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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CLUB

# KATER

NO. 106

THE PAUL HONOGUENHAG ROLL
OUR SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN: 14

**EACH NEW MOON** 

FOR THE NEW YEAR — THE LABOR DAY MESSAGE

FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

**OUR LADY OF FOY** 

THE IROQUOIS MISSIONS (1675)

A BENEFICIAL DELAY
A LETTER FROM PHOENIX
CORRESPONDENCE

LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

Winter • 1975

Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada



Because of the Postal strike — the thirteenth in ten years — the present issue of *Kateri* is reaching you with considerable delay.



#### The Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha

Kateriana obtainable from the

#### Office of the Vice Postulation (The Kateri Center)

Box 70, Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada JoL 1B0

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- In English I am Indian by Gualbert Brunsman, O.S.B. 60¢.
- In English Treasure of the Mohawks by Teri Martini, a book for boys and girls. \$2.25.
- In French L'Héroïque Indienne Kateri Tekakwitha by Henri Béchard, S.J., \$3.50.
- In French Kateri Tekakwitha, vierge mohawk, by Evelyn M. Brown, translated by Maurice Hébert of the Royal Academy of Canada, illustrated by Simone Hudon-Beaulac.
- In French Catherine Tekakwitha, by Edouard Lecompte, S.J. Published in 1930. 300
- In German Das Mädchen der Mohawks, by Franz Weiser, (Hardcover) \$6.00.
- In Italian Caterina Tekakwitha, by Dr. Fernando Bea, 176 pp. \$3.00.
- In Spanish -; Una India en los Altares? Kateri Tekakwitha de los Mohawks, by Maria Cecilia Buehrle: \$2.25.

#### Special

- In English The Visions of Bernard Francis de Hoyos, S.J., by Henri Béchard, S.J., 178 pp., profusely illustrated. \$7.00.
- In English In the Early Dawn, The story of the Indian People in the days of the first Missionaries, Editor James S. McGivern, S.J., \$1.75 postpaid.

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One box of twelve cards: \$1.00. Each yearly enrollment in the Kateri Guild: \$1.00.

#### Subscription to "Kateri"

One dollar a year. Please renew your subscription each year.

N. B. As the postal rates increase, the postal service worsens correspondingly. When you order material, allow for a delay over which we have no control.



KATERI, No. 106

Vol. 27, No. 1

#### AIM

- 1. Our quarterly bulletin, Kateri, published by the Kateri Center, intends to help you obtain favors both temporal and spiritual through the intercession of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. It is hoped her Beatification will thereby
- 2. It aims to increase the number of Kateri's friends and to procure from them at least one daily Hail Mary for her Beatification.
- 3. It seeks also your donations, for without them practically nothing can be done to make Kateri known and to have the important favors attributed to her intercession examined and approved.

#### CONTENTS

Each issue of "Kateri" contains:

- 1. One or several pages on Kateri's life and virtues;
- 2. News from Kateri's friends everywhere;
- 3. The account of favors due to her intercession:
- 4. News concerning the Indians of America, with special reference to the Caughnawagas and their friends.

#### BENEFITS

Your contribution (\$1.00 a year, or more, if possible) enrolls you among "Kateri's Friends" for whom:

- 1. A weekly Mass is offered:
- 2. The Vice-Postulator prays at his daily Mass;
- 3. As benefactors of the Society of Jesus, 190,000 masses are offered
- 4. The spiritual treasure of the good works of the Society of Jesus is
- 5. Extra graces are merited by working for Kateri's Beatification.

#### DECEMBER 1975

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#### THE PAUL HONOGUENHAG ROLL

Paul Honoguenhag lived at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier at the same time as Kateri did. He was both a catechist and a military leader of the village. En 1961, he died on the battlefield for the Faith the missionaries had taught him.

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| 140.<br>141. | Mr. Pietro Bartolone                         |       | Mr. Victorien Jennings                     |
|--------------|--|-------|--|
|              | Mrs. Bertrand<br>Mr. Allard Savoje           | 172.  | Mr. Roger Parent                           |
|              | Mrs. Claire Brizard-Gauthier                 | 173.  | Mr. Albert Lavoie                          |
|              | Mr. Alphonse Brizard                         | 174.  | Mrs. O. Quesnel                            |
| 144.         | Mrs. Marie-Anne Brizard-Gauthier             | 175.  | Mrs. Blanche Young                         |
|              | Mr. Harold Luxom, Sr.                        | 170.  | Mr. Theodore Morel, Sr.                    |
|              | Rev. Bruce Marks                             | 177.  | Mr. Theodore Morel, Jr.                    |
|              | Mr. Oscar Pigeon                             | 170.  | Mr. Leo Babski, Sr.<br>Mr. Henri Martineau |
|              |  |       |  |
| 150          | Miss Mary Matejko<br>Mrs. Mélodie L'Hereault |       | Mrs. R. Dumulon                            |
|              | Mr. Wilfrid J. Benoit                        |       | Miss Yvonne Lachance                       |
|              |  | 182.  | A Religious in Purgatory                   |
| 152.         | Mrs. Marion Borges M. Edouard Dequanne       |       | Mr. Joseph Falardeau                       |
| 153.         | M. Edouard Dequanne                          |       | Mr. Aurèle Caron                           |
| 154.         | Mr. Arthur Sauriol                           |       | Mr. Joseph Alfred Comeau                   |
| 155.         | Mrs. Albert Lepage<br>Miss Blandine Gagné    |       | Miss Nicola Sola                           |
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FROM ROME, the Reverend Father Paul Molinari, S.J., Postulator General for the cause of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, writes:

"The idea of launching a Prayer Campaign to hasten Kateri's beatification seems to me truly excellent, and I hope with all my heart that these prayers will obtain for us the miracles that are needed for Kateri's beatification...
...Naturally I shall take part in your Prayer Campaign..."

How many written promises
of one daily Our Father
and or/one daily Hail Mary
to hasten Kateri's Beatification
has the Kateri Center received?

