

No. 166

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COMPLIMENTS
of the
Kahnawake
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CLUB



KATERI

No. 166

KATERIGRAM

THE SISTER MARY THERESA GANNENSAGOÜAS ROLL

EACH NEW MOON

LITTLE SISTER WANTS TO KNOW...

JESUS, THE LAMB

XMAS STORIES

A NEW PASTOR IN KAHNAWAKE

KATERI IN GUATEMALA

DREAMING TOGETHER

TRIBUTE TO FR. BÉCHARD, S.J.

by Fr. Henri Lacasse, S.J.

LILY OF
THE MOHAWKS

Kahnawake, P.Q., Canada

Winter • 1990





The Kateri Center
Box 70, Kahnawake, P.Q., Canada
J0L 1B0
Tel.: (514) 525-3611

KATERI, No. 166

Vol. 43 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 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 also seeks 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.

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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 (\$3.00 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.

DECEMBER 1990

Printed with Approbation of the Ordinary and Permission of Superiors, Canada. Second Class Mail Registration Number 0854.

KATERI (ISSN 0135-8020) is published quarterly for \$3.00 per year by the Kateri Center, Box 70, Kahnawake, Quebec, J0L 1B0. U.S.: Third class postage paid at Champlain, NY 12919.

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to KATERI CENTER,
P.O. Box 70, Kahnawake, Quebec, J0L 1B0.**

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KATERIGRAM

CHRISTMAS is the celebration of Life. A baby is born in Bethlehem, a little child who is life itself, who gives life and shares life. If we only knew the gift of God...

Before becoming a Christian, Kateri Tekakwitha, like all true Indians, was conscious of life everywhere around her. She respected this life and gave thanks for it to the "great Manitou", — as God was designated. No wonder she was chosen by some contemporaries as the Patroness of Ecology.

Kateri appreciated life all the more because her health had been altered by childhood sicknesses — smallpox especially, which not only affected her eyesight, but also weakened her whole being.

One day, it was revealed to her that the Creator invites all human beings to partake of His life. She also learned that the Son of God gave His own life, by losing it on the Cross. An overflow of Life!

In the years 1672-3, Father François Boniface, S.J., introduced for the first time in Iroquois land — in Gandaouagué (Fonda, N.Y.) — a Christmas crib. Kateri, who was only a teenager at that time, was greatly delighted. How she must have pleaded with her uncle to go and see the Baby Messiah!

But her deepest joy occurred when she was admitted for the first time, to receive the Body of Her Saviour, during the Midnight Mass. She knew that the Author of Life was living in her. Even though she was frail and weak of health, this life radiated in her and gave her strength to go on her way to eternal life.

One can imagine Kateri contemplating the mystery of the birth of Jesus. This God-Child had as mother, a young girl of Israel, all grace, all humility, but a woman like others, — with privileges, needless to say —, but after all a human being. Mary gave life to Life itself...

During this Xmas Season, every Christian should remember that he has received two lives, the human and the divine one, and he must ask himself how to make them bear fruit.

A Merry Xmas! Live up to this mystery all along 1991, and you will obtain Life in abundance.

Jacques Bruyère, S.J.
Vice-Postulator

THE SISTER MARY THERESA GANNENSAGOÛAS ROLL

An Iroquois of Huron origin, she was admitted by St. Marguerite Bourgeoys into the Congregation of Notre-Dame. She died with a reputation of holiness on November 25, 1695.

1. Mr. Télésphore Béliste
2. Mr. Kenneth Pearman
3. Mr. Edwin Bradley
4. Mr. Paul Desjardins
5. Mr. Nicholas Gironda
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7. Mrs. M. Anne Cavanaugh
8. A Soul in Purgatory
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49. Mrs. Mary Zipperer
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51. Mrs. Elmiere Kerr
52. Mr. Arthur C. Wasson
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60. Mr. Gaston Robitaille
61. Mr. Roland-Louis Sulla
62. Mrs. Léonidas Saint-Laurent
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70. Mrs. Dorothy Babin
71. Mr. Arthur Boileau
72. Mrs. Placide Vigneault
73. Mrs. Imelda Tremblay
74. A Soul in Purgatory
75. Mr. Albert Arseneau
76. Mr. Isaac Curry
77. Mr. Aurel Gallant
78. A Soul in Purgatory
79. Mrs. Fernande Perreton
80. Mrs. Annie Brideau
81. Mr. Aristide A. Arseneau
84. Mr. Clarence John Maurer
85. Mr. Gaston Beaudoin
86. Mrs. Lucy Ann Schork
87. Miss Leona Pete
88. Mr. Joseph Wand
89. Mrs. Carrie Stricker
90. Mrs. Leona Pete
91. Mr. Wilfrid Ratelle
92. Mr. Robert Roy
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95. Mr. Roger Mailhot
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98. Mrs. Lilianne Wilson
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104. A Soul in Purgatory
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136. A Soul in Purgatory
137. A Soul in Purgatory
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190. A Soul in Purgatory
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192. Mr. Pete Brodeur
193. Mr. Eldon Edgar
194. Miss Margaret Twomey
195. Miss Kateri Shaw
196. A Soul in Purgatory
197. A Soul in Purgatory
198. Mr. Henri Boudrais
199. Mrs. Elzear Savoir
200. Miss Jean Anne Mitchell



*For all the world, one prayer: That all men and women
live as brothers and sisters and Peace reign everywhere.*

Wishing you all the Peace and Love of the Holiday Season.

