the first public devotion to the Blessed Virgin in this part of New York State, about 1675.

Because of this early devotion to Our Lady of Foy here at the Mohawk Castle of Caughnawaga, the late Fr. Thomas Grassmann, OFMConv. visited the Shrine at Foy in 1946. He obtained the permission of the Bishop to have an exact copy of the statue carved of oak, and a particle of the original inserted in its base. He also requested that a second copy be made for the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs at Auriesville, NY. Both arrived at Tekakwitha Friary on Jan. 29, 1948.

On Feb. 23, 1948, Most Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, Bishop of Albany, granted permission to introduce a devotion to "Our Lady of Foy" at this Shrine where Kateri was baptized in 1676. The purpose of reestablishing this devotion was to obtain the intercession of Our Lady for the Cause of Kateri's Beatification and Canonization. Also the faith of some present-day Catholics may be strengthened and stirred, even as the fervor of the Catholic Mohawk Indians who lived here was rekindled.

In connection with this devotion, we might also note, even though Christmas is some months away, that the first known Christmas Crib among the Iroquois was set up at the Caughnawaga Village (on our present property).



BICENTENNIAL KATERI COMMITTEE: Its second meeting was held on April 18-20, at the Fonda Tekakwitha Shrine. Bishop Edwin Broderick of Albany was the



Vol. 3, No. 2

# Kateri

# Notes

December, 1975

FONDA MEMORIAL SHRINE OF CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA  
MOHAWK CAUGHNAWAGA MUSEUM  
Fonda, New York 12068  
Ph. 518-853-3646

Director: Rev. Ronald Schultz, O. F. M. Conv.  
Assoc. Director: Rev. Barnabas Eib, O. F. M. Conv.

OPEN: daily, May 15 to Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses: 10 a.m. and 12 noon, St. Peter's Chapel.

Daily Masses: 9 a.m. or by special appointment.

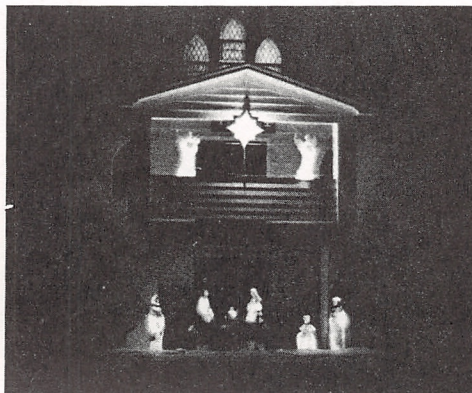
Fonda Tekakwitha Shrine  
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PO BOX 70  
CAUGHNAWAGA PQ CAN 00000



During this holy season, may the following words of St. Francis of Assisi guide, protect, and console you:

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE. WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE; WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON; WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH; WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE; WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT; AND WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.

O, DIVINE MASTER, GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE; TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND; TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE; FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE, IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED, AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE.

The Blessing of St. Francis

MAY THE LORD BLESS THEE AND  
KEEP THEE;

MAY HE SHOW HIS FACE TO THEE  
AND HAVE MERCY UPON THEE;

MAY HE TURN HIS COUNTENANCE  
TO THEE, AND GIVE THEE PEACE;

MAY THE LORD BLESS THEE:

AMEN.



EASTER SUNDAYS      Next year will be not only the bicentennial of  
APRIL 18, 1676      our nation's birth but also the tricentennial  
April 18, 1976      of Kateri's baptism here. She received that  
Sacrament Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676, from  
Father DeLamberville, S. J., in the bark chapel of St. Peter's  
associated with the Mohawk Indian Castle of Caughnawaga excava-  
ted on the property of this shrine between 1950 and 1957. Need-  
less to say, big things are being planned for Easter Sunday,  
April 18, 1976! More will be written about this in a future  
newsletter.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES, The fall issue of the national magazine  
TELEVISION, AND Mr. Longears featured our Shrine in two  
DONKEYS articles, one by Mr. Tom Constantino, the  
publisher, and another by Mary-Eunice of  
Mary Productions. Tom's article related the life of Kateri as  
a woman of quality and told about the part his donkeys, Daniel  
and Charmin, play at our Shrine during the regular season. Mary  
Eunice' article related the recent visit to our Shrine of Sr.  
Catherine Tekakwitha, a full-blooded Cree Indian from the Hudson  
Bay area in Canada, and her delight in meeting Charmin and Dan-  
iel, who next summer will be joined by the smallest and cutest  
of all donkeys, Herman!

