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COMPLIMENTS

of the

Kahnawake

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CLUB



# KATERI

NO. 144

THE TIOHATARION ROLL  
LITTLE BROTHER WANTS TO KNOW...

KATERIGRAM

HEART OF JESUS!

LETTER FROM BEYROUT

EACH NEW MOON

AN EAGLE FEATHER

THE BEATIFICATION  
Contd

LILY OF THE MOHAWKS  
A Book Review

CORRESPONDENCE

LILY OF  
THE MOHAWKS

Summer • 1985

Kahnawake, P.Q., Canada





# Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Kateriana obtainable from the  
Office of the Vice-Postulation  
(The Kateri Center)  
Box 70, Kahnawake, P.Q., Canada  
J0L 1B0

ISSN 0315-8020



## Medals

Aluminum: 10¢; Mat silver-plated: 50¢ Gilt-silvered: \$1.00; Gilded \$3.00

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3. One inch statuette in plastic case: 75¢

## Books

In English — *The Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha* by Henri Béchard, S.J., 20 pp., illustrated: \$1.00  
In English — *Kateri Tekakwitha*. With a Prefatory Note of John Cardinal Wright, by Francis X. Weiser, S.J., hardcover: \$8.00; paperback \$6.00  
In English — *Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha* by Bishop André-M. Cimichella, O.S.M., Revised Edition, 46 pp.: \$1.00  
In English — *I am Indian* by Gualbert Brunsman, O.S.B.: \$1.00  
In English — *The Original Caughnawaga Indians* by Henri Béchard, S.J., hardcover: \$14.00  
In French — *L'Héroïque Indienne Kateri Tekakwitha* by Henri Béchard, S.J.: \$10.00  
In French — *L'Astre dans la nuit, Kateri Tekakwitha*, by Rachel Jodoin: \$14.50  
In German — *Das Mädchen der Mohawks*, by F. Weiser, S.J.: \$10.00

## Special

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.: \$1.90 postpaid  
In English — *A Shining from the Mountains*, by Sr. Providentia, S.P.: \$7.00

## Kateri Seals

A sheet of 36 seals: \$1.00

## Sympathy Cards

You will find the Kateri Sympathy Cards in perfect taste, beautifully printed and very convenient to have at hand. Try them and see. To the bereaved family, the Vice-Postulator will be happy to send a note of sympathy.  
One box of twelve cards: \$2.50. Each yearly enrollment in the Kateri Guild: \$2.00

## Subscription to "Kateri"

Two dollars a year. Please renew your subscription yearly.



KATERI, No. 143 Vol. 37, No. 3

## 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 Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. It is hoped her Canonization will thereby be hastened.
2. It aims to increase the number of Kateri's friends and to procure from them at least one daily Hail Mary for her Canonization.
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 native peoples of America, with special reference to the people of Kahnawake and their friends.

## BENEFITS

Your contribution (\$2.00 a year, or more, if possible) enrolls you among "Kateri's Friends" for whom:

1. A weekly Mass is offered;
2. A weekly Mass for deceased friends is offered;
3. The Vice-Postulator prays at his daily Mass;
4. The spiritual treasure of the good works of the Society of Jesus is opened;
5. Extra graces are merited by working for Kateri's canonization.

## JUNE 1985

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WHEN ORDERING, PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.



## THE TIOHATARION ROLL

Tiohatarion is listed as "the chief of the Indians of the Sault" (Mission St. Francis Xavier) in 1694. He undoubtedly lived there in Blessed Kateri's time.

1. Mrs. Celina St. Pierre
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3. Mrs. Dalbé Cousineau
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64. A Soul in Purgatory
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66. A Soul in Purgatory
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182. Mr. Lauréat Gagné
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197. Mrs. Laurence Mireault
198. Mrs. Carmen Bédard
199. Mr. Yves-Aimé Michaud
200. Mrs. Mary Abbott Curtin

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YOUR PROMISE OF A DAILY  
OUR FATHER AND HAIL MARY?



## Little Brother wants to know...



PHOTO RON BOYER

...if you won't help us get at least 50,000 promises of a daily Our Father and Hail Mary!

We need them to obtain from the loving Heart of Jesus the speedy canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

Already 16,203 have come in.

Please send yours to:  
The Kateri Center  
Box 70  
Kahnawake, P.Q.  
Canada J0L 1B0

MY PLEDGE TO KATERI Date.....

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

Name .....  
Street or Box .....  
City or Town .....  
Province or State ..... Code .....  
Country ..... Telephone .....

## 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,

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

Write to the Kateri Center, Box 70, Kahnawake, P.Q., Canada J0L 1B0 for a free sample card.

One dozen cards  
boxed: \$2.50.

Each yearly enrollment in the Kateri Tekakwitha Gcide: two dollars.

## SEND IN YOUR INTENTIONS NOW

### Spiritual

- ☐ Love of God
- ☐ Conversions
- ☐ Peace of Soul
- ☐ Resignation in Trials
- ☐ Vocations
- ☐ Faithful Departed
- ☐ Happy Death
- ☐ Obedience to the Holy Father

### Temoral

- ☐ Positions
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Lodgings
- ☐ Financial Aid
- ☐ Happy Marriages
- ☐ Happy Deliveries
- ☐ Good Friends
- ☐ Success in Studies
- ☐ Peace in World

Other Requests .....

YOUR INTENTIONS SHALL BE FORWARDED TO FATHER ANTHONY ROUSSOS, S.J., ON SEPTEMBER 1. AT BEYROUTH, LEBANON, HE WILL CELEBRATE NINE MASSES FOR YOU IN THE AGONY OF CONTINUED WAR. (NO OFFERING REQUIRED.)



## KATERIGRAM

THE FEAST of the Guardian Angels falls on October 2. However with the beginning of the summer holidays abounding in perils of all sorts, it seemed to me that, for June, it would be right to bring up these heavenly spirits.

First of all, one must remember that the Lord "put you in his angels' charge to guard you wherever you go" (Ps. 91,11). In other words, as soon as a human being exists, an angel guardian takes place beside him and remains there with him, until he passes away, without ever allowing himself even a weekend off. All this, ever since pithecanthropus evolved into Adam if, indeed this change did occur.

Consequently, it was true in the 17th century, in Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha's time. Once she became a Christian, according to Father Peter Cholenec, her spiritual director, she was aware of her angel's existence and made the most of it. For instance, in 1678, she accompanied her people on the long winter hunt. After morning prayer, while the men were eating and preparing to spend the day in quest of big or small game, "Kateri retired to solitude to pray again, approximately at the time that the Indians heard Mass at the Mission. For this purpose she had erected a small shrine on the bank of a stream. It consisted of a cross she had carved on the trunk of a tree. There she joined in spirit the people of the village, uniting her intentions to those of the priest, and prayed to her Guardian Angel to be present there in her place and to bring her the fruits of the Holy Sacrifice."