THE STAFF

EACH NEW MOON



KATERI'S SMILE ...

Favors registered at the Kateri Center from August 30, to October 24, 1990:

Articles Found	2
Better Health	18
Cures	10
Employment Found or Kept	13
Financial Aid	2
Lodgings	3
Peace at Work	1
Properties Bought or Sold	7
Safe Pregnancy	1
Safe Trips	4
Successful Studies	4
Successful or Averted Operations	6
Temporal Favors	13

TWENTY-FIVE PRAYER PLEDGES OR MORE

Sr. Rollande Larochelle, Montreal, Qc, 30; Mrs. R. L. McShine-Monsanto, Trinidad, W.I.

NEW STYLE LIFE

Father A. Gardino, whose grand mother was an Otoni Indian North of Mexico, is a new priest now serving at the Palo Indian reservation, in Northern San Diego County. To make his faithful feel welcomed to the church, he's trying to incorporate their own spiritual traditions into their expression of the faith. Hence, he himself participates in the "sweat lodge" experience.

In this wigwam, people gather in a lodge made of willow boughs. A fire in the centre heats rocks around its edge. Intercessory prayers are made in rounds, with water poured over the heated rocks to make steam. The rising steam conveys the prayers to God.

The seat lodge represents the womb of Mother Earth. Fr. Gardino said: "While you are in the lodge, you are back in your dependance of God."

This discomfort experienced by the lodge participants is a way of bringing them in contact with the sufferings of the world around them.



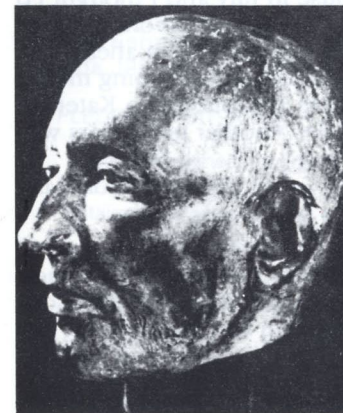
MESSAGE OF THE POPE FOR THE IGNATIAN YEAR



Pope John Paul II in a letter to mark the 500th anniversary of the founding of the Society of Jesus, encouraged the Jesuits worldwide to strengthen their work against atheism especially given the collapse of atheist ideologies which have provoked new situations.

The Jesuits have recently began strenghtening their preparation courses for priests who will be sent to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

1991 will mark the 500th, anniversary of Saint Ignatius birth.



THE REVENGE OF KATERI



The whole of Canada has spent very sad hours during the Kanestake and Kahnawake conflict. One cannot tell the sufferings endured by our Natives...

But the presence of Kateri was felt beyond the barricades. Many begged her to obtain a peaceful settlement to the crisis. Many Canadians got to know her better and to make her known.

On the eve of the removal of the barricades in Kahnawake, the statue of Kateri, erected on the site of her burial, at Côte Saint Catherine, was desecrated as it was uprooted from its base, it fell, beheaded, and left in a pitiful state.

The next day, close to Côte Saint Catherine, the Warriors offered spontaneously to lay down their arms in presence of the soldiers. At last, they longed for peace. Such a sudden change, according to the Pastor of Kahnawake, the best informed witness of the situation, could only be attributed to the intervention of Blessed Kateri.

Meanwhile, a Catholic Mohawk, very devoted to Kateri, was distributing pictures and medals of the Iroquois Virgin to all belligerents... Thanks to Kateri!

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

I promised Blessed Kateri that if the infection and pain went out of my thumb, I would send for her medallion, relic and renew my subscription. The infection and pain went away. I am enclosing a cheque for thirty dollars.

(Montréal, QC)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M. P.!**

Enclosed please find a cheque for ten dollars. I promised Kateri if she would help our son, his wife and family to find a suitable rent, I would send her an offering and sure enough, just two days before they had to move they found a good place. Again I say thank you Kateri.

(Tignish, P.E.I.)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss L. C. L.!**

Please accept this check in thanksgiving to Kateri for her intercession for my brother's recovery, after three operations in about a year. He is now recovering from the most recent one. Thank you Kateri... Please continue to pray for his complete recovery. From one that recites the Our Father, Hail Mary and three Glories everyday for Kateri's cause.

(Chicopee, MA)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. F. M. MacL.!**

Enclosed please find my cheque for fifty dollars in thanksgiving for favors received, my husband's recovery from a recent operation, a good report from my physical operation... I pray for Kateri's canonization.