And the December issue of The Daughters of the American Revolution magazine contains a full page feature about our Shrine, including a picture of the museum-chapel building, another of Albert Van Vliet's drawing of our Indian village, an article written by Father Ronald giving the historical highlights of our place, and a list of the 32 sponsoring DAR Chapters, to whom we are very grateful.

And finally, Father Ronald appeared on the Kay Russell T. V. show, WSYR-TV Syracuse, Sept. 4, at 9 a.m., where he was interviewed and explained a select assortment of slides about our Shrine.

1975 SHRINE SEASON      Between 6 and 7 thousand people visited here during this year's Shrine season. An indication of the increase is the fact that our Tekakwitha Gift Shop had a fourfold income over the previous season. We seem to be attracting large families, with children still at home.



The youngsters have a field day!

Father Robert Cahill's request, furthermore, to the Third Order fraternities last spring, to make pilgrimages here, met with a very excellent response. The fraternities from Albany, Trenton, Staten Island, Nassau, Watertown, Syracuse, Rensselaer, and Utica came, and they apparently enjoyed the religious and historical experiences they encountered. We sincerely hope they will come again and are sincerely grateful to Father Robert and Andy Hart of the Rensselaer fraternity for their interest in promoting these pilgrimages.

Other groups came, too, like the Holy Rosary Societies from Syracuse and Fort Plain, The Syracuse Terisians, an Empire Loyalist group from Canada, and many school, Scout, and museum groups. Of course, the majority of visitors were individual families and couples of all ages, of all States, and of all countries.

**MUSEUM DISPLAY GROUP AND IMPROVEMENTS** The expansion program that began two and a half years ago is now quite complete.

Our museum is presently twice as large as formerly. We have a new gift shop, ample flush toilet facilities, and new picnic tables located in the pine grove and in the new pavilion. The lumber for all this came from our own forest; and most of the money, from our own Order, the Conventual Franciscans.

A group of eight volunteers, under the leadership of our Curator, Mr. Vlokert Veeder, whom we call our Museum Display Group, have been engaged the past few months listing the various Indian items in storage in preparation for setting up new displays in the expanded museum. It is hoped their work will be done by the beginning of the next Shrine season - the Bicentennial-tricentennial year!

A very rustic Way of the Cross has also been partly set up along the nature trail that goes from the museum area to the Indian Castle. And Mr. Tom Constantino is having a beautifully wrought iron fence installed around the area in front of the Tekakwitha Spring. Perhaps, too, our three historic bells will have been esconced in their own rustic tower by next spring.

**KATERI TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE** Father Joseph Mc Bride, S. J., the U. S. Vice Postulator for Kateri's cause, and Father Ronald represented the Kateri Tricentennial Committee, referred to in a former newsletter as a Bicentennial Committee, in Philadelphia in mid-July to ascertain what arrangements could be made to implement the Committee's plans for the International Eucharistic Congress next August. Much headway was made as a result of this visit to the Head-

SEASON'S GREETINGS From the entire staff of the Fonda Tekakwitha Shrine, where the Iroquois Indians erected their first documented Christmas Crib in 1673, may we extend our sincerest good wishes for a blessed and merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, filled with God's choicest blessings!

