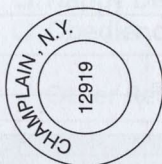
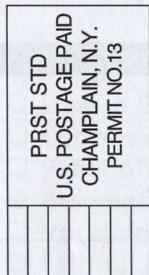


No 235

KATERI
P.O. Box 210
Champlain, N.Y.
12919

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



KATERI

No 235

Katerina
Kateri Center News
Testimonies
The Catherine Ganneaktena Roll
She Who Moved the World
Anyone Who is a Friend of Kateri
What Can I Say
Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits
Portrait of Kateri Tekakwitha
Psalms 51
Greetings from the Vice-Postulator
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha



LILY OF
THE MOHAWKS
Kahnawake, Quebec, Canada

SPRING • 2008



The Kateri Center
Box 70
Kahnawake, Quebec J0L 1B0
Tel.: (450) 638-1546 ou 632-6030
Fax: (450) 632-6031

KATERI

No 235

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.

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 (Canada: \$ 5.00 • International: \$ 10.00 by year), or more, if possible, enrolls you among "Kateri's Friends" for whom:

1. A weekly Mass is offered;
2. A weekly High Mass for deceased friends is offered;
3. The Vice-Postulator prays at the liturgy of the hours;
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.

Spring 2008

Printed with Approbation of the Ordinary and Permission of Superiors, Canada. *Kateri* (ISSN 0135-8020) is published quarterly for \$5.00 per year by the Kateri Center, Box 70, Kahnawake, Quebec, J0L 1B0. U.S.: Third class postage paid at Champlain, NY 12919.

Katerina



obtainable from the
The Kateri Center
Box 70
Kahnawake, Quebec J0L 1B0
Tel.: (450) 638-1546 or 632-6030
Fax: (450) 632-6031

Medals

1. Mat silver-plated: 50¢
2. Souvenir Spoons: \$ 4.00

Kateri Prayer Cards and Pictures

1. Sepia (brown), by sculptor E. Brunet (5" x 2 1/2"): 10¢
2. Colored, by Mother Nealis (5 3/4" x 2 3/4"): 50¢
3. Colored, by Mother Nealis (9" x 13 1/2"): \$ 1.50
4. Colored, by McCauley (18 1/2" x 15 1/2"): \$ 4.00

Touch Relics

1. Small Kateri pictures with silk applied to relics: 50¢

Kateri Plaques

1. Plaque, plastic case with prayer (2 1/2" x 1 1/2"): \$ 2.50 - with relic: \$3.00

Novena

In the form of a short biography: \$ 2.00

Kateri Seals

A sheet of 36 seals: \$ 1.00

PLEASE ADD A LITTLE EXTRA FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

Statues (Postpaid)

1. In hydrocol, ivory or bronze finish (6 1/2"): \$ 12.00
2. Colored (6 1/2"): \$ 15.00
3. In hydrocol, ivory or bronze finish (8 1/2"): \$ 15.00
4. Colored (8 1/2"): \$ 18.00
5. Kateri key chain: \$ 1.25
6. One inch statuette in plastic case: \$ 1.00

Books (Postpaid)

In English - *Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha*, by Henri Béchard, S.J., 20 pp., \$ 2.50
In English - *Kateri Tekakwitha*, With a Prefatory Note of John Cardinal Wright, by Francis X. Weiser, S.J., hardcover: \$ 10.00; paperback \$ 8.00
SPECIAL: In English and French - *Kaïatanoron Kateri Tekakwitha* by Henri Béchard, S.J.: \$ 15.00
SPECIAL: *Witey from Heaven the Wondrous Cat* by Marlene McCauley: \$ 18.00
In English - *Song of Kateri: Princess of the Eucharist*, by Marlene MacCauley (at the Kateri Center): \$ 14.95

Subscription to "Kateri"

Five dollars a year. Please renew your subscription yearly.
WHEN ORDERING, PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

KATERI CENTER NEWS

Favors

registered at the Kateri Center from December 19, 2007 to April 16, 2008.