(Iona, NS)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss M. J. O'N.!**

Enclosed is an offering of twenty-five dollars in thanksgiving to Kateri for her help and prayers in the following. My car was totalled while parked in front of my house in July and I thought I'd never see an end to all the paperwork required before a settlement could be reached. But, finally, I was able to go ahead and obtain a new car. I promised Kateri ten dollars for helping me. At the time, I was taking a summer course and prayed to Kateri to help me concentrate. I passed with a B+. Another ten dollars was promised... Thank you, Kateri.

(Milton, MA)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. G. T. C.!**

Enclosed please find check for twenty dollars as a thank you to Kateri for the safe return of my children to their homes after their vacations. She always answers my prayers. Enjoyed little personal remarks by Rev. Béchar. I shall miss him very much.

(Brunswick, ME)

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

Little Sister wants to know...



Kateri Marietta Swavely
22 months old
Easton, PA

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

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

Some 23,714 pledges have come in after eight years' effort.

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, one Hail Mary, and three Glories until the miracle needed for Blessed Kateri's canonization is obtained and approved.

Name

Street or Box

City or Town

Province or State Code

Country Telephone



Jesus,

Here we are, the shepherds.
It seems that we are
the first ones.
We have heard:
"It appears that
Jesus is born:
You have to go!"
So,
here we are, the shepherds.

The births:
This is what really
pleases us.
We are not any better
or worse than others.
We don't like
To fight against the wolves,
or against the thieves.
Very often
we took flight
rather than the stick.
But when a lamb
joins the herd,
we shake off our laziness
and we feel ready to change
the world,
we, the shepherds.

It is said, Jesus,
that you are a lamb
and you look like one,
lying in the manger.
A lamb
is not made
to fight:

the lamb

it invites to meekness,
to tenderness, to peace.
A lamb,
it invites to life
but it already has
the look of a victim.
We, the shepherds,
we feel that.
This is why maybe
we have come first,
we, the shepherds.

Jesus, the lamb,
You who appears
on this noisy planet,
like a breath
in the silence,
you will be
our nicest Easter.
The meal, when we will eat
you,
will be the banquet
of an eternal feast.
Here you are, you who
appears
a trembling flame,
which will become
the sun of our nights.
We the shepherds,
we know
that it is the lamb
who makes good shepherds.
You will teach us
to love you,
Jesus the lamb,
who smiles to us
in the manger.





Let Us Celebrate...

A Xmas story
from Kahnawake

It's Christmas for the Christians of Kahnawake. In the corner of the living room, a fir tree, all decorated with multi-colored gifts, leaves just enough space for the small ancestral crib.

A merry feast already invades the home. Young Mark – not five yet – has so many questions to ask. "We are preparing a feast... whose feast? And his mother tells him "it's the anniversary of the birth of Jesus." When and where do they celebrate that, mom? asks Mark. "In the church, tonight at twelve, in all the homes of the reserve," says his mother.

From then on, only one idea keeps running in the mind of Mark. I also must go to church, at midnight, to celebrate. Nothing will stop him. And his parents, to make him happy, bring him all muffled up to the Midnight Mass.

In the church reigns a festive mood. The colored garlands to which are tied little bells and cut-out animals (could it be the signs of the clan?) float all over. The altar of Mary has given place to a lovely manger in natural pine and the organ plays angelic airs. The eyes of Mark are riveted on the manger to make sure to see the coming of Jesus. Midnight. Four altar boys, garbed in red, carry on their shoulders the King of the Universe. Mark is standing in the pew to better observe.

Mass seems to be so long. "When are they going to celebrate the birth of Jesus?" The homily has no end. The choir sings the final hymn, the famous Huron Xmas Carol *Jesos Ahatounhia*, and the crowd is ready to disperse to go back home. As soon as mass ends, Mark rushes to the crib, devours the Infant Jesus with his eyes, then, as a maestro, faces the crowd. "Turn off the lights, he orders. "Bring the candles to illuminate the crib. And where is the birthday cake? Faster. Bring it here!"

Not few Indians, taken up by the sincerity of the child's voice place their blessed bread at the foot of the crib. Then Mark, all radiant, with a warm voice cries out: "Happy birthday, Jesus, Happy Birthday Jesus!" And all the assistants follow suite.

Mark was jubilant. Thus the feast was complete...

J. B., S.J.

Sons Of God, Sons Of Man

A Xmas story
from Bolivia



It was already Christmas eve when Mang Remy arrived in the small country town dragging his unhappy and reluctant pig to market. For months his sons had fattened it for the great festival of Christ's birth. It was going to be a happy Christmas for his family many miles away in their rugged shack on the mountainside. He had bargained for a good price and was now going about the stalls buying the things that they had only dreamed about in their poverty. His heart was light and happy. He filled his old rice sack with simple gifts that were rare and almost unknown in their poor and frugal lives.

By the time he had finished, dusk was falling and great black clouds were gathering, pressing the sun to an early rest. A few scattered raindrops glittered in the dust as he started the long trek to the mountain carrying his precious gifts.