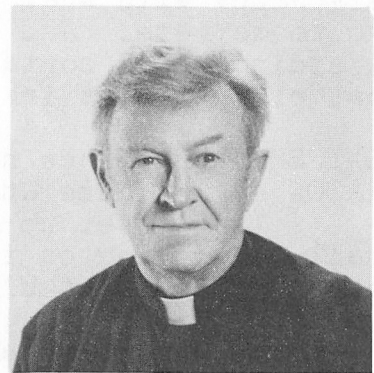
PRAYER FOR THE  
BEATIFICATION OF  
VEN. KATERI TEKAKWITHA

O God, Who, among the manifold marvels of Your grace in the New World, did cause to blossom on the banks of the Mohawk and of the St. Lawrence, the pure and tender lily, Kateri Tekakwitha, grant, we beseech You, the favor we beg through her intercession (here make your intention) - that this little lover of Jesus and of His Cross may soon be raised to the honors of the altar by Holy Mother Church, and that our hearts may be enkindled with a stronger desire to imitate her innocence and faith. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHANGE OF PERSONNEL Fathers Bernardine Golden and Salvator Pantano, we report with deep regret, have been given new assignments. They both wanted more parish work than is available here, since this is a shrine without a parish attached. In accord with their wishes, Fr. Salvator is now stationed at St. Margaret Mary Church, 9-06 27th Ave., Long Island City, N. Y. 11102; while Fr. Bernardine is at St. Mary Church, 26 Church Street, Nassau, N. Y. 12123. Both are missed here very much! A good deal of the fine public relations effort that was made here during the past few years is Fr. Salvator's doing, and very much of the many improvements that were made during the past year, in the physical aspects of the Shrine, should be attributed to Fr. Bernardine. Obviously both made a very valuable contribution to this apostolate.

Recently, however, Fr. Barnabas Eib has come here, helping to fill the void their departure created. He came from Syracuse, N. Y., where he was a chaplain at Hancock Air Force Base. But his previous assignments through the years have taken him into practically every apostolate in our Province, including seven years in our Costa Rica mission field.

He is an amateur radio operator and, as such, is presently set-



Father Barnabas Eib



quarters of the Congress, which was reported to a meeting of the entire Committee held at the Auriesville Shrine on Labor Day.

On Nov. 12, at the request of Father McBride, Father Ronald also represented the group at the Eucharistic Congress meeting held in Chicago to prepare a native Indian liturgy for the Congress. He was chosen at the meeting as a member of the Indian Liturgy Committee.

SARAH HASSENPLUG      During the past Shrine season, our own  
AND OTHER INDIANS      favorite Mohawk Indian, Sarah (Skanaiah)  
                                 Hassenplug from Syracuse, was here most  
every Sunday, with her Dad or husband, to give the slide lecture, greet the visitors as a real live Kateri, and to conduct them to and from the Indian village. Her cheerful personality does much to dispel the gloomy image of our native Americans that Hollywood has always projected.

Many other people of American Indian ancestry came here during last season, as they have always done in the past. There was Paul Horn, for instance, and his niece Mary who stayed with us for several days during the Fonda Fair in early September. Then there was Father Michael Jacobs, S. J., and his sacristan, Mrs. Francis, who stayed with us a few days to make arrangements for a plague he is having made for his Kateri Center in St. Regis Indian Reserve, Akwasasnee, Hogansburg, N. Y. One cannot be here too long before finding out that the Mohawk Indians in particular and the American Indians in general are very happy with what the Conventual Franciscans have been trying to do here. And incidentally, Paul Horn was most helpful in aiding us to contact the right people from whom we purchased most of the items in our Indian gift shop.

NEXT SHRINE      Since next summer will be such an important one  
SEASON              here and in the nation, we hope to be able to  
                                 set up special programs for each weekend. We  
shall be working on this throughout the winter months. A few weekends have been already programmed.

RAGS      We also have another new resident in the person of our  
AND      dog "King" of uncertain parentage but only four months  
KING      old. He was given to us by the pastor of the Polish  
                                 National Catholic church in Amsterdam. A good part of  
him is certainly German shepherd and he will fill the void created by the tragic accidental passing of his predecessor "Rags". He has a very amiable personality but should be a tiger at night as a watch dog.

