

PILGRIM

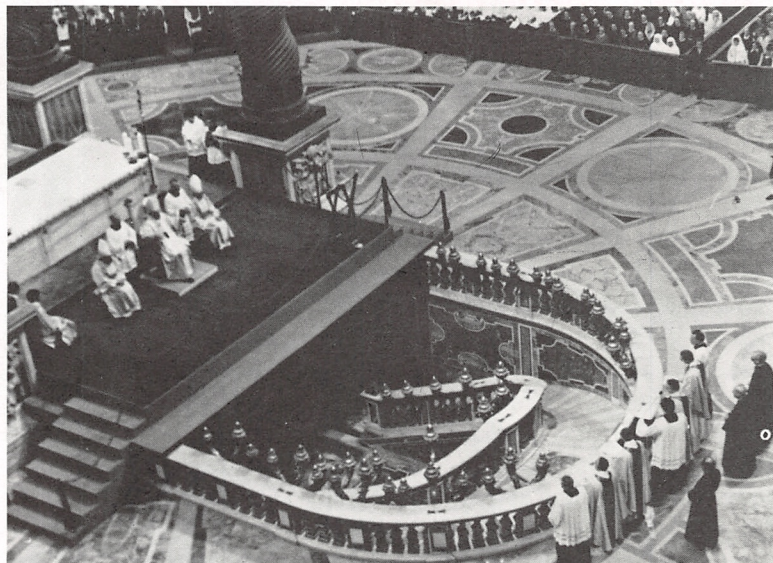
from the
MARTYRS SHRINE

Auriesville, N.Y. 12016

YEAR END
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A HISTORIC MOMENT POPE ADDS KATERI TO RANKS OF BLESSED



It was a warm, somewhat hazy Sunday morning in the Eternal City. It was June 22, 1980, the day on which Kateri Tekawitha was to be honored by the Church as a blessed three centuries after her death.

By nine o'clock thousands of the faithful were already moving through the piazza of St. Peter's and soon an estimated 25,000 were seated in the recesses of the vast basilica. Interspersed with smartly dressed Romans were worshippers from many nations and recognizable delegations from the United States, Canada and Latin America. The most colorful of the pilgrims were, of course, the four hundred or more North American Indians, resplendent in their traditional garb, on hand to honor Kateri, their sister.

Promptly at 9:30 a.m. shadows gave way to light, peals resounded from the organ, and the solemn procession of cardinals, archbishops and bishops moved through the center of the great edifice, as His Holiness Pope John Paul II was escorted to the canopied papal altar. Mounting the steps to the throne, he began the sacred liturgy with the penitential rite.

Four members of the hierarchy then took their places before the railing which encircles the confessional of St. Peter with its mezzanine effect, affording a view down into the entrance to the crypt. They were there to make the petitions on behalf of the candidates. First came Maurice Cardinal Roy of Quebec to speak for the cause of Bishop Francis Xavier de Montmorency-Laval and

The four petitioners stand at the confessional of St. Peter. Bishop Hubbard of Albany, the prelate on the far right, is about to read the petition for Blessed Kateri to Pope John Paul II seated before the altar.

Mother Mary of the Incarnation. Then came Avelari Cardinal Brandao Vilela of Bahia in Brazil to represent the Jesuit missionary Jose Anchieta. Next it was Mario Cardinal Casariega of Guatemala to present the name of the Franciscan lay tertiary, Pedro de San Jose Betancur. A murmur then ran through the American delegation as Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany began the petition in English that Kateri of the Mohawks be numbered among the blessed.

The Holy Father then rose and made his declaration in Latin that all five of the candidates were henceforth to be regarded as blessed. The clapping on the part of the huge assembly grew into a mighty roar, only to yield to a loud swell from the organ. After the Pope intoned the Gloria, the Vatican choir alternated with the congregation in chanting the familiar Latin phrases from the *Missa de Angelis*. Twelve generations from the time of Kateri's death to the present had prayed most fervently for that moment. The great hymn of praise was a most fitting outburst of joy, uniting the emotions of all present in a family expression of gratitude.

EARLY MORNING REFLECTION DAY BEFORE BEATIFICATION

It is early morning in Rome on June 21, 1980. I wake to the chirping of thousands of birds. A look at my watch shows that it is only 5:25. What need is there of alarm clocks when the Romans can be aroused each summer morning by such a joyous symphony?

As a band of enthusiastic American pilgrims we arrived the previous morning and on the morrow we will gather in St. Peter's Basilica to watch with joy as His Holiness Pope John Paul II declares that Kateri Tekakwitha is henceforth to be regarded as a blessed.