Rain was not unusual at this time but Mang Remy did not expect the sudden and violent squall that slipped from the blackened sky and raced down the hillsides turning the dusty earth to soft and squelchy mud. He wrapped his sack in a sheet of blue plastic and started to climb the narrow trail that led over the hills to his grass and bamboo hut. The rain and darkness made climbing difficult even for an expert such as he, whose legs had grown strong from years of mountain life. Suddenly, he stumbled. As he fell his foot caught a stone and twisted. He cried out in agony as pain shot to his brain. He tumbled. As he fell his foot caught a stone and twisted. He cried out in agony as pain shot to his brain. He tumbled over the rocks and fell headlong into a ravine. He must have lain there for several minutes until the cold rain brought him to a dizzy consciousness. His first thought was the children!... the gifts! Frantically, he crawled among the rocks groping for the rice sack and its contents. "Anna's doll," he thought, "I must find it; Peter's shoes; the new frying pan!"

The pain of his twisted ankle was forgotten as he searched for his heart's gifts – gifts of himself, pieces of his love. These were the rare fruits of months and sweat and backbreaking work on his tiny farm scratched from the hard earth, wrestled from nature. He wasn't going to lose them.

One by one he gathered and returned them to his sack, dragging himself through the undergrowth until he found a narrow trail leading upward. Above him he saw the dim outline of the mountain as the clouds broke and scattered into the night. He began to struggle upwards, his mind grimly set against the pain. All his life he had fought this mountain until his lined and craggy face had taken on the rugged outlines of its rocks and ravines.

He paused to rest and looked at the stars. They had spread themselves above him twinkling in a vast darkness. They were the same for all people, rich and poor. Their beauty could not be owned, controlled and dominated as he himself was. They were His signs of freedom, hope and serenity. Cold and wet, he lay against a tree and prayed. He prayed that the One who had come into the world would be with him to lift him up and give him strength to take a few more steps. His life sped before him – the hunger and sickness, the long years of digging and planting, the first child, the leaking roof, the dead chickens, the good harvest, the voices of his beloved, the God he loved. Weak and dizzy, he thought, "to die alone, oh my God!"

The voices grew louder. The stars seemed as big as lanterns, as if swooping out of the sky; the Christmas star to lead him home! He was dazed and delirious but could still feel the strong, loving hands of his teenage sons grip him powerfully, gently bearing him upward. Bright lanterns lit the way, guiding him home.

Oh, they loved him, he thought, they had been looking, waiting, watching. Oh, to be so poor and yet so loved! Christ was truly born again this very night.

by Fr. Shay Cullen, S.S.C.



NEW PASTOR IN KAHNAWAKE

On Sunday, October 7, 1990, Mgr. Bernard Hubert, Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil, assisted by Fr. John Walsh, Episcopal Vicar, came to install Fr. Louis Cyr, S.J., as Pastor of Kahnawake.

At the beautiful ceremony were present three pastors from Chateauguay with a few parishioners, priests and deacons from Longueuil and Montreal, the Provincial of the Jesuits, Fr. Jean-Marie Archambault, Chief Joseph Norton and his family, the Minister of the United Church, the Knights of Columbus, the Daughters of Isabella of Kahnawake and all the members of the Catholic Church Committee.

The rite of installation prevailed during all the ceremony. After a few words of welcome, Bishop Hubert received the oath of office from the new pastor, with all the members of the Catholic Church Committee standing as witnesses. Then Father Provincial offered the services of Fr. Cyr to the mission and the diocese.

Before the Liturgy of the Word, Bishop Hubert presented Fr. Cyr with a Bible and the Lectionary reminding him that his first duties were to transmit wholly the Word of God to all his parishioners.

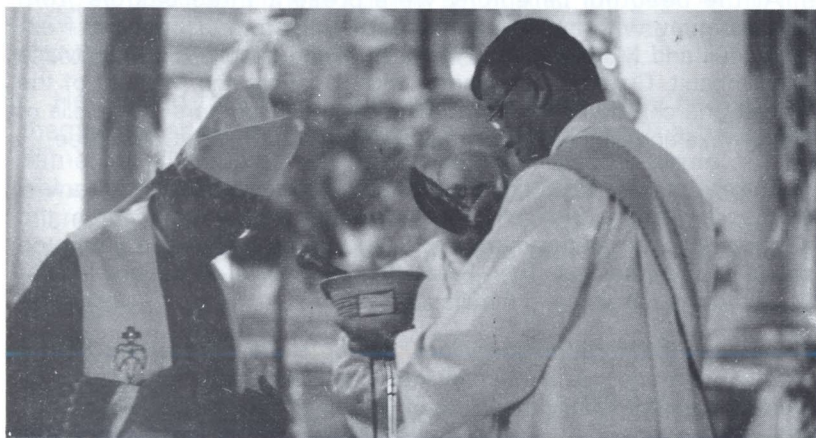


Bishop Bernard Hubert presents Father Cyr with the Lectionary.

After the Bishop's homily, Fr. Cyr led the congregation in reciting the Profession of Faith and invited every member of the Catholic Church Committee to sign the book on the altar.