Our guardian angels are as obliging today as they were then. Ask the three stigmatics, St. Gemma Galgani, Padre Pio, and Theresa Neumann as well as Francis, Jacintha, and Lucy of Fatima, all of our century. Ask the popes who have reigned since 1900 and take stock of the wish expressed by John XXIII, the Pope of the **Aggiornamento**, the Pope of the Renewal, to see devotion to the Angel Guardians grow and prosper.

The following verses taken from **Exodus** (23: 20-21), are applicable to all: "I myself will send an angel before you to guard you as you go and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Give him reverence and listen to all that he says..."

As Vice-Postulator, I wish you, "Bon voyage,"

HENRI BÉCHARD, S.J.  
Vice Postulator

## LETTER FROM BEYROUTH

Beyrouth, December 11, 1984

Dear Father Henri,

Your letter of November 30, which arrived this morning, crossed the ocean and continent in record time. It reassured me about the delivery of my previous letters.

Thank you for your wishes, your fraternal recollections and your offerings. Just now the heavy artillery is active in the neighboring quarters of the town. Last night, random bombardments of East Beyrouth, where we live, did not cease until nearly four o'clock in the morning.<sup>1</sup> A worthwhile sleep was just about impossible! Last evening about eight o'clock, before I left the hospital, a man of twenty-five years was brought in with a ball in the left side of his chest. Fortunately for him, his heart was on the right side. This anatomical anomaly saved him. The hospital has 280 beds (not counting pallets and folding beds for those who keep vigil with their relatives at night) and a personnel of a hundred caring for them. There is an average of fifteen to twenty entries a day and my ministry is not easy. There are very sad cases. There are many displaced persons living in makeshift lodgings in subhuman promiscuity.

For the time being, I stay at St. Gregory's, an Armenian school and residence. We are three Fathers: an Armenian, a Frenchman and a Greek. But we are attached to the St. Joseph Residence which is located about a twenty minute walk towards the west; it is nearer the danger zone than St. Gregory's.

From now on the Mass novenas for the intentions of Kateri's friends will be celebrated at the hospital in the Latin rite. It will be chanted by the Sisters and the patients who participate.

On arriving at Beyrouth on October 26, via Cyprus, I had the disagreeable surprise of discovering that all my personal effects (three suitcases and a portable altar) which I had entrusted to a religious who was travelling by car, had been lost. No news about them since. So here I am deprived of my possessions without the merit of detachment.

Let me close saying, "Happy Christmas!" with my best wishes for the coming year. Fraternally in the Child Jesus,

Fr. Antoine (Roussos), S.J.

<sup>1</sup>. Three dead and 15 wounded.





PHOTO W.B. EDWARDS, INC., QUEBEC

Pinxit Paul-Gaston Masselotte  
A.D. 1882

Jesuit Chapel at Notre Dame Residence  
14 Dauphine St., Québec City

"In the month of June, consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, it is natural and a pleasure for me to exhort you to recall to your minds your hope and your prayer to that Heart "which has loved men so much" and which continues to love us with his two-fold love, human and divine, especially those who are more troubled, tearful and suffering."

Pope John Paul II  
General Audience  
to sick pilgrims,  
June 13, 1979



## EACH NEW MOON



### KATERI'S SMILE...

Favors registered at the Kateri Center from February 25 to April 30, 1985:

Articles Found	4
Better Health	3
Cures	28
Employment Found or Kept	23
Financial Aid	1
Lodgings	3
Peace in Family	4
Properties Bought or Sold	6
Safe Pregnancies	2
Safe Trips	6
Successful Studies	2
Successful or Averted Operations	12
Temporal Favors	18

### TWENTY-FIVE PRAYER PLEDGES OR MORE

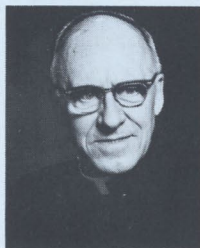
Mr. Larry Pelland, Indian Orchard, (MA), 145; Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Lafleur, Chicopee, (MA), 81; Sr. Nellie Brown, Methuen, (MA), 150; Mrs. Marie Chiasson, Dalhousie, (N.B.), 30; Mrs. Marlene McCauley, Phoenix, (AZ), 228; Sr. Marcella O'Donnell, Buffalo, (NY), 220; Sr. Marguerite-Marie Lemaire, Nicolet, (P.Q.), 50.

### SHE DID IT! SHE DID IT! SHE DID IT!



Sr. Marcella O'Donnell, SSMN, of Buffalo, N.Y. reached her goal of 1000 signed prayer pledges of one Our Father and one Hail Mary daily for Blessed Kateri's canonization. She wrote: "The drive is over! I've reached the goal with 1,058 signatures. It feels good to go over the top! I hope this makes your Easter happier than ever. I collected signatures before the drive and I will continue to do so now that it is over . . . I needed 162 signatures at my last writing. I'm sending now 220! Result: 1058." (Oh! for scores upon scores of Srs. Marcellas!)

### FR. PAUL-EMILE BEAUDOIN, S.J. R.I.P.



Fr. Paul-Emile Beaudoin S.J. entered the Jesuit Novitiate at Sault-au-Récollet, P.Q., in 1927 and was ordained a priest in 1940. He taught chemistry and physics at St. Boniface College, then mathematics and natural sciences at St. Ignatius College in Montreal. From

1946-47, he was commissioned to do research and work at statistics for the Provincial Ministry of Education. From 1951-1970 he worked at Addis Abeba in Ethiopia for twelve years as Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the Haile Selassie University, then as Assistant Director of the normal school at Arrar, and later on did research in education at this institution. Between times, he was Prefect of Studies and Secretary General of the University of Sudbury, Ont. From 1970 he worked at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier of Kahnawake, P.Q. and soon won the affection of the Iroquois. He was laid out at the new parish hall which he himself had built. Fr. Léon Lajoie, S.J., Superior at the Mission, paid a well merited tribute to him during the funeral Mass. More than one thousand parishioners attended the Mass offered for the repose of his soul. Even if at times they found his homelies somewhat lengthy, they were fond of him. Following their lead, let us ask him to say, a good word to Blessed Kateri for us.

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, JOE!



At the beginning of the year, Mr. Joseph O'Brien's family from the suburbs of Cleveland, addressed to more than 175 of his friends invitations to a Surprise 75th Birthday Reception at Lyndhurst, Ohio on

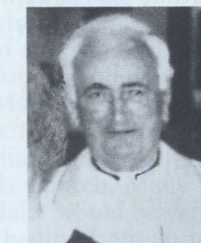
January 25. Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien are signal benefactors of the Cause for Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha's canonization.

The invitation carried the following note: "A gift is neither expected nor requested. A donation for the cause of the sanctification of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (Joe O'Brien's favorite Indian girl) would be appreciated. Please make checks and mail to: Reverend Henri Béchar, S.J., Kateri Center, Box 70, Caughnawaga, Quebec, Canada, J0L 1B0."