From my fifth floor room in the Jesuit Curia within the shadow of the Vatican I look over a still quite silent city with its skyline dotted with church spires and cupolas. A little to the east protruding above the other buildings are the ramparts of the legendary Castel Sant'Angelo, with its reminders of the Emperor Hadrian, the eighth-century siege by the Saracens, La Tosca, and Father Lorenzo Ricci, last Jesuit general of the old Society. On the horizon the Alban hills are silhouetted in pinks and grays.

It is the feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, the austere young Jesuit scholastic from the north who came here four centuries ago for his theology and endeared himself to the Romans by his early death brought on by his care of the plague stricken populace. Fifty-five years ago on this very day Father John Wynne had awakened to the same song of the birds to prepare for another beatification, that of the martyrs of Auriesville and Midland. He had lived to see his efforts in their cause crowned by both their beatification and canonization and then had begun work on another process which now at long last was to bring Kateri's beatification. Twenty-seven years ago today I had wakened in a like mood of expectancy, for it was my ordination day at Woodstock, our tradition-crusted seminary in rural Maryland. Nineteen summers ago on an earlier visit to Rome with my mother and brother Dick I had stayed in the building just across the street from my window, the Columbus Hotel.

What secrets this city must hold, traces here and there of the cavalcade of events in its twenty-seven centuries of history — of popes and caesars, saints and brigands, of pagan opulence, persecutions and plunder-



Bishop Hubbard greets His Holiness, Pope John Paul II shortly after the conclusion of the beatification liturgy.

ings. And now the Romans would have an entirely new experience, an encounter with several hundred native Americans dressed in beads and buckskins, bedecked with the feathered headpieces distinctive of the various nations who once roamed the plains and woodlands of our continent.

The Angelus pealing from one church tower after another broke the reverie. In just a few hours we pilgrims would be received in audience by the Sovereign Pontiff and President Carter, a precedent-making event, since never before had a pope been present when an American head of state met with his fellow citizens in Rome. And next day there would be the awesome moment when Pope John Paul II would place our beloved Kateri among the blessed.

After reciting the Angelus I found myself begging the Lord that people the world over would catch the significance of the honor to be bestowed on Kateri. She would become the first lay woman in the history of North America to reach beatification, an obscure, frail Indian girl who could neither read nor write. Certainly this would be compelling evidence that the Church and its leaders believed in the immense potential for holiness in all womanhood, in its youth, in minorities who had often been oppressed and underprivileged, yes and in the Indian peoples who once had practically an entire hemisphere to themselves.

In the Coliseum Kateri's statue had been enthroned on a side altar and surrounded by white flowers. Visitors flocked to this shrine, pausing to reflect for a moment and to light a candle to the "Blessed Lily". Kateri's presence was more than imagined. She was there. Tears of joy swelled in many eyes as they were moved by this experience. There was no doubt that Kateri had captured everyone's heart.

Meanwhile, reporters, photographers, and television crews began arriving to film the events of the day, and to interview staff members and pilgrims alike. Phone lines were jammed with callers. The gift shop, the office at the gate, the cafeteria and the Kateri Center didn't seem large enough to accommodate the endless stream of visitors. Yet I had to marvel at the unreserved energy and ability with which each of the staff members was able to respond to every need and detail with calming cheerfulness. But then, we did have extra special help that day.

Bishop Joseph M. Pernicone of New York led the solemn concelebration, carefully and flawlessly planned by Father John Doolan. Among the concelebrants were Father Lawrence Wilson S.J., of the Retreat House staff who served as assistant to the Bishop, and Father Francis J. Litz C.S.S.R., former vice-postulator for St. John Neumann, who had been in Rome himself just a few years before to witness the canonization of the little bishop. Unable to free himself from the crowds in time to concelebrate, Father Ronald Sams, S.J., who had come from Buffalo to help at the Kateri Center, stayed at his post until all the visitors had been cared for.

The mass was highlighted by songs and dances performed by Mohawks from Caughnawaga and St. Regis. While many of their number had traveled to Rome as direct descendents of Kateri's relatives, the remainder felt it a duty to send a delegation on that day to Kateri's birthplace. Dr. Solomon Cook, newly elected chief on the New York side of the St. Regis Reservation, came with his wife Mary to make a response in the name of the Mohawks.

The liturgy ended, but the spirit of the day lingered on. My most special moment came after the last pilgrim had left and I had the chance to be alone. Kneeling in front of Kateri's statue, I felt so close to her and to the Great Spirit that I was overwhelmed by my emotions. Even as I write this, joyful tears again overtake me. I poured out my heart and I knew she was there. It was a moment I cannot explain, a moment I can never forget.