Before the concluding prayer, Deacon Ron Boyer blessed the new pastor and his assistants with a relic of Kateri, after which the whole congregation recited together the prayer for Blessed Kateri's canonization.

The whole ceremony unfolded in an atmosphere of Indian culture, the singing by the choir was also in the Mohawk language.



Purification rites with sweet grass



Great elevation to all cardinal points

During thanksgiving, Fr. Walsh once more welcomed Fr. Cyr in the diocese. He gave him the minutes of the regional meetings to help familiarize him with the history of the diocese, as well as a book entitled: "Different Drum: Community Making and Peace." "Be always free, dear Louis, to count on our help. May the community of Kahnawake continue to teach all of us the depth and meaning of our faith and its cultural expression. You are welcome as servant, you are invited to serve as Pastor and to be truly a brother to all of us."

Fr. Cyr then spoke to thank Bishop Hubert, Father Provincial, the out-going Pastor – who served during 28 years – the members of the Church Committee, of the choir, Kateri and all the others. Nobody was left out, not even the cooks who had prepared a hot meal at the Kateri Hall. These same ladies, very devoted, had assured the distribution of food stuffs in this hall to the hungry during the summer crisis. "They thus showed the charity of Christ and assured the presence of the Church during these difficult times," said the Pastor.



*The new Pastor
thanks all
participants.*

Photo: Paul Hamel S.J.

KATERI IN GUATEMALA

As I am here in Guatemala for the fourth time to help out the parish of Champerico, a small fishing port in the Pacific, on September 12, 1989, I had the occasion, with two fellow members to go and visit the "Missionaries of the Eucharist," a community of Maya indigenous Sisters. They live in a fertile valley, on a high mountainous plateau which surrounds Atitlan Lake, exactly at San Andres of Semetabaj. A bumpy, tortuous, climbing and difficult road leads us there.

On that day, while visiting their humble house, strongly built, very functional, well adapted to the mildness of the climate, – the work of a Benedictine brother of Maya origin – in the classroom of the novices, we discovered a large image-poster of Kateri, distributed in 1980, at the time of her beatification.

Sr. Tonia-Maria, their foundress, of American origin, tells us that they venerate her a lot, like the first American Indian publicly glorified by the Church, but that unfortunately, they know nothing about her. Fr. Louis Gagnon, immediately, tells them: "Well, Sister, Fr. François will come to tell you about Kateri during a two or three day retreat." I gave them the little information I remembered and promised to come back to instruct them better.



The picture of Kateri in the novices' classroom

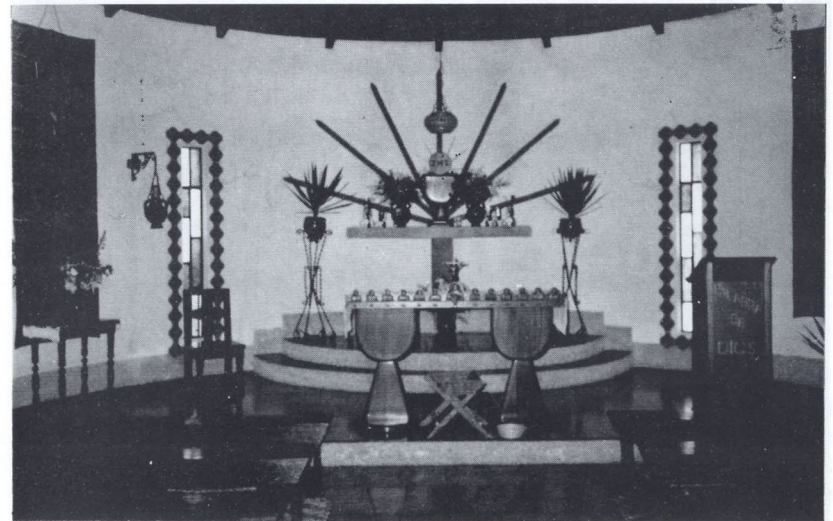
Through friends, I quickly contacted Fr. Henri Béchard, S.J., in charge of the sanctuary and Kateri's Cause, who sent me some literature, both in Spanish and in French, as well as other addresses in Spain or Latin American – who could supply us with other information. Among others, I received from Miss Mireille Moreu in Barcelona, a well produced story of Kateri for the youth.

With all these treasures and after having prayed the Holy Spirit a lot in order to receive the gift of the Spanish tongue, I left to give three days of instruction on Kateri and a last one on the Trinity, at the request of Sr. Tonia-Maria.

One can well imagine the attention of my listeners and the thousand and one questions they asked me. They were 35: 5 professed Sisters, 9 novices and 21 postulants, all in their lovely native costumes, with innumerable colors and designs, each village having its own original symbols.

There are three different idioms in the community: qitché, qatchiqel and tsutujil; Spanish though is the principal language used among them. They gave me an audio-cassette of religious chants in these three dialects. All were very melodious.