Articles Found	3	Properties Bought or Sold	8
Better Health	6	Safe Pregnancy	1
Cures	4	Safe Trips	2
Employment Found or Kept	2	Successful Studies	7
Financial Aid	1	Successful or Averted Operations	4
Lodgings	4	Temporal Favors	7

Prayer Pledges for Kateri's Canonization

Total pledges to April 16, 2008: 30,623.

Pilgrimage to Kateri's Shrine

Choose a lovely day in the summer. Notify the rectory of your coming, tel. (450) 632-6030 for a guide to lead you.

Help Spread Devotion to Blessed Kateri

Send in the names and addresses of relatives and friends and we will send them information on Blessed Kateri.

2008 - Liturgical Year - 2008

January	1 : New Year's Day - Mary, Mother of God 3 : Holy Name Of Jesus 6 : Epiphany
February	2 : Presentation of Jesus 5 : Mardi-Gras 6 : Ash Wednesday
March	16 : Ash Wednesday 23 : Easter
April	17 : Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
May	1 : Ascension 11 : Pentecost - Mother's Day
June	15 : Father's Day
July	1 : Canada Day 4 : United States Day 31 : St Ignatius of Loyola
August	15 : Assumption of Mary
September	10 : Grandfather's Day 26 : North American Martyrs
October	13 : Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
November	1 : All Saints Day 2 : All souls Day 30 : Christ, King of the Univers
December	8 : Immaculate Conception 25 : Christmas 31 : Holy Family

Please send yours to: **The Kateri Center, Box 70, Kahnawake, Québec 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 _____

Testimonies of favors obtained

❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. F.J.!

I am enclosing a check for two hundred and twenty dollars. Twenty dollars is for our subscription and the rest to thank Kateri for favors granted in connection with our grandson. Thanks be to God.

(Scarborough, ON)

❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Miss J.O.!

I recently had to have a series of tests which caused me great anxiety. I prayed to Kateri and the X-Rays and tests went well. I am enclosing twenty-five dollars; twenty for Kateri's Cause in thanksgiving for her prayers and five to renew my subscription to the Kateri magazine. Thank you, Kateri, for always being there for me.

(Randolph, MA)

❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M.L.!

Enclosed is twenty dollars for Kateri's Cause with special thanks for the safe delivery of my first grandchild. Keep him warm and safe within your space Kateri.

(Naas, Ireland)

❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. F.B.!

The enclosed check is my way of saying "thank you" to Kateri for her assistance in the building of our Pastoral Center at St. John the Baptist Parish in Ludlow MA.

(Ludlow, MA)

❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Ms. G.T.!

Enclosed is five dollars for my subscription and fifty dollars for articles found and better health.

(Willoughby, OH)

❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. D.D.!

Once again I want to send this donation as a thank you for a favor received. I prayed so hard daily for Blessed Kateri to help me in the sale of our old house and a relocation of a family member. The prayers were finally answered.

(Chalk River, ON)

❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. E.C.!

Enclosed is fifty dollars, I went to an eye and ear hospital emergency. I prayed Kateri to help me. It's still sore but I am sure it will be better.

(Melbourne, Australia)

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

I am enclosing a twenty dollar cheque for favors I have received through Kateri. My son and son-in-law were traveling by air in bad weather but landed safely at their destination. (Benjamin River, NB)

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

Find enclosed checks for fifty dollars to further Kateri's Cause. My Mother will be 95 in April and has great devotion to Blessed Kateri. She prayed to Kateri to strengthen the left side of her body and her wish was granted. She enjoys doing little jobs and keeping busy. This little miracle enables her to still maintain a healthy and happy life. I also had wonderful check up at the doctor's office. I was so happy and I owe it all to Kateri. I wore her little relic and everything was fine. We love Kateri with all our hearts and hope that she is soon recognized as a saint. Thanks again, Blessed Kateri for your sweet smile! (Kersey, PA)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss V.S.!**

Enclosed is my check in thanksgiving to Kateri. A dear friend needed an operation and I prayed to Kateri that everything would go well. Again, dear Kateri came through for me. My friend came through her operation just fine and is recuperating very well. (Cantonsville, MD)

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

The enclosed donation is a promise for the successful sale of a house. (Essex, MA)