To Joe, many, many happy returns of the day!

To these great friends of the Lily of the Mohawks, our prayers and very best wishes!

### FR. ANTHONY ROUSSOS, S.J.

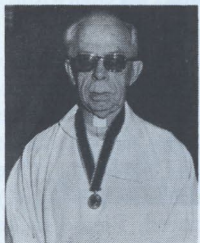


Since last September Fr. Roussos, who every season offered a novena of Masses in the Oriental Rite for the sake of all the members of

the Kateri Tekakwitha Association in no longer stationed at Bethlehem in the Holy Land. His Provincial transferred him from Our Lord's native village to a hospital in Beirut, where he serves as a chaplain. He will henceforth offer the Mass novenas for those who recommend their intentions to him, in the Latin Rite. See his last letter on p. 9.



## THANK YOU TO KATERI



Fr. Gregory E.  
Desfossés

"... I always remained faithful to Blessed Kateri as my Mission work among the Crees and Ojibways, members of two of my parishes, kept reminding me of the Little

Flower of the Mohawks. Moreover, I sincerely believe that both Kateri and her Indian friends were instrumental in my being conferred a prestigious Decoration by the Ontario Bicentennial Medal Award along with a scroll acknowledging work toward the Church and Northern People.

"As a result I feel indebted to Kateri and her friends along with my parishioners for this Decoration—the first and only time it has been awarded a priest in Ontario!"

(Kapusking, Ont.)

## BLESSED KATERI'S ANNIVERSARY

Towards the end of the Beatification ceremonies in 1980, His Holiness John Paul II announced

that Blessed Kateri's feast-day would henceforth be on April 17, the anniversary of her saintly death. In the United States, the American Bishops later requested that it be transferred to July 22. Not so in Canada. This year at Kahnawake, it was celebrated on April 14, the Sunday nearest to April 17. Bishop Bernard Hubert of Saint-Jean-Longueuil officiated at the anniversary Mass, which was followed by an appetizing brunch at the local Knights of Columbus Hall. On April 21, at Akwesasne, perhaps better known as St. Regis, Bishop Robert Lebel of Valleyfield, P.Q., offered the Holy Sacrifice in honor of the Lily of the Mohawks. A substantial dinner, prepared by a group of volunteers was then served at the parish hall in Hogansburg, N.Y., to all who attended the Eucharistic Celebration.

Blessed Kateri was also remembered in churches and schools throughout the country, for instance, at the Marie Clarac School in Montreal, and at the Huron Mission near Quebec. Archbishop Louis Albert Vachon of Quebec, who has since been awarded the red hat, was the main celebrant at the Eucharistic Celebration on April 14. More about this beautiful liturgy in the next issue of Kateri.

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

I am enclosing five dollars for Kateri's Cause in thanksgiving for my son's finding a job. I pray for him that it will be steady work.

(Penetanguishene, Ont.)

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

## ✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Fr. B.B.!

I had been working in Guyana as a priest for more than thirty years. In July 1980 a cerebral blood sickness (cerebral arteritis) flared up and blinded me in one eye. The eye specialist said it was necessary to go to London to have a brain operation. The kindest of kindness from my fellow Jesuits and 'our man in England' got me to a London brain specialist just a few hours before the other eye would have gone too. The treatment has been long. Two severe illnesses hit me on top of the basic one. Return to Guyana was declared to be impossible. To Kateri, invoking her as a child who loved Our Lady, I felt the problem. Eight of my 33 Guyana years had been among her own blood relatives, the South American Indians. At my last check-up, the specialist gave me a clean bill of health. The blood sickness had burnt itself out. The Provincial has given me leave to return to Guyana. To-day I received a letter from the Jesuit Superior in Guyana saying I may now fly back as soon as it can be arranged. Thank you, Kateri, Child of Our Lady!

(London, England)

## ✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Fr. S.F.P.!

It was a privilege and God given pleasure of mine to read in the April 1985 issue of the **Sacred Heart Messenger** published in Ireland, a short article on "Kateri, the Lily of the Mohawks" whose canonisation is pursued prayerfully at the Vatican. I am glad to hear that she has been beatified on June 22, 1980 by Pope John Paul II. I am praying together with you all for her canonization for sainthood soon and have decided to offer special prayers during my Holy Mass for this intention besides promising to offer an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father for the same intention. This is the first time I heard about the saintly life of an American Indian girl who dedicated herself for the service of Our Lord and His Church. Many Indian Catholics, priests like myself and also the laity would be very much delighted to read her life and pray for her canonisation and request her special favors in their needs. Hence kindly send me a copy of the book on her life if you have any and also send a copy of your quarterly bulletin **Kateri** to me regularly. I am interested to build up her devotion in our part of India. I am a Catholic priest now prematurely retired from active parish work due to my ill health. At present I am actively involved in building up holiness of life among youngsters through charismatic activities. Kindly respond. I am praying for you.

(Karnataka, India)

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





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"Feather in hand, Pope John Paul II listened attentively . . ."

## AN EAGLE FEATHER

IN THE KATERI ISSUE OF LAST MARCH, the visit of Pope John Paul II to the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ont., was highlighted. In this spot where St. John de Brébeuf and four of his companions shed their blood for the Faith, the Holy Father, as I wrote, mentioned Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha four times.

"Through his Gospel," he added, "Christ confirms the native peoples in their belief in God, their awareness of His presence, their ability to discover Him in creation, their dependence on Him, the desire to worship Him, their sense of gratitude for the land, their responsible stewardship of the earth, their reverence for all His great works, their respect of their elders. The world needs to see these values—and so many more that they possess—pursued in the life of the community made incarnate in old people."

This homage of the Holy Father to the Amerindians served as an introduction to the native rites, which were presented to him



To Peter's successor, Chief Benedict offered the feather . . .



in three parts. First of all, the purification ceremony carefully prepared by Mary Lou Fox and Ernestine Buswa, both from the Ojibwa Cultural Foundation at Manitoulin Island. To the sound of the drums, punctuated by songs and gestic dances, sweet grass was lighted. As it burned, with the smoke heads, eyelids, hands and arms, hearts, burned, with the smoke heads, eyelids, hands and arms, hearts, necks and feet were rubbed to get rid of sentiments, thoughts and actions capable of estranging human beings from the Great Manitou.

Then followed the presentation to His Holiness of an eagle feather beautifully beaded by Ruth Shawanda of Manitoulin Island. It was the greatest honor the elders of the nation could offer to anyone. The drumming and singing furnished by Michael Mitchell and his St. Regis group ceased. Chief Ernest Benedict, also from St. Regis, ascended solemnly to the Pontiff. To Peter's successor, Chief Benedict offered the feather and addressed him in a sonorous, well pitched voice:

"We, who are sheltered by the Great Tree of Peace, have placed at the top of the tree, the eagle who can see far, even into the coming days. His courage is the greatest among living creatures and he travels high above us all. It is therefore fitting that we award you a feather from the wings that have brushed against the heavens, as a symbol of your courage and spiritual achievement.