I only wish I could convey even a part of this feeling to others.

And still the afterglow continues. For me it always will. Few events in my lifetime can ever come close to June 22, 1980 - the day Kateri returned to Auriesville.

—Eloise Etzkorn



Mohawk ladies from St. Regis sing the praises of their Sister Kateri in the Coliseum on her beatification day. A framed photograph of the original oil painting by Virginia Cegelski Guyette of the pope who beatified Kateri was personally presented to the Holy Father in the name of the Shrine Staff.

MOHAWK PRINCESS HAS ROLE IN BEATIFICATION LITURGY

Hundreds of Kateri's friends looked on proudly at the mass of beatification as Mrs. Esther Phillips, president of the Caughnawaga Choir, raised herself with the aid of crutches from a wheel chair on the platform beside the papal altar and slowly moved to the lectern to make one of the petitions during the prayer of faithful. In tones both loud and clear she spoke out in Mohawk with a prayer which in translation reads: "for peace in the world, so that the echo of the message of Christ may be a leaven of love in the hearts of all men and women and inspire them in their efforts to build a life together that is more just and more human, in which the rights of the oppressed will be recognized and racial and ethnic minorities will win respect and love, we pray to the Lord." Pilgrims from Canada and the United States all realized that for the first time the Mohawk tongue was being used in the liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica.

SISTER MARY IGNATIUS WALSH, C.I.J.

Sister Mary Ignatius Walsh of the Congregation of the Infant Jesus, known to many of our pilgrims for her distinctive blue habit, her warm smile and her touch of the brogue, was to have celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of her entrance into religious life this fall. Man proposes only to have God do the disposing. On July 25 Sister breathed her last at St. Joseph's Villa, the retirement home of her order in Rockville Centre.

The actual day of Sister's diamond jubilee came earlier this year on the second of February. The Shrine director and his brother were privileged to share part of that day with her. She began her yearly visits to the Shrine in 1930, the year of the martyrs' canonization. Every summer she came for two weeks of renewal before resuming her work among the sick and the poor of Long Island City. After her retirement from active nursing in 1974 her superiors allowed her to spend the greater part of each summer with us and we were delighted to have her as a part of our staff. For the fifty-first time she arrived last spring to help us, but by early June she was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital in Amsterdam with a malignancy. The Lord was merciful to take her speedily.

WINTER ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE FATHERS

As the Shrine closed the doors on its 95th season, many visitors asked as they do each year; "What will you Fathers do, now that the Shrine is closed?"

Father Timothy O'Dwyer, the effervescent white-haired priest at the gate, left Auriesville on October 30. After a well-deserved vacation he took up his winter residence in Auburn, New York where for the past five years he has assisted in St. Aloysius parish. Father Tim also cheers the patients at the hospital.

Father Raymond Fullam departed in early November for Scranton, Pa., where he will be teaching high school religion classes at Jesuit-run Scranton Prep. Not only is Father Ray a natural with the youth, but he also is the author of the book used for the classes!

Father Robert Fleig is now at Mount Manresa Retreat House in Staten Island, responding to a pressing need in that quarter. Father's talents as treasurer are much in demand there, and he will remain as long as the need exists. In addition to the books, Father Bob also lends a helping hand in the many varied groups



Among the pilgrims waiting at the bronze doors for the special audience the Holy Father held for the Indians are Chief Andrew Delisle of Caughnawaga, Que. (far left), Fr. Paolo Molinari, S.J., Fr. Henri Bechard, S.J., Fr. Thomas Egan, S.J. and Iron Eyes Cody. Visible in the background are Fr. Ronald Schultz, O.F.M. Conv., and Fr. Joseph McBride, S.J.

and activities which are centered at the Retreat House. As Auriesville holds a special place in his heart, we are confident that he will return from time to time to share in many of our events and liturgies.

Father John Doolan has remained at Auriesville, assisting in the ever-present mounds of paperwork. He will leave in January to conduct several priests' retreats, a task for which he is uniquely qualified.

Father Thomas Egan, as Shrine director, is wearing as many hats as ever. Barely does one season end than the intense planning is begun for the next. Still Father Tom is able to assist in the local parishes and to occasionally "go on the road" to promote the Shrine.