The Catherine Ganneaktena Roll

Catherine Ganneaktena, an Erie Indian, was the co-founder of the Mission of St. Francis Xavier. Captured and inducted into the Oneida nation in 1656, she later married a Christian Huron, Francis Xavier Tonsahoten. In 1667, she and her husband were invited to settle down at la Prairie, an invitation that they gratefully accepted. On November 6, 1673, Catherine died, and her spiritual director, Fr. Frémin, affirmed that she had always preserved her baptismal innocence.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Gérald Beaudin | 41. A Soul in Purgatory | 81. Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks Swank |
| 2. Mr. Yvon Tapp | 42. Mrs. Cecelia Haw | 82. Mr. John Benjamin Weigle |
| 3. Mr. Jean-Louis Prévost | 43. Mr. Leopold Lachaine | 83. Mr. Michael Prendergast |
| 4. Mrs. Palm Marion | 44. Mr. Raymond Desjardins | 84. Mr. Clifford O'Neil |
| 5. Mr. Jacques Boudreau | 45. Rev. Arthur Deveau | 85. Mr. Charles Rohart |
| 6. Mr. Sylvain Tremblay | 46. Miss Germaine Girard | 86. Mr. Jerse S. Bell |
| 7. Miss Julienne Gardner | 47. Mr. Christopher Holoka | 87. Mrs. Mary Frances Neubold |
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| 9. Mr. René A. Ouellette | 49. Mr. Léon Bugnet | 89. Mr. Noël Paris |
| 10. Mrs. Lillian Puza | 50. Mr. Charles Pagé | 90. Mr. Roméo Nowlan |
| 11. Mrs. Eva Boucher-Martin | 51. Mr. Earl Giesler | 91. A Soul in Purgatory |
| 12. Mr. Raoul Roussel | 52. Mrs. Elizabeth Cardiff | 92. Mrs. Ada Brazeau |
| 13. Miss Marie-Rose-Aimée Philibert | 53. Miss Kathleen Schindler | 93. Mr. André Brazeau |
| 14. Mrs. Yvonne Blanchard | 54. A Soul in Purgatory | 94. Mrs. Edna Hill Goodwin |
| 15. Mr. George Campeau | 55. Mr. Alphonse Doré | 95. Mrs. Blanche Lamy |
| 16. Mrs. Eglantine Proulx | 56. Miss Ipierrette Laflamme | 96. Mr. William Lamy |
| 17. Miss Hélène Landry | 57. Mrs. Jacqueline Thibault | 97. Miss Sylvie Tremblay |
| 18. A Soul in Purgatory | 58. Miss Ipacia Westerman | 98. Miss Madeleine Lachance |
| 19. A Soul in Purgatory | 59. Mr. Henri-Paul David | 99. Mr. Alphonse Haché |
| 20. A Soul in Purgatory | 60. Mr. Roland Boucher | 100. Mr. Jean-Paul Léger |
| 21. A Soul in Purgatory | 61. Mr. Mathieu Roussel | 101. Mr. Gilbert Laflamme |
| 22. Mrs. Pierrette Laberge | 62. A Soul in Purgatory | 102. Mr. Pierre Brunet |
| 23. Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Allain | 63. Mr. Mario Aubin | 103. Miss Therese Jean |
| 24. Mr. Daniel Powers | 64. Mrs. Marie-Ange Lefebvre | 104. Miss Yolande Vallée |
| 25. A Soul in Purgatory | 65. Mr. Donald Chevalier | 105. Mrs. Berthe Lachaine |
| 26. Mr. Raymond Breton | 66. Mr. Roger Rivard | 106. A Soul in Purgatory |
| 27. Mrs. Yvonne Pagé | 67. Mrs. Nicole Rivard | 107. A Soul in Purgatory |
| 28. Miss Rachelle Roy | 68. Mr. Bernard Lavoie | 108. Miss Marie Anne Albert |
| 29. Miss Dawn Marie McComber | 69. Miss Marian Fisher | 109. Mr. Emile Cormier |
| 30. Mr. Oscar Lemaire | 70. Miss Rachel Kozlusk | 110. Mrs. Marie-A. Labrie Bernaquez |
| 31. Mr. Isaïe Bouchard | 71. Miss Mary Liz Miller | 111. Mrs. Muriel M. Thompson |
| 32. Mrs. Lucienne Néron | 72. Mr. Francis Edward Heckert | 112. Mr. Dominic Craith |
| 33. A Soul in Purgatory | 73. Miss Lena Miller | 113. Mrs. Dominic Craith |
| 34. Miss Rose Toupin | 74. Mr. Denis Beck Regudon | 114. Mrs. Dorothea Brooks |
| 35. Mr. Ben Rousselle | 75. Miss Naomi Rose Ebersol | 115. Mr. Luther John McClure |
| 36. Mrs. Florence Cloutier | 76. Miss Anna Mae Stoltzfus | 116. Mrs. Bonnie Cole McClure |
| 37. Miss Florence Forget | 77. Capt. Myles Standish | 117. Mr. Kenneth McClure |
| 38. A Soul in Purgatory | 78. Mrs. Erminé Ophelia Weston | 118. Mr. Dennis McClure |
| 39. Mr. Thomas Burke | 79. Mr. Ellis Drummond Weston | |
| 40. Mrs. Desneiges Simard | 80. Mr. Will Swank | |