"Even as you fearlessly proclaim the heavenly messages we consider that the Master shed His blood for the Word. You also have shed your blood. This has been recorded on the feather. We will continue to wait for your words for you have proved the strength of your devotion to truth.

**Ne to niio wennake.:** These are my words."

Feather in hand, Pope John Paul II listened attentively during this short address as well as during the prayer that his interlocutor then offered:

"Master of life who dwells in the sky:  
As it has been in the beginning,  
We seek out the truth,  
We seek out the strength.  
We have seen the eagle.  
We have used the feather as a token.  
This will carry our thoughts  
To Him who bears the scars of truth.  
We surround him with love.  
We place all this in the eagle feather.  
Hear our words. Amen."

The imposing native participation in the ceremony ended with the gift to seven Ojibwa deacons of beaded stoles ornamented with symbolic designs of varied hues proper to several native peoples. The Holy Father himself was wearing one which had been prepared by Ojibwa, Cree, and Iroquois seamstresses. Hundreds of little ones and elders had asked to pass their hands over them as they prayed for the Pontiff's intentions. The recipients of these other stoles were Duncan Desmoulin, Dominic Eshkakogan, Joseph Fox, Peter Johnston, Angus Neganagijig, Murray, and Richard Sayers. Since the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha, the last one of these had devoted himself to the ministry of music under the auspices of the Beata; he had formed a combo which travels from village to village singing the glory of God, of Our Lady, and of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. Like many others, he will never forget the papal visit to Huronia on September 15, 1985.



✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. P.D.T.!**

Enclosed is a check for fifty dollars made in thanksgiving to Blessed Kateri. This offering is from my son who now has a job and is his happy self again; and for a daughter to be really cured after a relapse . . . She is also now well and working again, thank God.

(Toronto, Ont.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. L.Q.!**

This is a small donation, I promised Kateri, for a safe trip home from the south. I would like to have my son remembered in your prayers, he is having family problems.

(Lebanon, NH)

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



# THE BEATIFICATION

(Contd)

(Editor's Note—Much of the material in this conclusion has already appeared in **Kateri**. Carefully revised, it is offered once again to our readers with the hope it shall be of interest to all).

OUR ALITALIA PLANE left the Mirabel airport at one o'clock in the morning and landed at the International Leonard de Vinci airport at Fiumicino in the outskirts of Rome. The weather was mild and sunny, though it grew much warmer as the day wore on. Most of the Canadian Indians put up at the beautiful Midas Hotel on the Via Aurelia. Chief Max Gros Louis and his Hurons were the guests of the not too distant Princesse Hotel. Frs. McBride and Schultz with the majority of American pilgrims stayed at the Nord Nova Roma Hotel close by the Basilica of St. Mary Major. The ardent apostle of the Sacred Heart from Buffalo, N.Y., Fr. Walter Kern, suggested to his fellow priests that they offer the Mass of the Sacred Heart at the historic temple. They agreed and the Dominican Friars in charge received them quite hospitably. A little earlier the Canadian group had done as much. Archbishop Jean Marie Fortier, of Sherbrooke, P.Q. presided in French at the Concelebration offered at the Basilica of St. Paul-without-the-Walls.

For the remaining hours of the morning and a good part of the afternoon, many of the pilgrims rested up from the flight while the harder ones visited the marvelous world about them. As Vice-Postulator for Kateri, Fr. Béchard stopped at the Curia of the Society of Jesus, next to St. Peter's and the Vatican.

At noon, in the refectory where the Holy Father had dined some time before, Fr. Edward Sheridan, Regional Assistant for the British Jesuits, and who had attended, on April 20, at Caughnawaga, the tercentennial Mass for the Venerable Kateri, introduced him to Fr. Pedro Arrupe, General of the Society of Jesus. Before lunch he had already met Fr. Paolo Molinari, Postulator General for the Jesuit Causes of Beatification and Canonization, and his Dutch assistant, Fr. Kurt Peter Gumpel. And of course, the Canadian confrères stationed at the Curia: Fr. Louis Laurendeau, Secretary General of the Society, Fr. Marcel Gareau, Regional Secretary for Africa, and Bro. Joseph Auger, the Secretary General's Assistant. Fr. Béchard also had the satisfaction of discovering two good

friends from St. Regis, Quebec: Frs. Thomas F. Egan and Robert L. Fleig, who were welcomed at Borgo S. Spirito, 5 at the same time as he.

After the lengthy Roman siesta, the Honorable Robert Wagner, former mayor of New York and personal representative of President Carter to the Holy See, held a reception for the Native Americans and their friends at the Grand Hotel on the Piazza Esedra. In this choice setting, assembled for the first time the pilgrims from Albany, New York, and Philadelphia. Cardinals Terence Cooke, John Krol, and William Baum, formerly from Washington, but at the time a member of the Secretariat for Non-Believers with at least a dozen bishops were the guests of honor. Msgr. Lenz had done his best to ensure the presence in Rome of as many Native Americans as possible, among them seven priests and at least as many nuns. To Their Eminences and to Their Excellencies, he presented the well known film star of **Keep America Beautiful** fame, Iron Eyes Cody, whom most of them were already acquainted with. Meanwhile, Mrs. Anne Scheuerman and Mr. Thomas Constantino, members of the International Kateri Tekakwitha Committee and expert photographers, manipulated their cameras as they went from one cluster of Katerians to the other.

After a lavish buffet, the Honorable Wagner welcomed his guests and invited Cardinals Cooke and Krol to address them. They were followed by Msgr. Lenz, Fr. Joseph McBride, Kateri's Vice-Postulator in the United States, Thomas F. Egan, Director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs at Auriesville, N.Y., and Ronald Schultz, O.F.M. Conv., Director of the Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine at Fonda, N.Y.<sup>1</sup>

## Saturday, June 21

By midmorning, the news had spread that the Holy Father was granting a private audience to President Carter as he passed through Rome on his way to Venice. For an hour and three minutes the Pope and the President discussed the great problems of our

1. After the Beatification on June 22 and the Eucharistic Celebration in the afternoon at the Church of the Jesuit Martyrs attended by Prime Minister Trudeau and Canadians galore, in the early evening, the Ambassador and Madame Beaulne welcomed the roster of invited guests to dinner at their beautiful residence. Cardinal Maurice Roy, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, Emmet Cardinal Carter of Toronto, and George Cardinal Flahiff of Winnipeg graced the three tables exquisitely set for the occasion. With his back to a picture window framing flower beds and greensward extending to imposing ruins of ancient Rome, Ambassador Beaulne faced the Canadian Primate. To the latter's right was seated the Hon. Gilles Lamontagne, Canadian Minister of Defense, a nativeborn Quebecer. At the same table had taken place Fr. Paolo Molinari, S.J., Postulator General for the Cause of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, with Chiefs Andrew Delisle and Max Gros-Louis. Had Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew Nerlongayok, Eskimos from Pelly Bay in the Northwestern Territories, been present, they would have admired a collection of felicitous carvings by their own people on the walls of the dining room. Like the other guests, they would certainly have appreciated the warm hospitality of their distinguished hosts.



days before proceeding to the Clementine Hall where a crowd of American citizens were awaiting them.