Unluckily, Sr. Tonia-Maria could not attend either of the lectures. Since a month, she was recovering from a bite to a foot inflicted on her by a German Shepherd.



The chapel of the Missionary of the Eucharist

Wednesday, January 31, 1990, with seven visiting travellers from Quebec, I returned to the Missionaries of the Eucharist. It was a great feast for all... Sr. Tonia-Maria was up on her feet. They were able to take photos under the setting sun.

Back to our road, bumpy, tortuous, difficult and climbing... the seven travellers were amazed by what they had seen. Our minibus driver, a Guatemalan, told us: "I saw in Sr. Tonia-Maria what was kindness and for me this kindness is the characteristic of a virgin." All the voyagers said that this visit was the highlight of their trip.

The missionaries, in January, just founded their first house of apostolate, in Santa Clara, in the same diocese of Solà. One professed nun with four postulants were part of the foundation. They have long praying hours. Tuesday is a day of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed on the altar.

More than ever they pray Kateri for whom she is a model of self-gift to God and to the others. May the Holy Trinity, through the intercession of Kateri, grant that one day these Mayas Sisters come to establish themselves close to their Indian brothers and sisters of Canada. Long live Kateri and those who follow her!

Champerico, Guatemala, February 13, 1990.

François-Paul Deraspe, Trinitarian



Fr. F.-P. Deraspe, O.S.S.T., Sr. Tonia Maria and the novices

DREAMING TOGETHER

Second Ontario Native Kateri Conference

The flames from the bonfire leaped as high as the surrounding tree tops on Avila's grounds, making a slash of red against the late night sky. It was ten o'clock, on the second night of the Native Kateri Conference in Thunder Bay. Inside a lodge, constructed of willow bones and canvas skins, people in light, loose clothing were seated together on cedar branches around a center where red hot rocks steamed with the water poured over them. In this purifying atmosphere, people were praying, were experiencing healing from personal grief, and were sharing with one another the story of their path to God. It was a native religious experience known traditionally as the "sweat lodge", and by the testimony of those who experienced it, Jesus Christ was present with them.

When native people from Northern Ontario, as well as from other provinces and the U.S., gathered for a three-day "search" conference at Lakehead University in mid-August, it was this very harmony between their Catholic faith and their native heritage that they were hungering for. Some had already found it thanks to the enlightened teaching on cultural expressions of religion that has followed the Second Vatican Council. Others, drawn to be authentically native in their search for God, had sought religious experience outside of the Catholic faith in which they had been baptized. Many of these persons have returned to the Catholic native community as teachers of the native way of finding God. For others, the teaching they remember from their childhood that the native ways are pagan and evil, has proven a stumbling block to a harmony between the native way and their Catholic faith. But these are slowly finding for themselves, through experience, that being native and being Catholic are twin gifts, to be cherished in unity within the personal faith experience.

Welcoming participants to this second Ontario Native Kateri Conference, Bishop John O'Mara said "this conference will give us a special occasion to listen to the Spirit and to share the Spirit's insights... to know what is authentic and what is not. We will be able to share the Spirit's reconciliation and love among ourselves and with the larger community."

The conference provided through focus groups and plenary sessions many opportunities for native Catholics to reflect on and share with others their experiences of finding God. Through song, and story, sharing and reflecting, listening and sculpting, participants searched for ways to envision a native Church, true to its heritage and authentically Catholic.

One focus group leader offered this report to the plenary session: "the circle and the arch we're about to make represent the sweat lodge. In the inner circle we have the beginning of life, with the sound of the drums as a heartbeat. We have an elder inside who will be singing about all creation, the cycle of life, the birds, the animals, the trees, all of creation and he will be singing about that creation, about our oneness, though we're from different colours of people, we still have that oneness in God our creator, the wonder of creation, the beauty and wonder of life itself as we journey together to find a vision. The discernment that we represent is that vision that we together will become one, will be whole and will be able to integrate both the Christian and the native spirituality so that we are one in Christ."



A focus group "sculpts" its vision of Church.

The vision of a native Church is not "Native-only", but rather a place where natives and their way of finding God are respected and integrated as unique elements. The willingness of natives to share with others the riches of their native way was evident in the Conference, in their sharing of the sweat lodge, their teachings on

the medicine wheel, and in their prayers for unity. As one of the listening team members expressed it, non Indians in North America are also seeking symbols that speak of their own way of finding God, and they look to native people "who could perhaps teach them that ours is North American way."

A spirit of pride and joy and a concern for the greater community were evident in celebrations. Watching the danse, one had a sense of pride and happiness felt by the native people when they are rooted in their own culture, knowing who they are.