She Who Moved the World

Kateri Tekakwitha, advocate for persons with low vision

By Michael Vogl

I like to think of Kateri Tekakwitha as My saint. My "claim to her is that we both are persons with the disability of low vision. In reading about the Lily of the Mohawks, descriptions seem to show a similarity in how she and I see - - low acuity, blurred vision, night blindness (which renders us virtually blind in poor lighting or in bright sunlight), and a lack of depth perception. Today we are labeled "legally blind."

My poor vision stems from a genetic condition passed through generations from grandfathers to grandsons. It is called congenital stationary night blindness. My vision with glasses is 20/240. My vision does not allow me to drive a car.

Kateri suffered a loss of good vision after she was stricken with small pox, the same disease that scarred her face, took the lives of her parents, and left her orphaned in the care of her uncle, Cold Wind. The wigwams or long huts in which the extended families lived were dark, lighted only by the flickering fire used to cook and heat. Little Kateri moved about with arms extended, feeling for obstacles, and the sight of her prompted Cold Wind to good-naturedly dubbed her Tekakwitha, which according to the many accounts I have read, has many similar translations. Here are some I have gleaned from those writings:

She who moves all things before her. She who feels her way along. She who stumbles as she finds her way. She who finds her way by touch. She who moves things out of her way. She who moves the world before her. She who works to keep all things in order. She who bumps into things. She who moves forward hesitantly.

I like the twist that changes the meaning of "Tekakwitha" from the concept of bumping into things to the idea of "moving the world" or "putting things in order." That might be a "stretch" for me in my world of low vision, but not for Kateri who moves the world toward the order of loving Jesus.

It is estimated today that 13.5 million Americans suffer vision loss or impairment. Many conditions appear with age and a population that lives longer will have more vision problems. By 2012, it is predicted that more than 20 million Americans will be affected. We hear often these days the scary and all too common occurrences of macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, retinitis pigmentosa, retinal vein occlusion, and cataracts. There are doctors and low vision specialists who can help; there are procedures and devices that can help; yet a diminishing ability to see is a daunting burden to bear.

...She Who Moved the World...

For Kateri, of course, there were no such helps. She was expected to do the chores as any other young person: gardening, gathering firewood, harvesting grown and wild crops. I can visualize her in the woods finding the black berry bushes by their thorns and stooping to look closely for the fruit. I can see her, too, in the woods on her hands and knees, admiring the tiny wildflowers she could not see while on her feet. I can feel the ache when she had to go out in the winter with the snowy brightness blinding her as she made her way, hoping for some relief in the shadows of tree trunks.

No wonder she was shy and hesitant! Yet, it is said she always carried a serene and smiling face, and her holding the hand of a little child or placing her hand on the brow of a sick elder were to Kateri the stuff of "vision."

And that is why Kateri is MY saint, my advocate. And she can be yours, too! When I miss a curb, or run into a tree limb, or get frustrated when I cannot see a street sign or find a door, instead of complaining, I think of Kateri and pray, "Dear Kateri, help your blind friend find his way."