Vol. 4, No. 1

# Kateri

# Notes

April, 1976

A BICENTENNIAL AND A TRICENTENNIAL PLACE  
FONDA MEMORIAL SHRINE OF CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA  
MOHAWK- CAUGHNAWAGA MUSEUM  
Fonda, New York 12068  
Ph. 518-853-3646

Director: Rev. Ronald Schultz, O. F. M. Conv.  
Assoc. Director: Rev. Barnabas Eib, O. F. M. Conv.

OPEN: daily, May 15 to Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses: 10 a.m. and 12 noon, St. Peter's Chapel.  
Daily Masses: 9 a.m. or by special appointment.

Fonda Tekakwitha Shrine  
Box 6, RD 1  
Fonda, NY 12068

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Fonda, N. Y. 12068  
Permit No. 4



REV HENRI BECHARD  
KATERI CENTER  
PO BOX 70  
CAUGHNAWAGA PQ CAN 00000



During this holy season of Lent, may the following words of St. Francis of Assisi guide, protect, and console you:

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE. WHERE THERE IS HATRED , LET ME SOW LOVE; WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON; WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH; WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE; WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT; AND WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.

O. DIVINE MASTER, GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE; TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND; TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE; FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE, IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED, AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE.

The Blessing of St. Francis

MAY THE LORD BLESS THEE AND  
KEEP THEE;

MAY HE SHOW HIS FACE TO THEE  
AND HAVE MERCY UPON THEE;

MAY HE TURN HIS COUNTENANCE  
TO THEE, AND GIVE THEE PEACE;

MAY THE LORD BLESS THEE:

AMEN.

EASTER SUNDAY     One of the first celebrations on the calendar of  
1676 AND 1976     religious events planned by the Roman Catholic  
                     diocese of Albany, in conjunction with other de-  
nominations, to commemorate the bicentennial of the nation, will  
take place at our Shrine on this Easter Sunday.

It was three hundred years ago, Easter Sunday, 1676, that  
Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha was baptized a Christian in the bark chapel  
of St. Peter's on the property of our Shrine by Fr. DeLamberville,  
S. J.

The celebration that is planned for our Shrine, therefore, on  
Easter Sunday this year, will commemorate the tricentennial of this  
event and, it is hoped will be accepted as a local contribution,  
this bicentennial year, to the larger goal of alerting the  
citizenry of the area and our land to the rich religious heritage  
of our country.

The day will begin at 6:30 with the traditional ecumenical  
sunrise service that is annually held at the Auriesville Shrine,  
on the other side of the Mohawk River, being held instead at our  
Shrine. And, according to Rev. Frank B. Brandon, Jr., who ini-  
tiated this service ten years ago and is planning this one, all  
interested parties are invited to attend, no matter what their  
religious persuasion might be. Rev. Brandon is the pastor of the  
Fonda-Fultonville and Fort Hunter United Methodist Churches.

Some of the Mohawk Indians from Caughnawaga Indian Reserve,  
Quebec, Canada, where Kateri's remains are interred, and from  
St. Regis Reserve in Hogsburg, N. Y. will be in attendance.  
Some words of welcome will be given by Rev. Ronald Schultz, di-  
rector of our Shrine. Rev. Brandon will give the Invocation and  
Benediction. And the Rev. Paul Gampp, director of the Auriesville  
Retreat House, will deliver the sermon.

At 2 p.m., a Roman Catholic liturgy will be celebrated in  
the present chapel of St. Peter's on the property of our Shrine.  
All the clergy of the area are hereby invited to attend and all  
interested lay people of whatever denomination.

Before this service begins, a painting of the scene of  
Kateri's baptism by Sr. Felicitas, R. A. M.; a white American,  
marble statue of Tekakwitha, donated by John Viscosi of Cherry  
Valley; another statue of Kateri carved in wood, donated by Mrs.  
DePaoli of Malden, Mass.; and a large bronze plaque commemora-  
ting the event of this day, donated by Kateri's faithful follow-  
ers, will be unveiled and blessed. The first item mentioned will  
hang in the National Kateri Center at Auriesville, and the re-  
maining articles will be mounted in a proper setting at our Shrine.