Exactly 12,049

At least one million are needed!

Fill out the following form and rush it to: The Kateri Center Box 70 Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada

MY PLEDGE TO KATERI

Date

I, the undersigned, pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the second duly verified miracle needed for Kateri's beatification is obtained.

| Name              |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Street or Box     |           |
| City or Town      |           |
| Province or State | Zip Code  |
| Country           | Telephone |

#### **OUR SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN**

For this hundred and sixth issue of *Kateri*, I appeal to our friends for help in spreading devotion to the Iroquois Maiden by attaining our objective of 10,000 new subscribers to the *Kateri* quarterly. If each subscriber found from three to five new subscriptions, the trick would be done. The subscription rates have not changed since 1949, and I do not intend to change them: \$1.00 a year, which, obviously, only covers the addressing and mailing costs.

#### Fourteenth Quarterly Instalment

| Forward  |
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Please help the Kateri Center to find 6 467

more subscribers. May Kateri love you!

#### EACH NEW MOON



#### **TRICENTENNIALS**

THE NEXT FIVE years are important historically, for from 1675-80, the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha became a Christian, rose to mystical union with Christ, and died with a smile upon her lips, breathing the holy names of Jesus and Mary.

Although the ground may be sheeted in snow, in the warmth of our hearts, let us begin to celebrate those last years of Kateri's life by intense daily prayer (intimate conversation with Jesus, Mary, and Kateri). It will lead us to frequent communion and to greater efforts on our part to make her known and loved so that, in the very near future, she may be granted the honors of the altar.

In this issue of *Kateri*, I am stressing two events in the life of the Lily of the Mohawks:

- 1. A statue of Our Lady of Foy in the round was honored in Mohawkland during the early winter of 1675;
- 2. Young Tekakwitha began to take instructions in preparation for baptism in the late summer of 1675.

New Year resolution: Prayer pledges for Kateri?...

#### FOR THE NAVAJOES

From Tekakwitha Mission at Houck, Arizona, Father Cormac Antram, O.F.M., addressed the following letter to the Kateri Staff:

"For the past several months, I have been running a series of radio programs on the life of Kateri Tekakwitha. This has been a broadcast on our Navajo Catholic radio program, 'The Padres' Hour', which is in the Navajo language program heard over three stations. For the basis of my script, I have used the book Kateri Tekakwitha by Fr. Francis X. Weiser, S.J. Now I would like to publish the radio scripts as a booklet. It would be a condensed version of Fr. Weiser's book, redone in simple English. The booklet, which would be printed in our mission press, would not be for sale on the open market, but would be for distribution among the Navajo people. We plan to print 500 copies. Father Weiser would be given full credit as being the source from which this booklet was condensed. . . My only purpose is to help make Kateri better known among our Navajo people..."

Of course, permission was readily granted and the result, *This is Kateri*, is beautiful. God bless you very specially, dear Father, for making Kateri better known and loved among the Navajoes!

#### **EXCOMMUNICATED?**

At the beginning of the year, retired Archbishop Claude Dupuy of Albi, France, refused to accept his nomination as member of the Legion of Honor, the highest distinction his country awards to its citizens since Napoleon I. In strong protest against President Giscard d'Estaing's approval of the bill allowing the abortion of any tenweek-old fetus, he refused the 5-rayed star of white enamel and gold, with its beautiful center medallion.

The acceptance of the Medal of Honor from a president who sustained "oppressive liberty" rather than defend the rights of "innocent beings unable to defend themselves," would have seemed shameful to this great prelate.

Is the president of France a Catholic or not? I don't know. If he is, following the first successful abortion permitted by the new bill, he stands excommunicated.

The president of France has been invited to visit Canada in 1976. Obviously this visit has not been planned to congratulate him on his excommunication.

#### TWO PARAGRAPHS TO THE WISE



The July 1975 Liguorian (Liguori, Missouri, 63057) is worth the reading. Mary-Eunice, a member of the International Kateri Committee, introduces the Venerable

the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha to the public at large as "a new Star in the New World." The author is well-known for her dramatic monologue productions, including one on Kateri Tekakwitha. She and her husband, Joe Spagnola, conduct *Mary Productions* at 58 Lenison Avenue, Belford, New Jersey, 07718. For a copy of her Kateri monologue write to Tekakwitha Indian Orphanage, Sisseton, South Dakota, 57262.

The New England issue of The Jesuit, Autumn 1975, published by the Jesuit Foreign Missions, 314 Darmouth Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116, reached me as Kateri was going to press. May I suggest that the friends of the Lilv of the Mohawks get a copy and read the article by Fr. Richard McKeon, S.J., of Le Moyne College, Syracuse, N.Y., which appeared on pages 12 to 15? It tells the story of "America's Indian Martyrs," whose death Kateri foretold ten years or so before it occurred. Very well done.

#### IN THE EARLY DAWN

Have you noticed in the *Kateriana* on page two, among other new items, *In the Early Dawn*, the story of the Indian people in the days of the first missionaries, edited by the Rev. James S. McGivern, S.J.? If the subject interests you, order your copy from *Kateri*, Box 70, Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada.

#### A SLOVAK TRANSLATION

Fr. Steve Sencik, S.J., of the Slovak Jesuit Fathers, Cambridge, Ontario, proposes to translate into his language Fr. F. X. Weiser's biography of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. "We hope," he writes, "that this translation will be very useful not only to our people here in Canada and the United States, but also to our countrymen in our native Slovakia when the political situation changes." The Kateri staff's best wishes for the success of this new translation!

#### **A \$1,000 REWARD**

Are you not tired of hearing about population control? So is Robert Sassone, author of *Handbook on Population*. He has offered \$1,000 reward to anyone who can suggest a valid reason why we must limit population in the next century.

"There are no natural resources in danger of complete exhaustion," Sassone insists. He points out all the buildings in the world take up just 1/10,000th of the earth's surface.