For Kateri teaches us that VISION is not so much a matter of eyes that see as it is of a mind that searches and a heart that trusts; that HEARING is not so much a matter of ears that detect sound as it is of a soul that listens and a heart that cares; that BEAUTY is not so much a matter of appearance as it is of hands that serve and a heart that sins.

A Prayer to Kateri Tekakwitha for Persons with Low Vision:

Kateri, named Tekakwitha because of your poor eyesight, your true vision was to focus on the wisdom of Jesus, pray for us and help us find our way.

Kateri, called Little Sunshine by your mother, your scars were overshadowed by your smile, as you brought warmth and light to the young, the old, the frail, pray for us and help us find our way.

Kateri, you who accepted your hardships and crosses, and lived each day to the fullest in the love of Jesus, pray for us and help us find our way. Amen.

Anyone who is a Friend of Kateri's is a Friend of Mine

By Ann K. Maloney

Some people said "Wow." Some people said it was an incredible gift. Still others said it was a miracle. I have not decided which one it was however; I will always believe it was a blessed event, and one I will cherish and treasure in my heart the rest of my life.

It was Saturday morning, July 14, 2007. I remember when I got up and started my daily routine some interesting things happened. First, while getting dressed I was trying to find the "perfect t-shirt" to go with my jeans. I had my green one with the Celtic design on it and, although I wasn't going to wear it, for some reason I could not put it back in the drawer. So I put it on.

Next I went through my daily Saturday morning routine. As I sat on the couch exercising my left wrist (I'm still recovering from a broken wrist) I remember praying to K.T. (my heavenly friend Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha) whose feast day we were celebrating. As I was praying I heard her ask me what I would like her to do for me on her feast day. I stated I really didn't know because she already knew my petitions requesting her intercession, but to let me think about it.

My next thoughts turned to the fact I had promised Sister Elia, my Carmelite nun friend, some low fat cottage cheese. I also know that she and her community had a schedule to keep and if I wanted to get it to her that day I had best get moving. So, off I went. I distinctly remember thinking as I was leaving my apartment I hoped I had brushed my hair!

I wasn't sure where I would buy the cottage cheese however, TOPSD super market on Jefferson Road became the ideal place as it was right on the route.

When I arrived at the Carmelite Monastery I wasn't sure if I was a little too late but I rang the bell and Sister Malachi, one of my other Carmelite friends answered. As we were talking Sister Elia popped in two or three times. Then it happened. Sister Elia asked me to go in to the Speak Room. My heart just stopped.

The Carmelites are a cloistered order. They rarely see the public. When you speak to them you do so through a turn. At

...Anyone who is a Friend of Kateri's is a Friend of Mine

one point I had asked Sister Elia if there was ever any chance we could ever meet face-to-face. I know it was happening. I was dressed in my green Celtic t-shirt, jeans, and sneakers. I was sure she would take one look at me in my "Saturday morning" outfit and wonder why they had allowed me in the Monastery in the first place. So much for making a good first impression! So into the Speak Room I went. Wouldn't you know it, just like our modern day technology society, my cell phone rang!

I quickly told my cousin Sue I couldn't talk just then and I would call her back. Then, the gates opened up and I met Sister Elia and Mother John of the Cross, the Mother Superior. I knew my friend K.T. had been instrumental in arranging this meeting as it was her feast day and Mother John, being Irish herself, loved my T-shirt. After we exchanged introductions and pleasantries, the sisters invited me to stop in the chapel and see their statue of Kateri and the small shrine they had set p for her on her day. I did, however the shrine had already been taken down.

Later that day I received two phone messages from Sister Elia; one, telling me the shrine had been taken down and they didn't know it however, they knew my friend Kateri had heard my prayer; the other was asking me if I know Kateri was from the turtle tribe? Sister also told me that Mother John had put my name and phone number in their address book with a notation that I was a friend of Kateri's.

But Blessed Kateri didn't stop introducing to me friends at that point. A short time later I read an obituary in the paper of one of the elderly Carmelite nuns, Sister Theresa. So as friends do in these situations I went to her wake.