Mr. Thomas Constantino, who accompanied Fr. Thomas Egan, had two paintings of Kateri, the work of John Steele, which he had reserved for His Holiness and for President Carter. Fr. Egan brought him ample documentation on the Martyrs' Shrine, on the Martyrs themselves, and on Kateri. By closely following Iron Eyes Cody, known to the President, they managed to slip near him and the Pope and to deliver their gifts to them. Skenaiah Monroe-Hassenplug and Mary-Eunice then presented the Holy Father with neck pieces beaded *à l'iroquoise* in the names of the Auriesville and Fonda Shrines.

His Holiness and the President were welcomed by Cardinals Terence Cooke of New York, John Krol of Philadelphia, and William Baum, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, by quite a few bishops, priests and seminarians from the American College in Rome, and of particular interest to us, by the delegation of American Indians.

While addressing His Holiness, President Carter mispronounced the name of Kateri Tekakwitha. "The Holy Father and I," he quipped, "have been practising all night how to pronounce this name!" He then added that Kateri's Beatification was a source of joy for all Americans of every persuasion as well as for Catholics and Indians.

The Amerindians thus got a close view of the Sovereign Pontiff. Their Canadian cousins anxiously asked themselves if, before returning home, they would have the same privilege. Their anxiety disappeared when they were told that pressure was being brought in their behalf upon the powers that be.

Most of them passed the time of day visiting ancient Rome. During the afternoon, a short trip to Tivoli, to Subiaco or to Monte Cassino, founded by St. Benedict towards 529, was proposed to the pilgrims. For half past five o'clock in the afternoon, the Provincial Quebec Government had invited them to a symposium on the new Blesseds at the Gregorian University. His Eminence Cardinal Roy, Archbishop Jean-Marie Fortier, Bishops Gerard-Marie Coderre, Bernard Hubert, Marie-Andre Cimichella, Jules Le Guerrier, and other prelates, official representatives of Canada and the Province of Quebec, many members of the clergy and of the laity, and also Indians in tribal regalia packed the Aula Magna adjoining the front entrance. Though English-speaking, the Mohawks decided to attend in full force in order to honor their sister Kateri. As His Eminence had to go before the end—it was banded about that he had an appointment with the Holy Father—the members of the Iroquois choir, along with Fr. Albert Burns, S.J., their former pastor and good

friend, were invited to commence the meeting instead of concluding it according to the program. They sang in Iroquois Mozart's *Ave Verum* and the *Jesu dulcis memoria*.

Dom Guy Oury from the Benedictine Abbey of Solesmes, an expert on the life of Mother Mary of the Incarnation, related the story of her life. Then came Fr. Henri Béchard, S.J., Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Kateri, wearing a beautiful leather jacket of Indian make, a gift of Chief and Mrs. Andrew Delisle of Caughnawaga. Father evoked that great "saint" of New France, Kateri Tekakwitha, known as the "protectress of Canada" since the late 1680's. To Fr. Lucien Campeau, S.J., a well-known historian, was reserved the honor of summarizing the lifework of His Lordship Francis de Laval, first bishop of Quebec, whose jurisdiction extended to most of North America. By way of conclusion, Mrs. Mae Montour of Caughnawaga, in a short extempore speech in Iroquois drew tears from the eyes of her people, tears of joy, to be sure, the joy of soon having at long last a Blessed of their own!

Invitations to dinner that evening at the **Eau-Vive** (Living Waters) restaurant had been sent out by the Province of Quebec in honor of tomorrow's Beati, Bishop de Laval, Mother Mary of the Incarnation, and Kateri Tekakwitha. Messrs. Andrew Delisle, Chief of the Caughnawaga Iroquois and Grand Chief of the Indians of Québec, and Max Gros-Louis, Chief of the Hurons from Lorette, were among the guests. On arriving before the doors opened at half past seven, they were treated to the sight of a bevy of pretty Vietnamese, African, Indian (from India), and French girls, elegantly dressed in their national costumes, on their way from Mass as they entered the **Living Waters**. These girls are known as the **Travailleuses Missionnaires**, the Working Missionaries, who run first-class French restaurants in many large cities of the world, the profits of which go to the poor. Each table was adorned with white lilies in honor of Kateri. Carefully prepared, the eight-page menu carried on the flyleaf an exquisite cover-girl: Kateri beside the spring of living waters. A miniature lily stood out in relief at the feet of the next day's Beata. At eleven o'clock, the music and words of two hymns to Our Lady of Lourdes were handed out to the guests. In all the Eau-Vive restaurants, it is the custom, every night, to sing the praises of the Blessed Virgin. Everybody joined in. Then after a moment of silence, conversations continued in a low voice. An hour later, all returned to their hotels, happy at the thought that in the following twenty-four hours, the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha would be raised to the honors of the altar.



Sunday, June 2

Early in the morning, sunshine and a few clouds filled the Roman sky. The Pontifical Mass was scheduled for half past nine. Tickets in hand, Kateri's friends had to be at St. Peter's at least an hour before hand. From all quarters the faithful flocked to the Mother Church of Christendom: Romans, naturally, but also men, women, and children of many races and nationalities. Most noticeable were the Brazilians devoted to Fr. José de Anchieta, the Guatemalans, to Peter de San José de Betancur, the Canadians, to Francis de Laval, Mary of the Incarnation, and Kateri Tekakwitha. A good number of American friends, too, as the Iroquois maiden was born in that region of New France that is today part of New York State.

On entering, the Swiss Guards checked the tickets, before allowing the ushers in tails to lead each one to his place. Fr. Paul Hamel, S.J., our expert photographer, had to show his credentials to get in. In all there were about twenty Indian chiefs from Canada and the United States. The Indians, in striking tribal regalia, especially those of Kateri's Mission, with their white friends, had places close to the ancient bronze statue of St. Peter.

Before the altar with its immense canopy and wreathed columns by Bernini, the conspicuous red and violet zucchetti or skullcaps of thirty cardinals and some sixty archbishops and bishops attracted attention. Among the Canadians, most prominent were Their Eminences Cardinals Maurice Roy, Gerald Emmett Carter, and George Flahiff, the Most Reverend Bishops Joseph N. MacNeil and Henri Légaré, President and Vice-President of the CCCB., Bernard Hubert of Saint-Jean-de-Quebec, Jean-Marie Coderre, his predecessor and fervent apostle of Kateri for more than a quarter of a century, as well as about twenty other prelates. Among the Americans, easily recognizable were Their Eminences Cardinals Terence Cooke, John J. Krol, and William Baum, with The Most Reverend Bishops Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop of Albany, N.Y., and Stanislaus J. Brzana of Ogdensburg, NY., in whose diocese is to be found the American section of the Mission of St. Francis Regis.