Says Dr. Sassone, "Every nation in the world that publicly lists its food supply in statistics compiled by the United Nations, has a sufficiently large supply (of food)."

"The trend for more than a generation has been for world food supplies to increase 1 per cent faster than the growth of population.

"Animal and fish protein production has increased faster than

food production, so there is now 80 per cent more per person than before World War II."

And according to Sassone, the farms, roads, buildings and cities of the world take up only 3 per cent of the earth's surface, a situation that could certainly change if the government encouraged farmers to produce more crops.

Even in India the number of people per square mile is 400 — fewer than live in a square mile in Italy.

In the Netherlands where 1,000 people live in each square mile, the people not only survive on what they have but also export food to other countries, Dr. Sassone points out.

Apparently, famines are not caused by numbers of people but by problems of nature and problems with politicians, Sassone explains.

Government policies that do not favor farmers cause more famines than nature.

"But none are caused by sheer numbers of people," he insists.

There is no better time than the Christmas season, during which we celebrate the birth of the divine Child, to speak to him of his brothers and sisters — all the children of men. Why mention them in *Kateri?* Because the early settlers considered the Lily of the Mohawks as the "Protectress of Canada" and as the "New Star of the New World" in its entirety.

## FOR THE NEW YEAR – THE LABOR DAY MESSAGE

The Canadian Bishops warned that "exploitation", usually associated with colonialism and injustice in the Third World, is emerging in the Canadian North.

In a 3,500-word statement, the Bishops specifically criticized some industrial planning as "a serious abuse of both the native peoples (Indians and Eskimos) and the energy resources of the North.

In several cases," the Bishops declared, "governments and corporations have recently planned and suddenly announced the construction of large industrial projects without prior consultation with the people who will be most directly affected. As a result, the future lives of these native peoples and their communities tend to be planned for them by southern interests." (Exxon, Shell, Gulf, Mobil, Sunoco, etc.) The Bishops charged that plans for such projects are usually finalized and implemented before land claim settlements have been reached with the native peoples. "Yet for people whose land is their life..., a just settlement of their land claims lies at the very heart of their struggle for justice," they said.

Will the Bishops' warning be accepted? What are you going to do about it?

- 1. Shall you back the lobbies favoring the Amerinds?
- 2. Shall you engage in debate with your deputies and senators concerning these problems?
- 3. Shall you do your part in finding a just settlement regarding the territorial claims of the Indians?
- 4. Shall you collaborate with other Churches interested in the welfare of the Indian and Eskimo peoples?



For Kateri's friends
and benefactors

Father

HENRI BÉCHARD, S.J.

Vice-Postulator

for the cause of her

beatification

and

canonization

prays that,

as Our Lady of Foy

blessed the Mohawk Canton

in 1675

She and her divine Son

may bless you and yours

on Christmas Day 1975

may bless you and yours
on Christmas Day 1975
and on each day of the New Year

#### OUR LADY OF FOY

QUEBEC WAS HARDLY FOUNDED when a remarkable occurrence took place in the village of Foy, three miles from Dinant, Belgium.

#### Our Lady of Foy in Belgium

For planks to build a boat, an oak tree, eight feet in diameter, was felled. The worm-eaten wood did not answer the purpose of the woodmen, and they decided to cut it up into logs. During June 1609, the blow of an ax on one of the billets brought to light a statuette of the Blessed Virgin carrying the Child Jesus in her left arm. It was enclosed in a cavity guarded by three iron bars. Ex-votos, among them a tress of hair, placed within the niche, bore witness to the piety of another age.

The statuette of a very hard, moulded, white stone was only eight inches high including the base. A veil, on which a heavy crown was placed, covered the head and fell on Our Lady's shoulders. The greybeards of the neighborhood were closely questioned: they had never heard the image mentioned. At the latest, it belonged to the first half of the fifteenth century.

The news of the finding soon spread far and wide. The Lord of Celle, on whose land the discovery took place, ordered that the statuette be placed in another oak, in a small niche. with three iron bars, in much the same condition in which it came to light. Immediately, Our Lady showed her love for her earth-bound children. The blind saw, the deaf heard, and the paralytics were able to walk. Even the dead rose from their sleep. Four years later, the Lord of Celle had the statuette placed in his private chapel. Shortly afterwards, it became necessary to erect a chapel, for the number of pilgrims increased constantly. Soon the little chapel could no longer hold the faithful who came to honor Mary, and, in 1623, the present church was built. It is one hundred and thirty-six feet long and thirty-eight wide. Two Flemish artists were hired to decorate the mobile panels of the ceiling with religious paintings. The prince-bishop of Liège, Ferdinand of Bavaria, donated an altar of black and white marble, a token of the public veneration of the Belgians of that period to Our Lady of Dinant. As early as 1668, the sanctuary was rated a national monument and kept up at the expense of the Crown.

In 1907, on the occasion of the tercentenary of the finding of the statuette, in the name of St. Pius X, Bishop Heylen of Namur solemnly crowned the miraculous madonna. In his pastoral letter published for the occasion, the prelate called Our Lady of Foy the Belgian Our Lady of Lourdes.



SCULPSIT P. LEPROVOST Our Lady of Foy (1719)

PHOTO ROGER CÔTÉ, QUEBEC

#### Our Lady of Foy in Canada

In 1669, a statuette of Our Lady of Foy, carved from the wood of the old tree, was sent from Belgium to Father Pierre-Jean-Marie Chaumonot, S.J., apostle of the Hurons in the Quebec area. To house it worthily, he had a little wooden chapel built at St. Michel, now Sainte-Foy Street.

The parish of Our Lady of Foy in Quebec contains several historical districts, for instance Jacques Cartier's Charlebourg Royal, later named France-Roy by Roberval, and the Mission of St. Joseph of Sillery. "Since it is the custom," noted Father H. A. Scott, "to estimate that the origin of a town or city goes back to the first efforts that were made to establish it, Ste. Foy is the oldest parish, not only in Canada, but, also, in North America. The miraculous statuette of Our Lady of Foy at Ste. Foy, Quebec, was burnt with the church in 1698. It was replaced in 1716 by another statue, carved by the priest-sculptor, Father P. LeProvost, Pastor of Ste. Foy.