When I drove over to the monastery, on a Friday night, I remembered it was pouring rain. When I arrived I was greeted by Carol Payne their extern. I gave Carol a sympathy card and asked her to tell Sr. Elia and Mother John I had come to pay my respects. I also told her there was a monetary gift in the envelope in memory of Sr. Theresa. Carol's comment to me was "May God reward you."

...Anyone who is a Friend of Kateri's is a Friend of Mine

When I went to meet Sr. Theresa I distinctly remember thinking, "I wonder if she had met Blessed Kateri yet." As I was leaving it was still pouring rain, but when I pulled onto Jefferson Road the sun broke through the rain. It was a spectacular sight. I wondered if I would see a rainbow. Then I know that Jesus and Sr. Theresa had given me a reward for coming over to her wake.

As I drove down Jefferson Road I decided that I would not stop at Scott's Hallmark store that was out. However, someone else had other plans. The car in front of me had to stop forcing me to pull into the plaza where the Hallmark store was located. So, in I went. There it was, a TURTLE NIGHTLIGHT. This had been the first and only time I had ever seen one there. In addition, this display model was the only one in the store. It was then I knew Sr. Theresa had met Blessed Kateri, or K.T. as I call her, and they were both happily rejoicing and living with the Lord. It also brought to mind that anyone who is a friend of Kateri's is a friend of mine.



What Can I Say

What can I say? What can I say about a young girl whom the Lord our Father and Creator called to His Kingdom in her full youth and on a very special day, Holy Wednesday. Time has passed and through the years celebration of events is different, but Our Lord wished to call Kateri in that special year and day. Undoubtedly as Kateri Tekakwitha received our Redeemer in Holy Communion with all her faith, in the same way she is joyfully in Heaven.

I think that from where she is, she tells us, ***"I give you thanks for visiting me and for asking for my intercession, but I urge you that whenever you come to visit me, you first address our Creator, Who is always waiting for us in the tabernacle."*** It seems that sometimes we forget that we must greet the head of the house and family, and then we can greet all other members of the family. Furthermore, I believe she would think that ***"it is sad that many times we forget that our Lord God is the only one who does miracles, and that all saints and blessed persons are intercessors, interceding for those who with their faith say their prayers and petitions"***. Kateri would also say, ***"Thank you for trusting me, but my duty to you is to present your petitions to Our Lord God Almighty"***.

Consequently, what to say when people ask what Kateri did? The truth is that we all know that Our Lord chooses the pure, the poor, and humble in heart to reveal Himself, and through them, to the rest of the people. And that is how we can now see the greatness of God, who chose Kateri to reveal His love for mankind.

We know that following the steps of Our Lord is not easy. Kateri's life is a good example. At a very early age she began to suffer, and finally reach greatness in heaven. Through loss of her parents, her illness and being despised by her peers, abuse of authority, and a series of adversities and hardships which undoubtedly I could never have endured.

We can see that Our Lord never lets us down and whenever we come to Him and ask His support, we can endure anything. That is exactly what Kateri did, an example of deliverance, obedience, and service. We can also see how Our Lord helps His children, and under the opposition of her adoptive family, the Lord sent his messengers, three Catholic priests who went to her lodge, which gave Kateri the opportunity to strengthen her beliefs and her faith. In this situation, makes me think about the Bible story where God sent his messengers to inform Abraham and Sarah that she would have a son. Similarly,

...What Can I Say

through the visit of these three Jesuit priests God awakens Kateri's spirit increasing her desire to know Jesus Christ Our Redeemer more profoundly.

Later, when she hears what her peers are being told by a Jesuit priest, but being afraid of what her uncle might do, she decides not to reveal her desire of being baptized. **So, what to say about this young girl** who with courage, and against the decisions contrary to her, she seeks to serve Our Lord. At a later time, desiring to belong to the Children of God, she asks to be baptized. Through her regular visits to pray in the chapel, gave opportunity to the priest to become aware of Kateri's holiness, humility, sincerity, deliverance, and service. Afterwards, when this priest came to know Kateri better, and discovers her dignity to be baptized.