Close to the front of the altar, to each side, the members of the diplomatic corps in full dress took their places. Prominent among them were His Excellency the Ambassador of Canada to the Holy See, Mr. Yvon Beaulne, accompanied by his wife, and the Minister of Defense, the Hon. Gilles Lamontagne as well as two Ministers of the Quebec Government, Messrs. Camil Laurin, and Denis Vaugeois. To honor Bishop de Laval and Mother Mary of the Incarnation, France elected to send its Minister of Health, the Hon. Jacques Barrot, while the United States or rather President Carter

(there was at the time no American ambassador to the Holy See) chose Mr. Robert Wagner to stand for him.

Formerly beatification ceremonies were quite simple. For the Canadian or North American Martyrs, in 1925, Fr. James Fajella, S.J., Postulator General for their cause, invited the Cardinal Vicar of St. Peter's, Rafael Merry del Val, to read the decree of beatification. His Eminence did so and the crowd applauded. The painting of the Holy Martyrs, the work of Mother Nealis, R.S.C., was then unveiled, and the relics of the new Blesseds exposed as the Te Deum was chanted. Only later in the afternoon did the silver trumpets herald the coming of His Holiness Pius XI as he entered the basilica. Fr. Wlodimir Ledochowski, General of the Society of Jesus, thereupon offered a magnificent reliquary to the Pope, containing relics of Sts. John de Brébeuf, Gabriel Lalemant and Charles Garnier.

Far more solemn was the Beatification of the five Venerables, Joseph d'Anchieta, S.J. (1534-1597), Peter de St. Joseph Betancur, (1619-1667), Mary of the Incarnation, O.S.U. (1599-1672), Francis de Laval, (1623-1708), and Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680). At the hour mentioned above, the Holy Father accompanied by his suite, among which figured Fr. Pedro Arrupe, General of the Society of Jesus, entered into the huge edifice. As the pontifical procession proceeded to the altar, the thousands of faithful in the huge nave burst into loud applause.

An elegant 94-page missalette, prepared for the ceremony and distributed at each place, allowed the participants to follow closely this great moment of historic and religious truth. The Mass was chanted in Latin according to the recommendation of Vatican II. Immediately after the Kyrie, sung by the choir and the faithful, came the rite of beatification.

Under the great dome, erect upon his throne and wearing his white miter, John Paul II listened to the petitions of Cardinal Avelari Brandao for Fr. d'Anchieta, of Cardinal Marius Casariego for Peter de St. Joseph Betancur, and of Cardinal Maurice Roy for Bishop Francis de Laval and Mary of the Incarnation. For Kateri Tekakwitha, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, in whose territory was born Kateri Tekakwitha, read the petition.<sup>1</sup>

1. In the missalette, as to be found biographies of the five Venerables to be elevated to the rank of Blesseds, Kateri's, written in English, mentions the Amerindians and the Eskimos of Canada and of the United States. In the formula used in the beatification ceremonies, it stated that, at the request of the Most Reverend Paul Grégoire, Archbishop of Montreal, and of the Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop of Albany, and of many other bishops, Kateri Tekakwitha's beatification was taking place.

As a result of these statements, many questions arise, questions that the Indians themselves would ask. Why was it that Archbishop Grégoire of Montreal was named rather than Bishop Bernard Hubert of Saint-Jean-de-Québec in whose diocese Kateri achieved sainthood? The answer is simple, The Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha's beatification was launched in Montreal or Albany, "*Marianopolitana seu Albanen in America*." The diocese of Saint-Jean-



The Holy Father thereupon uttered aloud the formula of beatification and assigned a feast day to each of the new Blessed: June 9 to Blessed Joseph d'Anchieta, April 25 to Blessed Peter de St. Joseph Betancur, April 13 to Blessed Mary of the Incarnation, May 6 to Blessed Francis de Laval, and April 17 to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

The Pope then intoned the Gloria, taken up by the faithful with an enthusiasm easy to imagine. The first liturgical prayer offered to the Lord in the name of the new Beati followed: "Almighty and eternal God, who through the glorification of Blessed Joseph, Peter, Mary, Francis and Catherine lavished on us ever new proofs of your love, grant us the favor of faithfully imitating your Son, of putting our trust in their intercession, and of being stimulated by their example. Through Jesus Christ your Son, Our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever, Amen."

After the two readings and the Gospel, remaining seated, Pope John Paul II eulogized the five new Beati. As most of the Indians were English-speaking, he spoke to them in that language. "This marvelous crown of Blessed," he concluded, "whom God in his goodness, offers to His Church, is enhanced by the sweet, frail, and yet strong figure of a young woman who died in her twenty-fourth year: Kateri Tekakwitha, 'the Lily of the Mohawks...'"

The Prayers of the Faithful were read in Portuguese, Spanish, French, English, and Iroquois. Mrs. Esther Kane Phillips, a member of Kateri's own Mission at Caughnawaga, P.Q., prayed in her tongue: "For peace in the world: so that the thought of the message of Christ may be a leaven of love in the hearts of all men and inspire them to build together a life that shall be more just and more human, wherein shall be recognized the rights of the oppressed and the ethnic minorities respected and loved." Mrs. Phillips is the first woman to take part with a Pope in a liturgical ceremony at the Vatican.

de-Québec has then part of the diocese of Montreal. The name of the diocese in which a Cause is instituted is retained until the canonization.

Why was Bishop Hubbard designated instead of Bishop Hubert to read the petition concerning Kateri's beatification to His Holiness? A cause of this sort generally belongs to the Ordinary of the diocese where the Saint dies. But during Archbishop Bruchesi's illness, Archbishop Gauthier, Administrator for the diocese of Montreal, turned the Cause over to the Most Reverend Gibbons, then Bishop of Albany, in whose territory Kateri was born. It was this quite normal for Bishop Howard Hubbard to petition the Holy Father to beatify Kateri.

And now, one more question, somewhat more complicated than the others. Why was it that no Canadian Bishop was invited to concelebrate with the Holy Father in honor of Blessed Tekakwitha? This question seems all the more pertinent if one takes into consideration the opinion of Fr. Hippolyte Delahaye, S.J., Bollandist, concerning the whereabouts of a saint's death (*Cinq leçons sur la méthode hagiographique*, Brussels, 1934, p. 13).

Ninety years from now the Vatican archives may give historians the right answer. We can only conjecture. Without raising a windblast, let it suffice to say that a few grains of sand dropped into the intricate Vatican machinery put it out of gear. Fortunately, it seems, with no ill will on the part of anyone.