#### **Our Lady of Foy at Agnie**

As early as 1675 — exactly three centuries ago — another copy of the statuette of Our Lady of Foy, carved out of the original oak in which it was found, was given to Father Jacques Bruyas, S.J., for his mission of Agnié in Mohawkland.

During that year, the missionary was happy on account of the number of converts he had made — more than eighty-four — and of the fervor they manifested in their lives. Assendassé, one of the most prominent Mohawks, was noteworthy. Despite the trials that his family suffered after his baptism, he remained staunch in his faith. He was threatened and came close to being the first Iroquois martyr.

Where did this steadfastness in the Faith come from, not only with regard to Assendassé, but also to many others? Not from the fear of hell, as a brace of modern historians pretend, but according to Father Bruyas, from the presence of Our Lady of Foy in the village of Agnié!

In 1675, the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha was nineteen years old. She did not live at Agnié, but in the neighboring village of Gandaouagué (Fonda, N.Y.), the smallest of the Mohawks castles. Father Jacques de Lamberville, S.J., who, from September 1675 to Easter 1676, prepared Tekakwitha for baptism, surely told her the story of Our Lady of Foy, as well as to the other Christians of the little town. Who knows, perhaps Tekakwitha with a few friends, went to Agnié to pray to Our Lady.

Be that as it may, Our Lady of Foy looked with favor on Kateri, and we know that as soon as Kateri became aware of Our Lady, she loved her to the point of ecstasy.

Kateri's smile upon you, Miss G. F.!

Enclosed is my June offering for Kateri. I recently completed another year of entering a "Card of Thanks" in the Montreal Star. Instead of renewing it. I am sending the

pleted another year of entering a "Card of Thanks" in the Montreal Star. Instead of renewing it, I am sending the cost plus a little extra towards her regular offering every month in return for her countless favors to me and to help you fight the mounting costs... (Montreal, P.Q.)

- \* Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. L. K.!

  Three of the thirteen dollars are for an enrollment for a deceased cousin. The remaining ten are a "Thank You" to Kateri. I have finally sold my house! Use it for her work where you see fit. . . (Akron, N.Y.)
- \* Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. E. N.!
  ...A.'s son, James, is a registry policeman. He had lost his wallet in a store. I think it was a pickpocket thief who did it. In it he had a Kateri relic. The wallet was found by a Security Guard, minus some money, with a credit car, pictures of his children, and other important cards. James says Kateri found the wallet for him. (Somerville, Mass.)
- Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. G. M. K.!

  In a recent issue of Kateri, you wrote something to the effect that if every subscriber sent in an additional subscription, the magazine would attain its goal of 10,000 subscriptions. So, here are ten, in honor of the Holy Year and the U.S.A. Bicentennial, in both of which celebrations the Venerable Kateri deserves a share.

(Port Chester, N.Y.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)

#### READ THE STORY OF HER LIFE!

To know and love the Lily of the Mohawks, I wish to receive an autographed copy of KATERI TEKAKWITHA, the exciting biography by the Rev. F. X. Weiser, S.J., of Boston College, with a Prefatory Note by John Cardinal Wright.

My check is enclosed (Paperback) \$2.25 (Hardcover) \$4.00

| Name    |                            |  |
|---------|----------------------------|--|
|         | (In Block Letters, Please) |  |
| Address |                            |  |

KATERI, Box 70, Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada J0L 1B0



PHOTO W. B. EDWARDS, QUEBEC

Our Lady of Foy A copy of the original from Dinant, Belgium

## The Iroquois Missions (1675)

THE Iroquois consist of five different nations, and are divided among eight villages of greater importance, in each of which we have a chapel wherein the new Christians meet every day to say their prayers, and to hear the instructions given them daily by the missionaries at stated hours. Father Bruyas, who is the superior of all, has won to Jesus Christ a great many of the chief personages of Agnié, the village of the nation nearest to the Dutch. Here in a few words is the information given by him in his last letters.

#### Mission of Agnié.

HIS year might supply sufficiently ample material for relations, both through the number of those who have been baptized, amounting to eighty, and through the fervor of the new Christians. I refer merely to what has been done by one Assendassé, who is regarded beyond contradiction, as being one of the most notable of his nation. After I had baptized him, he desired that all his family should receive baptism, as he had done. Afterward, when sickness and death attacked his household, he endured with constancy all the reproaches addressed to him by his kindred for that act, as if he had drawn

down all these misfortunes upon himself by his baptism. Things came to such a pass that they almost afforded him the glory of being the first martyr among the Iroquois.

"One of his relatives, who could not endure that he should be a Christian, having purposely become half intoxicated, threw himself upon him; he snatched away the rosary and the crucifix that Assendassé wore suspended from his neck, and threatened to kill him if he would not renounce all those things. 'Kill me,' he said, 'I shall be happy to die for so good a cause. I feel no regret in giving my life in testimony of my faith.'

"As he is esteemed in the village, his example has attracted a very considerable number of his countrymen to the Faith. There have been but a few Sundays this winter whereon I have not baptized a child or an adult. Were I to relate all that occurs here for the futherance of Christianity, those who would hear it would have reason to praise God, who is beginning to be glorified among these infidels.

"For my part, I attribute these conversions to the goodness of the Most Blessed Virgin, a miraculous image of whom, as Our Lady of Foy, has been sent us. I can state that, since we have possessed that precious deposit, the church of Agnié has completely changed its appearance. The older Christians have resumed their

former fervor, and the number of new ones increases daily. We displayed this precious statue, with all possible pomp, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, while the litanies were chanted in the Iroquois tongue. We uncovered it only on Saturday evening during the chanting of the same litanies; and throughout the whole of Sunday it remained exposed to the eyes of our Christians, who met three times that day for the purpose of reciting the rosary before their good Mother and protectress. The infidels tell me that since Mary's image is in their village, they fear nothing; and, in fact, they have received very evident marks of her protection."