(Northwestern Ontario Catholic, Sept. 1990)



✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. C. A.!**

My family and I would like to express our grateful appreciation to Kateri Tekakwitha. In our eyes she performed a miracle. Let me explain, our father who is 75 years young was having a great deal of pain on his right side. He went to his doctor, who scheduled him for a cat scan and X-rays plus a full work up. When the results came back, they were all negative. Even though our dad kept saying there was something wrong, nothing showed up. This even puzzled his doctor. A few days later, my mother-in-law received Kateri Tekakwitha prayer cards from her mother and gave them out to us. She said maybe Kateri can help if you pray to her. So, we all prayed to her on behalf of our dad. My daughters brought the prayer cards to their school. They gladly accepted the cards and to pray to Kateri for the children's grandfather... His color was changing before our eyes and he just did not look like himself. So, he went to his surgeon who checked him over and admitted him to the hospital. He said he had a hernia. The next morning, he was operated on. The doctor told the family "Your father is a very lucky man, he had a Spiegelian hernia, but that was not the problem. He was loaded with gangrene. If he was not operated on, he would have died in 24 hours." So you see praying to Kateri Tekakwitha, in our family's eyes, saved our father's life. It was surely a miracle, because the first doctor found nothing wrong with him and the second doctor found the problem. But after praying and praying, our prayers that all his pain would end were answered. We all love Kateri Tekakwitha and we will continue to pray for her.

(Islip, NY)

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

FR. HENRI BÉCHARD, S.J. (1909-1990)

"The holy man has gone home..."

With these appropriate and heartfelt words, Bishop Bernard Hubert of St-Jean-Longueuil, introduced the solemn funeral Mass of Fr. Henri Béchard, S.J., Friday March 23, 1990, in the mission-church of St. Francis Xavier, Kahnawake.

Although Father Béchard had, for practical reasons, established his residence and office in Montreal, in 1959, it was most befitting that his funeral Mass be celebrated in this historic church, where he spent the first years of his pastoral ministry. In 1945, he had come here and wrote the history of the present church, the centennial of which was celebrated that same year. After thorough research in the old documents preserved in the archives of the parish, he could publish an 80-page booklet in French entitled: "J'ai cent ans!" This was the first of countless writings, books, magazine articles he published on the history of the Mission and mainly on Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha during the 45 last years of his life. Granted that, during the past 30 years, he worked in his Kateri Center, in Montreal, but his heart was always here in Kahnawake, near the relics of Kateri. He had one passion: his tender and yet so strong and contagious devotion to Kateri, the fairest flower that ever bloomed among the Christian Mohawks.

The main celebrant of the Mass, Bishop Hubert, was assisted at the altar by Fr. Léon Lajoie, S.J., pastor of the mission-parish, and by Fr. Maurice Ruest, S.J., the immediate Superior of the deceased.

A crown of more than twenty priests surrounded the principal celebrants during the Eucharist. Among them was Msgr. Lenz, P.D., a prelate who supervises the Catholic Native American Missions and was delegated by the American Conference of Catholic Bishops. He gave a brief and much appreciated eulogy of the deceased priest in the closing minutes of the service.

The renowned Kahnawake Mixed Choir, reinforced by a few guest – singers and ably directed by Fr. Jacques Bruyère, S.J., gave a moving rendition of the hymns of the funeral Mass in Mohawk.

Officers of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, in full regalia, formed a guard of honor.

The church was filled with parishoners, relatives and friends, some from the United States, who had come to pay their last respects to the beloved priest and stayed in silent and reverent awe all through the hour-long service.

After the proclamation of the Gospel of the Beatitudes, Fr. Louis Cyr, S.J., delivered a jewel of a homily, making pertinent applications of the Beatitudes to the life, personality and accomplishments of Father Béchard. He said: "There once roamed, through these wide expanses of ours, a happy, smiling, warm-hearted, noble, meek and peace-loving person. A gentleman to the core... he was basically a blessed and happy maker of peace... His unswerving hunger and thirst for justice was contagious... The freshness and purity of his beaming face, eyes and heart gave him direct access to the innermost impulses of the divine, beating and breathing in our hearts and souls." Father Cyr's whole homily was a masterpiece adorned with a few paragraphs in French and in Mohawk.

I will not attempt to retrace here at length Fr. Béchard's *curriculum vitae*. Suffice it to say that the greatest part of his life after his ordination to the priesthood, in 1944, was consecrated to the promotion of the cause of Kateri Tekakwitha. Named vice-postulator of the cause, in 1949, he edited and published the quarterly KATERI in both English and French versions for 40 years. He was a key-man in the long research and labors preparatory to the beatifica-



Father Béchard and Fr. T. Egan, S.J. in Phoenix, AZ

tion of Kateri Tekakwitha by Pope John Paul II, in 1980, 300 years after her saintly death. He had the joy of being present at the solemn ceremony, in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.

It will be from above, from "home", that soon, hopefully, he will witness the canonization ceremony of Blessed Kateri, the Lily of the Mohawks.

May I add a few personal observations and memories about Fr. Béchard?...

He was a born gentleman and was acknowledged as such by his peers ever since he entered the Jesuit noviciate in 1931. His excellent family education, his innate courtesy and refined manners gave him the finishing touch of an aristocrat, so much so that his fellow novices, teasingly but not maliciously, nicknamed him "the Count" ("le comte Henri de Béchard").