At the service proper, Rev. Joseph McBride, S. J., the vice-  
postulator for Kateri's cause in the U. S., will be the main cele-  
brant of the Mass, with Rev. Ronald Schultz, O.F.M. Conv., Direc-



tion of our work here possible and the cause of "The Lily of the Mohawks" ever more plausible. They shall all be continually remembered in our prayers - as generous benefactors should be.

SCALE MODEL OF            The Art students at Fonda-Fultonville Central  
OUR INDIAN VILLAGE       Schools, under the direction of Mr. Sal Funari, are making a six-by-six scale model, one quarter of an inch to the foot, of our excavated village of Caughnawaga. It will be on display in our Museum, beginning Easter Sunday. Mr. Lyndon Harvey of this area has volunteered to carve the Indian figurines out of wood for this display. The scale model is almost complete and quite impressive.

STATUES AND       Mr. Clarence Olds of Ballston Spa has volunteered to  
SIGNS               paint a series of signs for us; and his daughter, Kathleen, to paint the Kateri statues we make here and sell in our gift shop.

Concerning the statues, Mr. Jerry Frank of Amsterdam has likewise volunteered to make several molds of our varied sized statues of Kateri, so more can be made at one time, and to develop a gorgeous ceramic type process of making them. They should be ready for the opening of the Shrine season in mid-May.

Something which is already set for this Shrine season is the life-size statue of Kateri that is exhibited on page one of these "Notes". The weather of the past few summers had worn off a good deal of the paint. Joseph Todak, his son Gary, and Linda Brooks, all previously alluded to, have repainted this statue and weatherproofed it. A beautiful job!

PRAYER FOR THE            O God, Who, among the manifold marvels of  
BEATIFICATION OF       Your grace in the New World, did cause to  
VEN. KATERI TEKAKWITHA blossom on the banks of the Mohawk and of the St. Lawrence, the pure and tender lily, Kateri Tekakwitha, grant, we beseech You, the favor we beg through her intercession (here make your intention) - that this little lover of Jesus and of His Cross may soon be raised to the honors of the altar by Holy Mother Church, and that our hearts may be enkindled with a stonger desire to imitate her innocence and faith. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

SHRINE SEASON       The weekend programs for the upcoming Shrine season,  
PROGRAM               mentioned in our previous newsletter, have not yet been completed. It is hoped that another newsletter will soon follow this one and that the schedule for such a program will be complete and contained in said newsletter.

We trust that the readers of the present newsletter will forgive the paucity of pictures, which is due to the wealth of verbal information that we feel necessary to be passed on to you at this time.

tor of our Shrine, and Rev. Barnabas Eib, O.F.M. Conv., Associate Director, as concelebrants, together with any other interested concelebrants, Rev. Jack Millard, pastor of the Fonda Reformed Church, will give the first reading from the Scriptures; Rev. Barnabas Eib, the responsorial psalm; Rev. Frank Brandon, the second reading; and Rev. Ronald Schultz, the Gospel and introductions. The sermon will be delivered by Rev. Thomas Eagan, S. J., the director of the Shrine at Auriesville, N. Y. The famous Mohawk Indian Choir, from Caughnawaga, Canada, consisting of some twenty members, will sing during the service, dressed in their native garb.

Although our Shrine is administered by the Conventual Franciscans, the Jesuit Fathers were the missionaries to the Roman Catholic Indians in this area during Kateri's time. Some ministers of the Church of England, the Dutch reformed, the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, and the Methodists also served the other Christian Indians in the early days.

The next day Tricentennial Kateri Committee will meet at the Auriesville Shrine to make final plans, etc.

**MOHAWK-CAUGHNAWAGA** This volunteer group; referred to in our  
**MUSEUM DISPLAY GROUP** previous newsletter, completed their preliminary work, during the past few months, of listing the Indian items in storage here and planning the new displays of such items in the expanded museum.

At present, this group is now well into the work of setting up these displays, under the directions of our curator, Volkert Veeder of Fonda. The constant and professional advice of Joseph Todak, coordinator of museum and art gallery services at the Walter Elwood Museum in Amsterdam, has been most helpful.