Father Jacques de Lamberville, who has charge of the Mission of St. Pierre at Gandaouagué, the second village of the Agnié country, has had the consolation of sending to heaven many little children, who died after baptism. This Church, although the smallest of all in these Missions, is behind none of them in fervor.

The Father hopes shortly to increase it by a very considerable number of persons. The elders themselves come to prayers and exhort the young men to do the same. Finally, if brandy were banished from this quarter, we would soon see the whole of that village become Christians.

Jesuit Relations, LIX, 236-241 Kateri's smile upon you, Sr. C. P.!

I am enclosing a Money Order in the amount of twentyfive dollars in gratitude to you and Kateri for your help through prayer in finding me a new job. I am looking forward to working with the Separate School Board, and will need your continued prayers for my efficient performance.

I paid a visit to Kateri Center with my aunt, R. C., a couple of weeks ago, and we were hoping to see you. I was much impressed with the Center, its historicity and sanctity, and realized what a good work you are doing. I pray to Kateri each day and feel that I have a powerful friend in her. I would appreciate it, Father, if you would keep me in your prayers, I have a special intention and would like prayers for this person. (Barrie, Ont.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. L. W.!

The enclosed check was promised for a favor granted. My daughter had to have a blood study made to determine if she had leukemia. The report was favorable and all our fears were allayed. (New Orleans, La.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. R. F.!

I am enclosing five dollars in thanksgiving to Kateri for a favor received. I have been praying for my daughter that her X-Rays and tests would turn out well. I am very happy to say so far all is well. My daughter is expecting her first child in early September. We were worried about her cardiagraphy and about a pulmonary punction that had to be done. All went well. Thank God and Kateri! This daughter had a very serious spinal operation two years ago, and, to be sure, doctors advised these tests. Now, I pray she will have a healthy baby and a safe and happy childbirth. She has been keeping very well, so we trust all to God, Our Blessed Mother, and Kateri.

(Hamilton, Ont.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)

#### INFLATION

Since January 1, 1975, in Montreal and its suffragan dioceses, the former one-dollar Mass stipend is now two (\$2.00) dollars, and the former five-dollar stipend is now seven (\$7.00).

Three centuries ago...

#### STEPHEN SAID HIS ROSARY

IROQUOIS MISSION OF ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER, AT LA PRAIRIE DE LA MAGDELEINE, DURING THE YEAR 1675.

HE examples of virtue given to the French by this Church are so striking and so well known that it is unnecessary to speak of them, for there is no one who witnesses them who does not admire the effects of grace in the persons of these poor people. And, in fact, these good Christians who dwell at la prairie de la Magdeleine are in the midst of fire without being burned: I mean, that they are surrounded on all sides by the most scandalous drunkenness, to indulge in which they are earnestly solicited; but hitherto they have made themselves remarked at Montreal and everywhere else, and there is no other way of distinguishing them than by saying that they are the people who do not drink, and who pray to God aright. The virtue of these fervent neophytes may be better judged by an account of the death of a young Iroquois, who, for a few months, has slept the sleep of the just. This young man, whose name was Skandegorhaksen,1 was an Agnié by birth, and about twenty years old; he had a well-

formed body and a very gentle nature, and seemed born solely for virtue and for sanctity.

As soon as he set foot in la prairie de la Magdeleine, he embraced all matters pertaining to the Faith and to divine worship, with such fervor that he at once made himself remarked among all the others. Accordingly, Father Frémin, who has charge of that Mission, then conceived so high an opinion of him that, while he tried the others for two or three whole years before administering holy baptism to them, he administered it to this one after a trial of only two months. Thenceforward, that good neophyte gave increasing evidence of his piety and fervor; and, although it is a praiseworthy custom among our Christian Indians here to come quite often during the day to pray in the church, Skandegorhaksen surpassed all the others in these holy exercises, and had his stated hours, like a religious. He came every morning at four o'clock, and then heard two masses. He returned to the chapel about ten o'clock; he did the same an hour after

<sup>1.</sup> His given name was Etienne or Stephen.

noon, then at three o'clock; and came again at sunset, with all the faithful; and, finally, between eight and nine in the evening.

It is no exaggeration to say that he prayed in the church like an angel, so modest was he. Merely to see him take holy water on entering and on leaving the chapel, and make profound inclinations before the Blessed Sacrament, inspired one with devotion. The French, who know not the names of the Indians, generally distinguished him from the others by saying that he was the young man who prayed to God in the chapel so fervently, and at all hours of the day. He manifested no less devotion in his cabin. He spent his whole time in chanting prayers to the airs of church hymns, and in saving the rosary aloud; and he gently urged the other men of his age to do the same, when they came to visit him.

All these things were accompanied by an innocent life and an admirable tenderness of conscience; and the Father is certain that he died in his baptismal innocence, which he preserved here during two years. This he did with heroic care and courage, for during all that time the devil waged continual war against him, by furious temptations; but he always remained victorious through God's grace, to which, on his part, he responded with his usual fervor, with a wonderful fear of offending God and a great horror of the slightest sins. To that

end, therefore, he confessed himself every week, and sometimes oftener.

As soon as he returned hither from a journey, he went directly to the chapel and confessed himself at once, or at least on the same day. He received communion with sentiments of devotion and fervor, which one must witness, before one can judge to what extent an Indian of the Agnié nation is capable of them; for they have ever been considered the most arrogant, and the most remote from God's kingdom.

But inasmuch as virtue, if it be truly solid, never manifests itself except on occasion, and it might perhaps be said that the fervor of this Mission sustained that of Skandegorhaksen, let us observe him in the midst of the wicked and in the land of iniquity, causing virtue and the faith of Jesus Christ to triumph.