With their offerings of Indian workmanship—peace pipes, feather headdresses, woodcarvings, etc.—take part in the Offertory Procession, along with other American Indians, a few Iroquois from the Mission of St. Francis Xavier of Caughnawaga, Mr. Stuart Beauvais and Mrs. Eileen Lefebvre; and from the sister-Mission of St. Regis, Mrs. Monroe-Hassenplug and two little ones, Agnes Marie Sharrow and Tracey King.

Of the eleven Indian priests from the United States, present at the ceremony, five distributed Holy Communion to the faithful: Fathers John Hascall, O.F.M., Cap., Joseph Brown, S.J.,<sup>2</sup> Charles Leute, O.P., Donald E. Pelotte, Provincial of the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament, and Fr. Edmund Savilla of the diocese of Gallup, N.M.

But the Holy Father himself gave communion to many of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha's compatriots: Mr. Albert Lazare, secretary at the Kateri Center for more than twenty-nine years, and Eileen his wife, Miss Brenda Rice, the Mmes Cynthia Diabo (Dailleboust), Josie Moon-Delisle, Agatha Foote, Annie Two Rivers, Annie Lahache, Mae Montour, and two children, Stephen Montour and Jennifer Delorimier, all from Caughnawaga. And, also, Mrs Josephine Angus and Messrs. Russell Phillips and James Caldwell from St. Regis.

With the Holy Father's blessing, the grandiose ceremony came to an end. Blessed hours, which those who were fortunate enough to enjoy, will never forget!

### A Private Audience

Immediately afterwards, in the Chapel of St. Sebastian, Pope John Paul II held an audience for the representatives of the official delegations from Brazil, Guatemala, the United States, France, and Canada. On a long table were disposed presents for the Pope. Mr. Andrew Delisle, Chief of the Iroquois and Grand Chief of the Indians of Quebec, and his wife, Gladys, offered an authentic Mohawk family doll made of a corn husk with a face fashioned with dried apples. Sr. Kateri Mitchell of St. Regis had prepared an elegant Indian jacket for him. Letters<sup>3</sup> accompanied most of these tokens of the donors' presence at the beatification of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

2. At the end of Mass, Fr. Brown learned that his mother has just died and he flew quickly back to the United States. In 1951 he came to pray before Kateri's relics in Caughnawaga. It was then we learned that he was the eldest of a family of twelve children and that he had a sister named Kateri. The Vice Postulator offers him his sincere sympathy with the assurance of prayers for the repose of his mother's soul.

3. For instance, letters from the Quebec Caughnawaga and St. Regis Indians, the Carriers of Tachie, B.C., the Obijibways of Northern Ontario, the Micmacs of Prince Edward Island, the Navajos of Window Rock, Ariz. and the Papagos also of Ariz., the Ottawas of Sutton Bay, Mich., the Caddos of Anadarko, Okla., the Umitillas of Pendleton, Oreg., the Sioux of Marty, S.D., etc.





Courtesy of Fr. Thomas Westhoven S.C.J.  
St. Joseph's Indian School Chamberlain South Dakota

At the end of the audience, stalwart Huron chief, Max Gros-Louis' eyes were full of tears, so great was the impression of the Holy Father upon him. Film star Iron Eyes Cody could think of no better name for the Sovereign Pontiff than "Talking Eyes."

Because of the audience, the Pope's Sunday talk to the people in St. Peter's Square was delayed for half an hour. From the window of his apartment with its red velvet antependium, he spoke to 45,000 people who have patiently awaited him. Thanks to a good microphone, his voice strong and clear was easily understandable. The virtues of the new Blessed were the subject of his talk, which he concluded with these words: "May God bless the Indian people of Canada and of the United States!"

#### ✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M. O'C.!

Two summers ago I was visiting my mother, sister, and brother-in-law. I was supposed to spend two weeks. I had been praying five Our Fathers, five Hail Marys and five Glory Be's for about two years. My husband wanted me to go to Long Island to get away from the children after the neurologist had given me a C.A.T. scan. I needed relaxation, my husband thought. Meanwhile, a Christian friend told me to pray to Kateri and ask her to intercede to Jesus so that things would go smoother in my home. After being on Long Island a week I felt it necessary that I return home. I doubled my prayers to Kateri feeling something was wrong with one of my family members. Soon after my husband called and informed my mother that our son had had an accident diving at a friend's pool. He was knocked unconscious and was bleeding from the head. He was taken to the emergency room where 12 stitches were taken, as well as X-rays. The X-rays showed that the first two vertebrae of the spinal cord were separated. Two doctors took his pulse and blood pressure and informed my husband that many times after such an incident the patient is paralyzed or dies. After a reasonable amount of time the doctors decided to discharge him after fitting him to a clavical collar. I returned home within a few days. My son was very, very dizzy and wore his collar for several weeks following the accident. The doctor did not allow him to play football that season although he could play other sports. I feel that it is a miracle that my son is alive and healthy to day and I would like to credit Jesus and Kateri for her intercession, for the miracle.

(Plattsburgh, NY)

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



✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. L.P.!**

... I personally experienced a "little miracle of sorts" recently when I was hospitalized for removal of an acute diseased gall-bladder. Just prior to undergoing surgery, as I lay on the operating table, I felt moved to ask Kateri to watch over me and bring me through the surgery with no complications, and relatively free of pain. Did she ever hear me and answer my prayers! The next thing I recall is awakening in my room, with the operation complete. During my recuperation, I felt absolutely no nausea, had no drains, tubes, catheter, or real discomfort. The surgery took place on Wednesday, and they wanted to discharge me on Saturday of that same week, because of my amazing rapid recovery. I see this as a direct act of intercession by Kateri "The Lily of the Mohawks ..."

(Indian Orchard, MA)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. F.K.!**

Blessed Kateri does hear one's prayers. My prescription sunglasses, left in the bank, did not turn up until five days later, quite unexpectedly, after I prayed to her, promising ten dollars—they were worth much more. What prompted that person to turn them in I wonder?

(Montreal, P.Q.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. H.N.!**

Enclosed is check and subscription list. There are two older women around here who are really working hard for Blessed Kateri. They should be recognized by you. They are the ones whose names I have starred on the list I enclose. Fair Cloud is a Piscataway Indian 80 years old, from Maryland, whose father was a chief here. She is cousin to Chief Turkey Tayac, who died in 78, the medicine man who taught me. Fair Cloud sent me a sacred object which had been touched to the relic you have. I hung it in my sweat lodge. Many people have been cured of everything from a headache to the most serious diseases in there, thanks to the above and Kateri. God bless you, keep up the good work.

(Glenelg, MD)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M.G.!**

Enclosed is a check for five dollars for a favor I received from Kateri Tekakwitha. I had a rash on my face and I promised to write and send a donation if she would clear it up. In a very short time it cleared completely. I have received many favors in the past.