Besides Veeder and Todak, our group consists of Mr. & Mrs. John Schwarz of Gloversville, Mr. & Mrs. Don Oakley of Amsterdam, Mr. & Mrs. James Gage of Fultonville, Mr. Robert Anteman of Mayfield, Mrs. Linda Brooks and Gary Todak, son of Joe, of Amsterdam, and Dr. Kingston Larnier of Gloversville. Some of this group are members of the Van Epps Heartley Chapter of the N. Y. State Archeological Assn., whose headquarters, workshop, and exhibits are at our museum. The work being done requires carpentry, archeological, artistic, historic, and painting skills and the group as a whole possesses all of these to a surprising degree. When their work is complete, we think the viewers will agree.

**MUSEUM AND SHRINE** We are blessed also with a competent, regular,  
**STAFF AND SWITLIK** volunteer staff here, besides Fr. Ronald and  
**HISTORY** Fr. Barnabas. There is Mrs. Charlotte Coons who has been with us since 1972 and who runs the gift shop, keeps the mailing list and scrap book up to date, checks the mail, cleans



the two houses weekly, performs a myriad of other very necessary chores, and contributes a constant stream of good ideas to every phase of this operation.

Then there is Beverly Durrin who does the cooking five days a week, makes the beds, shampoos the rugs when needed, does the laundry, and in general makes a very large contribution to the comfort of the Friars living here and to the visitors, periodically involving almost all the other members of her family in the many projects that have been done here in the past several years.

And there is Earl Ward, Beverly's father, who is presently engaged at repainting the inside of the friary, and has busied himself the past few years in a variety of similar projects, like being the right hand man of Father Bernardine Golden during his splendid contribution of last year to the expansion and development work that was done here.

Then there is Mrs. Sandra Scutt who is, for the past several months, Father Ronald's secretary. You know what her work is, but you don't know that she helped him complete this winter the history of the Switlik Parachute Company of Trenton, N. J., a consignment that Father Ronald accepted two years ago at the behest of an old friend of his, Mr. Stanley Switlik, the founder of the Company. Incidentally, when printed by Mr. Switlik, it will be a book of some 300 pages.

BEQUESTS AND GRANTS A generous grant was received recently from the estate of Mr. Edward Grassman, the late brother of Father Thomas Grassman, O.F.M. Conv., the founder of this Shrine, and another from the Switlik Foundation, to aid us in our work here.

And from the Union Foundation, we have received the assurance that during the next several years, they will continue to aid us in developing and maintaining our Shrine. This assurance was relayed to us by the nephews of Father Thomas Grassman, Joseph and Edward Engel, Trustees of our Museum.

Then, Mr. John Burns, brother-in-law of the late Father Manus McGettigan, O.F.M. Conv., second director here bequeathed us a generous sum of money recently; and his widow, Winifred, requested that their firends send donations to our Shrine, instead of buying flowers for the funeral. Many of the latter were received. Father Manus' brother, Norbert, did the same thing last year when his wife, Margaret, passed away.

And finally, Mrs. Loretta Engel, an aunt to Joseph and Edward, heretofore mentioned, willed a substantial sum of money to our Shrine upon her death a few weeks ago.

To all of the foregoing people and to our many other generous benefactors, we are deeply grateful. They make the continua-

# Kateri

# Notes

FRIENDS OF KATERI TEKAKWITHA: We wish to extend to all of you our sincere good wishes that Almighty God, through the Divine Infant, whose Birth we will celebrate, and His Immaculate Mother will shower on you their choicest blessings this Christmas Season and throughout the coming year. May the Prince of Peace bring peace and joy into the hearts of all men as the source of peace among all men and the foretaste of eternal peace.

Incidentally, the first known Christmas Crib in the Mohawk Valley was set up in the Caughnawaga Castle of the Mohawks (which is on the property of our shrine).