This was in the Iroquois country, whither he had the courage to go expressly to win to God a young man of his acquaintance. To his great regret, he found him plunged in every vice; and this made him groan in his heart, - all the more, because he could not apply any remedy. He therefore resolved, for his own part, to make reparation as well as he could, for all his friend's faults. To that end he made himself an apostle in the midst of all these infidels. He chanted in the chapel the prayers that he had learned here. This novelty attracted thither all the people; and he then seized the opportunity to instruct them. He went boldly into the cabins, and preached therein the mysteries of our religion; and he even reproved vice everywhere, with astonishing freedom. This will seem almost incredible to those who know the customs of the Indians, among whom the young men never speak in public, especially in the presence of the elders and the chiefs.

After spending some time in these exercises in the midst of infidelity, he returned hither; and we found that he was ever the same, and had lost nothing of his innocence in that land so full of abominations.

He was already a fruit ripe for heaven; consequently he was taken away from us, some time after his return. For, having gone to hunt at the beginning of winter, — with the intention, however, of interrupting his hunt, to come and celebrate Christmas here, — he was unable to satisfy his devotion; and, as early as the first day of December, 1675, he felt himself attacked by the disease which carried him off on the twenty-second of the month.

As soon as he saw himself in danger, he protested that he did not fear death; and that, on the contrary, he hoped that it would be for him a passage to a blessed eternity; for he ever said to those near him that he was going to enjoy the sight of God in paradise.

During his illness, he did nothing but recite his rosary and repeat acts of contrition for his sins, and of faith, hope, and charity. He thought and spoke only of God; and, wonderful to relate, when he frequently became delirious, during the whole of that time he repeated nothing else but his rosary; and his sole pleasure consisted in reciting the Ave Maria, and in adding to it some of the acts of virtue, an infallible sign of the habit he had contracted. He manifested but one regret in his illness; this was at not seeing his good Father (thus he called Father Frémin), and at not dying in his arms; in truth, he loved and was greatly beloved by the Father.

Before his death, while still in possession of his faculties, he exhorted his relatives, who surrounded him, to persevere in God's service; and he begged them also to exhort on his behalf all the Indians of la prairie de la Magdeleine to be constant in the faith. Moreover, he sent them word that he was going before them to heaven, as he hoped; and that he fully expected all of them to follow him. He also directed them to pay with his petty effects the few debts that he had contracted. After this, his thoughts were solely of paradise; and he communed sweetly with God. to whom he gave up his soul very peacefully.2 When the news of his death was

<sup>2.</sup> He died either on December 22, or, as Father Chauchetière wrote, on December 25, 1675

brought hither, it filled the minds of all with sorrow, but, at the same time, with a certain feeling of devotion caused by the recollection of his virtue.

As we have changed here the ridiculous customs of the Iroquois respecting the effects of the dead. which were either buried with them, or devoted to superstitious purposes, - as, I say, these have been changed into better usages by distributing the effects in pious works and to the poor, they did not fail to do the same on this occasion. But this was done with special solemnity; for all the relatives and the most notable men assembled, as in a general council, to effect this distribution. Those good Indians, touched by the rare examples of virtue given them by the deceased, spoke of God, of paradise, and of matters pertaining to faith, in terms so high, so poetical, and so full of God and of a certain pious unction, that it surpasses all belief. Father Frémin, delighted with what he had just heard, said on coming therefrom that he did not think that there was in the world a meeting of religious whereat matters pertaining to God and to the Faith could be more worthily spoken of.

He who presided presented to the assembly a rich porcelain collar, and delivered a long discourse. Beginning with the things that the deceased had directed him to say to them on his behalf, and holding this fine collar in his hand, he said to them: "Here, my companions, is the voice of our departed brother. Consider it well; listen well to it. He wishes that it may be eternal among you - either as a continual reproach for your perfidy, should you abandon the Faith; or as a precious pledge which he leaves you of the reward that we shall all enjoy with him in paradise, if we obey God's voice and his."

He then took the opportunity to dwell at length upon the praises of the Faith, the happiness of Christians, and the fervor and constancy with which God should be served. He said wonderful things on the subject, especially reminding them of the rare devotion and noble examples of all the virtues given them by him whose voice he bore to them, and who continually looked down upon them from heaven that he might urge them to follow him.

Jesuit Relations, LIX, 257-267 Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. H. W. W.!

Inclosed is one dollar for my yearly enrollment. Also, five dollars, a donation I promised Kateri, to help me find a good doctor to remove a mole from my back, which was giving me trouble and a lot of worry as to how serious it might be. Thanks to Kateri, she obtained the favor and many others from God. Within a few days, I had the mole removed with no trouble, having also found a good doctor. Many, many thanks to Kateri and to St. Theresa. I'm very grateful for the many favors I've received over the years.

\* Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. C. E. G.!

We have been friends of Kateri for many, many years. Some years ago my husband G. G. G., and our daughter, Sister M. K., M. S. B. T., and I visited the shrine of Kateri and had a very nice visit with you and another Father. You showed us the newly renovated chapel, etc., and we enjoyed our visit with you very much. We would have been back again, but my husband had a long illness and died in March 1973. He had a great devotion to Kateri and told many people about her. We have had many favors granted through her intercession and that is why I am enclosing the check, so that you can use it in whatever way you wish to spread devotion to her. Oh, yes, I am still saying the daily Hail Mary in her honor and also the prayer for her Beatification. (Lancaster, Pa.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M. H.!

Enclosed is an eleven-dollar money order for Masses, which I promised to have said and published in the Kateri magazine for past and recent petitions that received favorable answers. They are in thanksgiving for the following favors granted:

1. For having received my first long overdue retirement

benefits:

2. For having my prayers answered that Dr. Morgantaler, the self-confessed abortionist, be sent to prison for flaunting his medical pledge and the law of the land;

3. For the success of the Right to Life groups in Canada in collecting a million petitions, which were presented to Parliament demanding that the lives of unborn children be protected; . . .

To help spread devotion to Kateri, would you kindly send the **Kateri** quarterly to the five following people?...

(Cape Breton, N.S.)

(Hamburg, N.Y.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M. J. !