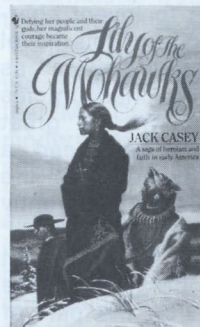
(Minersville, PA)

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

A BOOK REVIEW

LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

By Jack Casey, Bantam Books; 308 pages; \$3.50



This is a book I was most eager to read. The author and I have much the same background: Irish Catholic ancestry, early years in the Mohawk-Hudson Valley area, boyhood visits to the Martyrs' Shrine at Auriesville with my family and my school-mates. Like Mr. Casey I thrilled to the heroic sufferings of the Jesuit martyrs and the bravery and vigor of the Mohawk Indians they encountered. Tekakwitha was a household word in my home.

I heard her story not only from my parents but also from the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught me. Thus I was enthused on hearing that a historical novel was soon to appear about Blessed Kateri. It is with regret, however, that I must register my disappointment, now that the book has seen the light of day.

The author has stated that extensive research went into his work. His primary source is listed as the respected **Jesuit Relations**, and indeed a study of the book reveals that he is thoroughly familiar with the events in Mohawk history during Kateri's life span. Nonetheless, for one sensitive to historical detail there are many disturbing inaccuracies. Some details almost seem to have been deliberately shifted around. The following could be cited as examples: The turtle clan did not move their village to the Kanawaka site in 1663, but in 1667. An intermediate site between Ossernenon and Kanawaka occupied by the same clan from 1660 to 1667 is entirely eliminated in the story. The names of the two Mohawk villages further west are needlessly transposed. (Actually the bear clan village was in the middle, but it was called Andagaron, while the wolf clan village to the west was Tionnontake.) The Onondagas never held the Jesuit Father Simon Lemoyne captive. (The author seems to have confused this Jesuit, close friend of the chief Garacantie, with a French layman, Charles Lemoyne, who was in fact brought back to Quebec in bonds and dramatically released.) The Mohawk woman who cared for the young Kateri after the death of her parents was not Quoronta, the old widow which the author has invented, but Anastasia alias Tegonhatsiongo, friend of Kateri's mother. Finally no reference is made to Kateri's impaired vision. While the documents record that she was noted for her skill in em-



broidery, a feat of her nimble fingers, she could hardly have seen clearly enough to weave the animal patterns learned from the Dutch women of Fort Orange.

To be sure, the author of a historical novel should be free to take some leeway with times and places and even to invent characters to flesh out his story. However, in the prologue of this novel the author has committed himself to write "as truthful a story" as he could about Kateri. After a statement of this sort, inaccuracies and distortions are not what one would expect. Kryn, the great Mohawk, called Joseph after his baptism is called a half-breed, a description not supported by the documents. Why not give the Mohawks full credit for this noble warrior? Mr. Casey apparently considers Kryn as one and the same with the "Flemish Bastard," but in the **Relations** it is evident that the latter is an entirely different person. It would appear to be an unjustified exaggeration to use the opposition to the teachings of the blackrobes on the part of lowerano, Kateri's uncle, as grounds for turning him into a repulsive and insatiable monster. It was distressing to find Father Claude Chauchetiere portrayed as a priest with an unsavory past who entered the religious out of fear of hell and a desire to atone for youthful sins. There is no evidence to suggest that the Jesuit who guided Kateri along spiritual paths traveled only by a few was himself beset by "spiritual failings." Moreover it is insulting to the memory of a fervent and dedicated missionary to have him ask the most injudicious of questions to the courtesan of Versailles and to Kateri herself when they came to him in confession. The author often blames the French for trying to destroy the Iroquois confederacy by the indiscriminate sale of liquor, yet the only orgies in the narrative brought on by the sale of liquor to the Mohawks is accurately ascribed to the Dutch. In point of fact it was only after Tekakwitha's time that the French regime lost its scruples about plying the Indians with intoxicants, and even then the Jesuits supported by their great protector Bishop de Laval long succeeded in confounding the liquor merchants.

It is in the treatment of Blessed Kateri herself that the book becomes most objectionable. While the author admittedly catches the Indian love of imagery and describes in a number of beautiful passages the poetic flights of the young Tekakwitha, he runs the risk of explaining away her holiness. To the two priests who became her biographers Kateri's life was a miraculous instance of the workings of divine grace upon human nature, but as Mr. Casey tells her story, Kateri shies away from marriage and chooses to remain a virgin because of the traumatic childhood experience of coming upon her uncle as he violates and murders a captured young French

girl. Kateri then discovers the water from the melting snow to be her special life medicine and eventually is drawn to baptism in her obsession to be washed clean from all stain of blood. This psychologizing, while appealingly poetic, leaves little room for the supernatural workings of the Spirit in bringing Kateri on her journey to Christ by the light of the gospel.

Finally, it is among the descendents of Kateri's own people that the book has been judged most offensive. It can only be wished that Mr. Casey had sought out some of the many well-informed modern Mohawks before beginning his story. There is great insensitivity and in some instances exaggeration in the author's descriptions of seventeenth-century Mohawk life, when with the superiority and condescension of all too many whites he generalizes with adjectives such as "brutal" and "savage" and "pagan." Yet grace builds on nature and within a generation of Kateri's birth many of her people had outdone one another in the practice of Christian asceticism. Would this ever have occurred unless the Spirit had worked among a people who already had a desire for the good and a longing for the virtuous?

Thomas F. Egan, S.J.

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

I'm sorry to be so late sending more money for your publication of "**KATERI**". Please find enclosed ten dollars I promised Blessed Kateri if she helped me with the health of my little girl. Of course, she came through for me again. I shall try to send some money every month from now on. Thank you again.

(St. Albert, Alta)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. H.S.W.!**

Enclosed is my check representing the balance of the sum I promised Kateri, for answering my prayers. My daughter-in-law is now in good health and our new grandson is doing fine also. Kateri has ben very good to me and mine and my prayers for her canonization are said daily. May it happen soon. At the present time we are enduring a terrific heat spell as you probably read in the papers or hear on the radio. Speaking of "hearing" I still am totally deafened but gradually adjusting to it. However, I do not give up hope that it will be restored some day through God's will. With best wishes for a pleasant summer and blessings on you and all those working for Kateri's cause.

(Queens Village, NY)

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



KATERI TEKAKWIIHA+1656-1680



TEGANANOKOA  
ETIENNE +1690-1642

THE  
ORIGINAL  
CAUGHNAWAGA  
INDIANS

\*

BLESSED  
KATERI

\*

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SAINTLY  
PEOPLE:  
PENITENTS  
VIRGINS  
MARTYRS

\*

by  
Henri  
Béchar, S.J.

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FROM: NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....

As I am sending the names of FIVE new subscribers and their addresses to the Kateri Center (\$10.00), I now inscribe, free of charge, the name of one deceased person dear to me on the Marie Skarichions Roll.

- Mr. ☐, Mrs. ☐, Miss ☐.....  
• When the Roll is complete with the names of 200 deceased, 100 Masses shall be offered for the repose of their souls.  
• If no name is submitted for the Roll, "A Suffering Soul of Purgatory" shall be inscribed instead.

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