JULIA GREENE EGAN

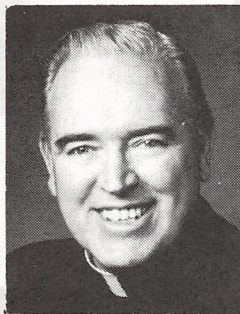
The editor of the PILGRIM—and he is also director of the Shrine—wishes to thank the many pilgrims and dear friends of Auriesville for their prayers and expressions of sympathy upon hearing of the death of his mother, Mrs. Julia Greene Egan, on July 18. Born and raised in Amsterdam, my mother got to within two weeks of her eighty-eighth birthday. She made her first visit to Auriesville as a little child before the turn of the century. The Shrine played a large part in her life in the succeeding years, in fact, long before she had any inkling that her son would be put in charge. It was from her that the son heard some of the earliest tales he can remember of Kateri and the martyrs. That is why it is easy to think of her now as part of that blessed company.

DIRECTORS LETTER

Dear Friends and Pilgrims,

So much has happened since that day in June when Father McBride, Father Fleig and I flew off to Rome for Kateri's beatification and so little time to tell the story! I had hoped that this issue would contain a lengthy chronicle of our eight frantic days of pilgrimage, but the constant demands of many more visitors to the Shrine and a noticeable increase in the daily mail put that objective beyond our grasp.

You have probably already noticed that again we have had to resort to a combination issue to round out this year of our double jubilee. With God's help we plan to make it up to our readers in the months ahead. So that there will be a record of all the momentous happenings of the past year, we intend to pen a fuller account of the Kateri events in Rome as well as those which took



place on this side of the ocean. For this year-end issue, however, we can only wet your appetite with a series of vignettes from our memories.

We shall soon have another anniversary to observe. The cornerstone of our distinctive Coliseum was laid back in September 1930 and then fifty years ago this coming June 21 the late Bishop Edmond F. Gibbons of Albany formally dedicated our temple of seventy-two doors. We hope you can join us for the special celebration we plan for that day. Whenever you come to pray on our hill of martyrs during the coming year, you can join us in thanking God for the many opportunities provided for literally millions of pilgrims to praise Him in the great round church over the past half century.

May the Infant Savior bless all our pilgrims during this holy season and all through the coming year.

Devotedly in Christ and Mary,

Father Egan

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

THE MARTYRS' SHRINE
Auriesville, New York 12016

PRAY THAT BLESSED KATERI
WILL SOON BE MADE A SAINT

1980
A YEAR TO REMEMBER



KATERI PRONOUNCED
BLESSED ON GOLDEN JUBILEE
OF MARTYRS' CANONIZATION

PILGRIM (USPS 571-800), Year End 1980 — Vol. XCI, Nos. 3 & 4 — Quarterly publication of the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, Auriesville, N.Y. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., President and Shrine Director; Francis C. Pfeiffer, Secretary; Raymond J. Whalen, S.J., Treasurer; Timothy C. O'Dwyer, S.J., Lawrence M. Wilson, S.J., John M. Doolan, S.J., Vincent P. McCorry, S.J. and Raymond B. Fullam, S.J. Board Members.
Entered as second class matter July 6, 1942 at Auriesville, N.Y. act of March 3, 1879.



MEANWHILE BACK AT AURIESVILLE

June 22 at Auriesville was much more than just a day....it was a magnificent feeling of sharing and belonging; a feeling of unity, yet one of individual purpose. To describe the events of the day in an objective manner would be an easy task, but it would exclude so much of what we actually experienced here at the Shrine. While it is difficult to put emotions into words, the aura that surrounded Auriesville that day needs to be shared.

Kateri's beatification was really three events: preparation, celebration and afterglow. As the Shrine representatives left for Rome on June 19 in a contagious spirit of excitement, those of us remaining at home suddenly became aware of the important responsibility entrusted to us - that of ensuring that our day would be as meaningful and spectacular as the one in Rome. Throughout the next three days of preparation there was an ever-present sense of purpose and unity, an unspoken understanding of one another.

My first awareness came shortly before sunrise, as I found I was too excited to sleep any longer. Immediately my thoughts turned to our friends in Rome and the thrill they must be experiencing at hearing our Kateri proclaimed a blessed. Even today I am overcome with emotion at the very thought.

Morning hours were filled with surprises; excitement generated from every corner. Sunday masses were



Bishop Joseph Pernicone, auxiliary bishop of New York, is flanked by Fr. Lawrence Wilson, S.J., director of the Auriesville Jesuit retreat house (left) and Fr. John Doolan, S.J. of the Shrine Staff (right) at the solemn mass of thanks, given hours after Kateri's beatification.

unusually crowded, as people flocked to be present at Kateri's birthplace. Ancella Hanley, long time friend of the Shrine and sister of a Jesuit, was one of the first visitors of the day. Also notable were several members of the Adirondack Players who would be presenting Kateri on stage in the weeks to come.

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