Enclosed is a five-dollar donation in thanksgiving to the Venerable Katherine Tekakwitha. I have a great devotion to her. I have serious heart trouble and other illnesses. Last week during the last attack, I'm sure it was through her intercession that my prayers were answered. I could not breathe, felt terrible pains, and medecine did not help. But little Kateri must have eased the pain. . .

(Milwaukee, Wis.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Miss M. C.!

The enclosed ten-dollar draft is in thanksgiving for a favor I received through the intercession of the Vener-

able Kateri.

My sister has been feeling unwell since about July. She was afraid it was cancer and didn't have the courage to go to the doctor and check. Just about mid-July, I received the summer issue of Kateri. While I was reading it and many of "Kateri's Smiles", I was inspired to make a plea interiorly to Kateri that if what might be found with my sister was not cancer, I'd make a donation as an acknowledgement of my gratitude. No sooner had I formed such a thought than my sister told me that she had made an appointment with the doctor. After she had been with the doctor, she was told there was nothing wrong except some bladder trouble. It certainly was not cancer. Thanks be to God and to Kateri! I hope she'll continue to pray for my sister so that she need not undergo an operation for her bladder trouble. Please pray with us.

Dear Father, perhaps you have forgotten me. We had corresponded years ago. Somehow, I was lazy, I guess, and stopped writing. But I remember you. I have a young brother, Dr. L., who has a little girl about whom I told you a lot. I had even sent you her photo, remember? They used to be in the States. Then they went to England and returned here just about a year ago. I had had a car accident more than a year ago and recovered quite quickly after a major operation. Thanks be to God. I'm doing quite well still working for the **Sunday Examiner**, our diocesan weekly. I hope you are doing fine, too. Father.

With best wishes and God bless! ...

(Kowloon, Hong Kong)

Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. J. D. S.!

This donation is given in thanksgiving for a favor I asked for my sister. She had some tests run on her blood and the outcome was good news. Thank you.

(New Orleans, La.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)

Kateris smile upon you, Mrs. G. T.!

Enclosed is a check for the many favors that Kateri has

granted our family through our devotion to her.

I promised Kateri one hundred dollars for the sale of some downtown property several years ago, and several months ago the property was finally sold. Twenty-five dollars, were promised if I passed my physical with no serious ailments as I had been worried about my health. I passed with a "good bill of health." Then, the remaining ten-dollar bill is from my daughter (her baby-sitting money), who offered that amount for a quick solution to a problem she had. We will continue our prayers to Kateri and always be grateful for the many favors received.

(Saginaw, Mich.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. H. M.!

I enclose a check for one hundred dollars, with sincere thanks to Kateri for a favor received, and ask your prayers that the situation involved may be brought to a successful conclusion. I add five dollars for a copy of the **Visions of Francis Bernard de Hoyos**, which I have been meaning to buy for a long time. The additional ten dollars are for my subscription to "Kateri". Also, I am forming a firm resolution to pray faithfully every day for Kateri's Beatification and to remind my husband and our two close friends to do likewise. . . (Cobourg, Ont.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Miss D. W.!

Enclosed is one-hundred-dollar check donation towards Kateri's cause. She has answered countless prayers, but there are two important ones, which I feel you should

know about.

Some time ago I entered hospital for tests. There was a great fear of cancer, but, having asked Kateri to help, the results proved that I had nothing to fear. Several months later I was involved in a car accident through no fault of my own. Unfortunately the driver had no insurance and I was forced to seek legal Aid. Once again I asked Kateri to grant that I would receive a just and legal settlement due to the large amount involved and again she came to my aid.

Although I am a non-Catholic, I promise to spread her name as I have done in the past. I have been introduced to your Faith by a very close friend, G. F. . .

(Verdun, P.Q.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)

#### Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. E. W. M.!

It has been a long time since I last wrote to Kateri, but she has answered my prayers on three occasions since then:

About five or six years ago, I left my missal at the home of friend who had a young daughter named Kathi. She had never been baptized. In the missal was a holy picture of the Venerable Kateri. Kathi asked me who she was, and I told her about Kateri. Some time later I heard that Kathi had been baptized and had received Holy Communion at St. Francis Xavier's Church.

In 1971, my niece was struck by an auto and was not expected to live, as she had a fractured skull and pelvis. On visiting her in the hospital, I placed a touch relic of Kateri near her and prayed to Kateri. She has fully recovered and is now a second-year student at Georgetown University.

My brother died in June of 1972, and during his last illness I prayed to Kateri for him, but it was God's Will for him not to recover. A short time after his death, I dreamed that my brother was in heaven. I know that dreams are not reliable (so some hold), but Indians (and I am part Indian) do consider dreams important. So maybe Kateri in my dream was trying to tell me something about my brother.

So, for the above favors from Kateri, I am grateful. They show her power for doing good as she has done for years past. Enclosed is a small offering to Kateri's Cause in thanksgiving for the above favors.

Please remember my brother, W.T.M. Commend my intentions to Kateri, and I will still endevor to work and pray for her rapid beatification and canonization.

(Oxon Hill, Md.)

#### Kateri's smile upon von, Mrs. M. K. H.!

I am enclosing a check for five dollars for all the prayers and help we received all these years. My daughter T., who lost an eye from a detached retina, is doing well. She still has her eye, but the doctor said some day it might have to come out. So far, she is getting along well, through Kateri's help. Please continue to pray for her, and for us. Thank you again for everything. I say the Kateri prayers every day for her speedy Beatification. God Bless you all! (Wailuku, Mauii)

THE ORIGINAL
CAUGHNAWAGA INDIANS

Contrary to the announcement in the autumn issue of "Kateri", it was impossible to deliver *The Original Caughnawaga Indians* in November. How long the present Postal strike will last is anyone's guess. The delay is to your advantage. After consultation with specialists in the field of publication, I have decided in favor of a much larger type than I had previously chosen. It will make for easier reading and for a much more attractive presentation.

For those who did not fill in the form in the September issue of *Kateri*, the price is \$8.75.