During his Jesuit training, before his studies preparatory to the priesthood, he had to go through the experiment of teaching to teenagers in one of our colleges, Brébeuf. He was not a stern disciplinarian. Gentle-natured and soft-spoken, he did not find it easy to handle those unruly boys who, taking advantage of his candor and meekness, would once in a while burst in turbulent fits. But one of his former pupils, now a renowned producer with Radio-Canada, was telling me how he was impressed then by his inner, spiritual qualities, by what he called his interiority. Even the light-



Father Béchard at Kateri's tomb

headed boys, in their better moods, admitted that he was a man of God in the making.

"The holy man is gone home." He is now in possession of the reward promised, in the Gospel, to the good and faithful servant. I can picture the reception he received when he came face to face with his Lord and Master. I can picture Jesus opening his arms to him and saying: "Well done, you good and faithful servant... Come on in and share my Happiness! And I can visualize, not far behind Jesus, Kateri Tekakwitha smiling radiantly to her "*chevalier servant*".

In conclusion, I adapt and apply to Father Béchard the wish he wrote to thousands and thousands of correspondents over the years: Kateri's smile upon you, Henri, for all eternity, in glory!

Henri Lacasse, S.J.



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

I am enclosing a check for five dollars for the Kateri Center. My neighbor's son is having difficulties with his position and Kateri helped him get his job, so we are praying she will help him keep the original job he had. I am sure her prayers for all of us will be granted. I also want to thank Blessed Kateri for the many blessings she has bestowed on us and hope she will be numbered among the saints very soon.

(Eric, PA)

✧ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. L. O'F.!**

I wrote to you on July 16th asking for a special favor, — that I would sell my house. I am pleased to say that on August 7th, my house was sold. I am enclosing a cheque for ten dollars in thanksgiving and I also have another intention. After wanting a child for three years my son and daughter-in-law had their wish last week, but the baby was born two months premature. She is not out of the woods yet. Please pray that this small baby will be all right.

(Pointe Claire, QC)

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

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss M. A. B.!**

Enclosed is a money order for twenty-five dollars which I promised to send to kateri in thanksgiving. Through the intercession of Kateri and Father Solanus, both my mother and I recuperated from painful back problems. I enjoy reading your magazine immensely... so does my mother... (Detroit, MI)

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

Am enclosing a little donation in thanksgiving to Kateri for the wonderful favor she has bestowed upon me in my financial need at the very appropriate time. Please send me some of her novena cards and some relics, as I want to give them to my friends. (Birmingham, AL)

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

I promised Blessed Kateri that I would send twenty dollars to further her cause if my daughter had a safe pregnancy and a healthy baby. Her baby was born September 26 and thanks to Kateri, he is a beautiful healthy child and my daughter is doing extremely well. I enclose a cheque for twenty-five dollars to cover my promise and a contribution to keep my subscription going... (Hamilton, Ontario)

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

I am enclosing a check for ten dollars for prayers answered. Our cat was missing for one week and returned home safely. Thanks to Blessed Kateri for all my prayers that have been answered. (North Massapequa, NY)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. E. P.!**

Enclosed is my donation of one hundred dollars for a favor received through the intercession of Blessed Kateri. A growth was discovered in my bladder that scared me to death. I prayed without ceasing to the Blessed Virgin and Blessed Kateri for help. After a few weeks of fearful waiting the biopsy was back O.K. Thank you dear Mother of God and Blessed Kateri. An additional six dollars for my subscription for 1989 and 1990... (Montreal, Qc)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss B. L.!**

Find enclosed five dollars for a Mass in Thanksgiving to Blessed Kateri for a favor received. My niece's little boy had an ear infection and she was told he lost 25 % of his hearing and had to have tubes put in his ears. We all prayed to Kateri and when the doctor examined him again, his ear was cleared up and he didn't have to have the tubes put in and he regained his hearing loss. We give all the credit to Kateri. We are very grateful. (St. Marys, PA)

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

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- ☐ Love in God
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- ☐ Resignation in Trials
- ☐ Vocations
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- ☐ Happy Death
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- ☐ Positions
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Lodgings
- ☐ Financial Aid
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- ☐ Happy Deliveries
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- ☐ Peace in the World

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3. The Treasury of the many Masses read each month for the benefactors of the Society of Jesus is opened;
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Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

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Books

- In English – *The Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha*, by Henri Béchar, 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 – *I am Indian*, by Gualbert Brunsman, O.S.B., \$1.00
- In English – *The Original Caughnawaga Indians*, by Henri Béchar, S.J., hardcover: \$11.50 postpaid.
- In French – *L'Héroïque Indienne Kateri Tekakwitha*, by Henri Béchar, S.J.: \$10.00
- In French – *L'Astre dans la Nuit, Kateri Tekakwitha*, by Rachel Jodoin: \$14.50
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ADDRESS

As I am sending **the names of FIVE new subscribers** and their addresses to the Kateri Center (\$15.00), I now inscribe, free of charge, the name of one deceased person dear to me on the Sr. Marie-Thérèse Gannensagoûas Roll.

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