ADDITIONS TO OUR STAFF: Fr. Bernardine Golden, OFMConv., a native of Rome, NY, joined us around June 3, 1974. He had a vital part in expanding our museum. He built a rustic outdoor Kateri Shrine, several hefty oak plank picnic tables and dressed up the grounds with new rustic signs.

Fr. Daniel Gallucci, OFMConv, of Albany, NY, arrived on Aug. 22, 1974. He contributed much to the expansion effort, and is the general grounds caretaker, as well as the director of folk music for our Sunday Masses.



Left to Right: Fr. Bernardine, Volkert Veeder, Br. Daniel

1974 SHRINE-MUSEUM SEASON opened June 1, and closed officially Oct. 15. However, people, and even groups, were coming before the opening salvo and after the closing date. We had about 6000 visitors, from the US and even from foreign lands.

PUBLICITY: At the beginning of the 1973 season, we got a two and a half minute spot on TV, Schenectady WRGB 6 PM News program. In 1974, we were invited on five radio programs. The first occurred on May 30, just before the opening of our shrine season, when Frs. Ronald and Salvator appeared on the Joan Bubela program on Sta. WENT Johnstown-Gloversville. The second appearance was at Rome, NY, on June 24, at the invitation of Maria Rich of the staff of Sta. WRNY, on the "Roman Forum" moderated by Carl Eilenberg, featuring Frs. Bernardine (native Roman) and Salvator, and Volkert Veeder, newly designated Curator of Mohawk-Caughnawaga Museum. The next occasion was "Dialogue 81" with Elle Pankin, WGY, Schenectady, guesting Frs. Ronald and Salvator,

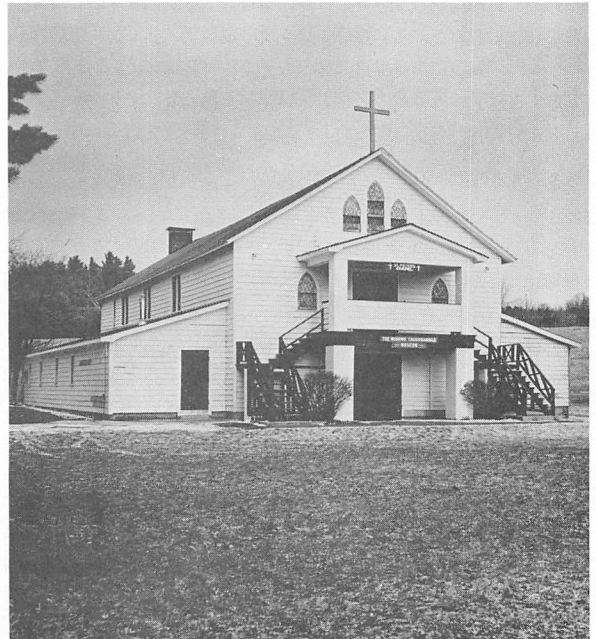


and Volkert. This was a momentous day in our country's history; the program was interrupted three times by important events in Washington, DC, preceding the anticipated announcement by Pres. Richard Nixon of his historic and unprecedented resignation from that high office. The next celebrity show occurred on Aug. 22, at Sta. WBVM (named after the Blessed Virgin Mary), the Hank Brown Show, Utica, NY. Our final airing was Sept. 12, on Sta. WCSS, Amsterdam, NY.

OUR EXPANSION is moving at a good pace, and will be ready for the opening of the 1975 season. There are three additions; two 72 X 12 ft. areas on the east and west sides of the museum. These will more than double the current exhibit space. The entire museum will be rearranged, and much of the material that has been in storage areas will be put on display.

The GIFT SHOP, which was located in a small building behind the museum will now be set up in the rear of the west wing, to be more accessible to our patrons.

The third addition, built behind the museum, but connected with it, will be new, modern rest-room facilities.



FONDA FAIR (Montgomery County): The Mohawk-Caughnawaga Museum again had a booth. The feature this year was the interior section of an Iroquois Mohawk long house. The 1973 presentation was an "archeological dig", showing the different layers or strata unearthed in the excavation of a site that has known more than one period of occupation in history. Our 1972 booth, dedicated to Kateri, presented her in an outdoor wooded scene, standing in a posture of prayer before a cross. To Volkert Veeder belongs the credit for conceiving and executing the exhibits and taking care of the booth during the fair.