Mary McCauley, veiled in white, impersonates Kateri as an adult; her sister Anne, Kateri as a young girl; Francis Xavier McC., smiling, Fr. de Lamberville; Peter McC., Fr. Pierron; and Tom More, in surplice and stole, Fr. Bruyas.

#### A Letter From Phoenix

September 12, 1975

Dear Father,

We hope that this note finds you well and happy. All the McC's are in the best of health and send their love. Enclosed is a photo, which we thought you'd enjoy — the cast, except Mommy Marlene and Daddy Allan, from our show, "Lily of the Mohawks," based on Father Weiser's book, Kateri.

We will perform this show for the Bicentennial at Missions locally and at Sam Juan Capistrano.

Imagine, St. John's Indian School has a statue of Kateri and no one knows about her; the priest in charge knew little! So much work has to be done here to spread her name.

We are praying that Fr. Weiser's books and novenas will arrive before Saturday, October 11, for the Legion of Mary Congress in Phoenix. We will be compiling a list of people to whom the beautiful Kateri magazine should be sent. After a patio sale, we will send you a donation for these people. Our home is under heavy construction as we have added a big recreation room, office, and bedroom. This year is the time for a purgation of unnecessary things, which have accumulated over nine years. So a patio sale is in order!

In the photo (with the exception of Marlene: "Meadow"; Allan: Puppeteer) appear

Peter: Father Pierron: Tom More: Father Bruyas; Francis Xavier: Father James de Lamberville; Anne: Kateri as a young girl; and Mary: Kateri as an older girl.

We combine puppets with drama.

The show ends with the baptismal scene, then an epilog featuring Kateri's mother, speaking in gratitude from heaven. We use total darkness with a black light. Peter comes forth to say, "In case you don't know. I'm not really Father Pierron. I'm Peter McCauley." He gives testimony as to how Kateri cured his ears. God bless you!

Marlene and Allan

1. See Sept. 1975 Kateri, No. 102, pp. 12 and 13.

#### SEND IN YOUR INTENTIONS NOW

| Spiritual   | Temporal   |
|---|--|
| Love of God ( ) Conversion ( ) Peace of Soul ( ) Resignation in Trials ( ) Vocations ( ) Faithful Departed ( ) Happy Death ( ) Obedience to the Holy Father ( ) | Position ( ) Health ( ) Lodging ( ) Financial Aid ( ) Happy Marriage ( ) Happy Delivery ( ) Good Friends ( ) Success in Studies ( ) Peace in World ( ) |
| Other F   | Requests   |

YOUR INTENTIONS WILL BE FORWARDED TO FATHER ANTHONY ROUSSOS, S.J., ON MARCH 1. HE WILL SOLEMNLY CELEBRATE NINE MASSES FOR YOU IN THE BEAUTIFUL BYZANTINE LITURGY AT IN THE HOLY LAND.

Kateri's smile upon you, Miss M. C.! Inclosed you will find five dollars I promised I would send to Kateri if we reached our destination. We were on our way to Cape Cod for a three-day vacation. We had some trouble with the car and we waited about one hour before someone stopped to help us. I prayed to Kateri for help in the meantime. A gentleman then came along and helped us to a garage. (Forge Village, Mass.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. M. B.! Enclosed is a check for ten dollars in thanksgiving to Kateri for helping me find a new and better position in teaching. To make a story short, I had been looking for a new teaching position in the Washington, D.C. area (I formerly had been teaching in Maine). With Kateri's help I was able to find a new position with an increase in salary and in the level I want...

Kateri's smile upon yo, Mrs. J. D.! I am sending this check for favors received. I prayed to Kateri for a successful operation. I'm getting better every day. I also prayed for my son-in-law to get work and he did. Please use two dollars for subscriptions for the Kateri Magazine. (Young, Sask.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M. G. M.! Enclosed, find an offering promised to Kateri if my son passed his driving examination. We were happy to find Kateri was really interested in us and in our happiness and well-being. The enclosed amount is to be used as you see fit. I enjoyed receiving the summer issue of Kateri that

arrived recently. The best part of it, for me, is reading the letters attesting to Kateri's smile on the writers. God must have loved this little Mohawk maiden very much, judging from the favors received through her intercession. I expect one of these days to wake up and find that Kateri has sold my home, which is what I am hoping for.

(Chillicothe, Mo.)

Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. A. K. N.! Enclosed is a check for ten dollars. I want my subscription to "Kateri", which I enjoy, renewed and the balance used to help Kateri's Cause. This is in thanksgiving for numerous favors, good check up report, safe trip, and continued family health. (Laval West, P.O.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)

## The Kateri Sympathy Cards!

5 GOOD REASONS for having a box on hand all the time.

On the occasion of the death of a relative or friend all you have to do is to sign a card and send it to the bereaved family. We confirm your sympathy offering with a personal letter, and enroll the departed one in the Kateri Guild, for whom,

- A Weekly High Mass is offered at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier:
- An Intention is included daily in the Memento of the Vice-Postulator's Mass;
- The Treasury of the many Masses read each month for the benefactors of the Society of Jesus is opened;
- A Share in the good works of the Jesuits throughout the world is assured;
- Participation in the merits gained in helping the Cause of the Mohawks is guaranteed.

Write to the Kateri Center, Box 70, Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada, for a free sample card.

One dozen cards boxed: one dollar. Each yearly enrollment in the Kateri Tekakwitha Guild: one dollar.

### The Visions of Bernard de Hoyos Henri Béchard

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"...All the faithful, moved by a new ardor, should render to this Divine Heart the honor which is its due..." Pope Paul VI.

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| (5) | STREET  CITY OR TOWN  PROVINCE OR STATE | ZIP CODE  |
| FRC | DM: NAME                                | SS OTHERWISE REQUESTED)                             |
| Ate |   | ceased relatives or friends on the Louis            |
|     | 3. If you do not send in the nan        | ne of a decreased relative or friend, "A inscribed. |