ANOTHER MILESTONE: During the past two years, our off-season 10:00 Sunday Mass had been celebrated in our Friary chapel for people who continued to come. The number coming this year could no longer be accommodated there, so, on Dec. 1,

the First Sunday of Advent, we set up a chapel arrangement in the back meeting room of the museum, which will be used until next spring's opening. Though this was not foreseen, it is made possible due to the fact that we installed two heating units in the new wings, to protect the artifacts in the museum from the extreme cold, to enable us to work there during the winter, and to hold meetings there.

MOMENTOUS EVENT: During the last part of our 1974 season, a full-blooded Mohawk Indian, Sarah Monroe (Hassenplug) of Liverpool, NY (near Syracuse), came every Sunday, to be present at the Masses and greet our visitors. She personally designed and made her own native Mohawk leather costume and beaded headband, patterned after that probably worn by Kateri. She has been chosen as the model for all future representations of Tekakwitha at our Shrine. In conjunction with her visits and as a result of them, we were given a lengthy spread with pictures in Empire, The Magazine of Central New York, published in the Syracuse Herald American. In picture are Sarah (r) and Princess Esther Phillips (l).



A KATERI WORKSHOP was held at Auriesville, NY, Nov. 8-10, to formulate plans for the 1976 International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Philadelphia, PA, in connection with the National Bicentennial Celebration on Aug. 1-8, 1976. A Kateri Bicentennial Committee was set up, and an initial program was worked over. The purpose is to promote the cause of Kateri in the Tercentenary year of her Baptism as part of the bicentennial observance. The Program includes: The History of the American Indians; The Mohawks Today; 25 Years with the Kateri Cause; Exhibits Pertinent to the Mohawk Valley; Lecture and Slides on the Fonda Shrine, Baptismal Site. Another meeting was set for April 18-20, 1975, here at our shrine. Fr. Ronald was designated to handle the publicity, local and national as well as Canada. Frs. Ronald, Bernardine and Salvator are members of the committee.

DONATIONS will be welcome toward the cost of the expansion of our museum. We will be happy to accept and offer Masses for your intentions and memberships in the Franciscan Mission Association.



FONDA MEMORIAL SHRINE OF CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA  
MOHAWK-CAUGHNAWAGA MUSEUM  
Fonda, New York 12068

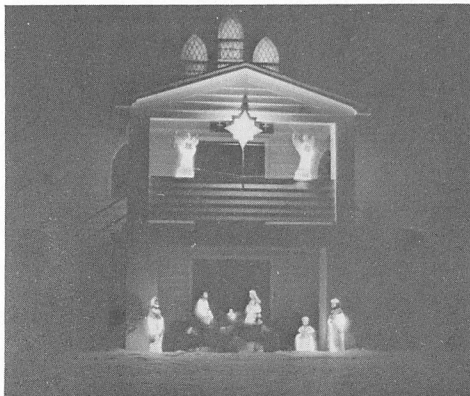
Director: Fr. Ronald Schultz, OFMConv.  
Assoc. Directors: Fr. Bernardine Golden, OFMConv.  
Fr. Salvator Pantano, OFMConv.  
Grounds Caretaker: Br. Daniel Gallucci, OFMConv.

Open: May 15 to Oct. 15: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

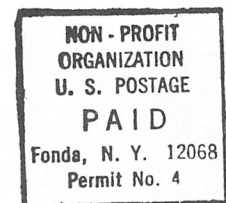
Sunday Masses: St. Peter's Chapel  
10:00 AM & 12:00 noon (summer)  
10:00 AM (museum) [winter]

Fonda Tekakwitha Shrine  
Box 6, RD 1  
Fonda, NY 12068

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



JAN. 8 1975



REV HENRI BECHARD  
KATERI CENTER  
PO BOX 70  
CAUGHNAWAGA PQ CAN