We can see the greatness of Our Lord who allowed Kateri to be baptized on Easter Sunday. Then we see her desire to be consecrated to the service of Our Heavenly Father through her virginity and service to others, notwithstanding her health and we also see how the Lord awards her inspiring her in privacy and in a very special way while praying, to meditate on the suffering of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Then, what to say about this young girl? A few years go by and our Lord awards her again by calling her to His presence on Holy Wednesday. Is this not something very special to see Kateri's birth to Christian life as well to eternal life during Holy Week, the season we remember the glorious passion, death, and resurrection of Our Lord?

Then what to say about this young girl? The Lord simply takes the humble and pure of heart to give us an example of His greatness. Let us continue our fervent prayer for our dear Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, so that she will soon be declared a Saint by the Holy Catholic Church.

May the blessing of Our Heavenly Father be upon everyone who through your prayers will make possible the prompt canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks.

*Fr. Alvaro Salazar is Pastor of the St Francis Xavier Mission
Kahnawake*

Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits

– The meeting of two worlds –

This is the title of a work by the historian Allan Greer, published in French by Editions Boréal in April 2007. The English original was put out in 2005 by the Oxford University Press under the title *Mohawk Saint : Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits*.

It is neither by mistake nor by absent-mindedness that the author is keeping the first name Catherine and not Kateri. To him there is no doubt that the baptismal name given to Tekakwitha was Catherine in reference to Catherine of Sienna. During the first two centuries that followed her death she was known by the name Catherine. It was only in the last century that she was « re-baptized » Kateri, to make her « more native ».

Unlike most of the hagiographies published to date, this biography is the work of a professional historian who has written a critical biography and, instead of trying to make the virtues of this holy person stand out, seeks to place her life in its historical context. Moreover, the author continually relates Catherine to the two Jesuits who were witnesses of the life of Tekakwitha and her first biographers: Father Claude Chauchetière and Father Pierre Cholenec.

Greer thus relates the story of this encounter of two cultures, the European and the Amerindian, through the persons of the Jesuits on the one hand and of Catherine Tekakwitha on the other. The reader will therefore find in this work valuable anthropological and ethnographic information about the Mohawks and the Iroquois nations. And then we are immersed in the European culture of the 17th century in which the first Jesuit missionaries lived and were educated.

This original historical study enriches the collection of writings related to Kateri. It is compulsory reading for anybody interested in the life of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

† Jacques Berthelet C.S.V.
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil

February 2008

GREER, Allen, Catherine Tekakwitha et les Jésuites. la rencontre de deux mondes. Boréal, Montréal, 2007.
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Painting of Fr. Claude Chauchetière



The earliest known painting of Bl. Kateri attributed to Fr. Claude Chauchetière, s.j. (1690?)

Portrait of Kateri Tekakwitha (1696) by Father Claude Chauchetière

Father Chauchetière painted a large portrait of Kateri Tekakwitha, one year after her death to accomplish what he had been inspired for his consolation and of the others. This was in April 1681. To facilitate the explanation of this great painting, he wrote a small book where all the actions of Kateri Tekakwitha are painted. Undoubtedly, this portrait was painted with sepia ink¹. In 1685, or later, he again painted images from his narrative of the Sault using sepia ink.

He had written that the 1681 portrait was still in the chapel in 1695. Fr. Claude had done a copy of the 1681 portrait with oil paints for a more lasting portrait of Kateri Tekakwitha, which is presently at the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier in Kahnawake.

The earliest copy he painted would have been in 1696 before he left the Mission to reside in Québec. In 1695, he wrote the life of Kateri Tekakwitha and in August of the same year, he wrote a letter to his brother Jean Chauchetière explaining that he had written Kater's life in three parts². Father Pierre Cholenec completed the second and third part when he completed his recount of her life in 1696. Father Pierre Rémy sent Father Cholenec a signed list of testimonials

dated March 24, 1696. These were testimonials of cures attributed to Kateri Tekakwitha in his parish. Father Chauchetière would soon be leaving the Mission to reside in Québec. There is no written account when he arrived in Québec. At the earliest, Father Chauchetière left the Mission in 1696. He died at the age of sixty-four on Holy Wednesday, April 7, 1709.

Father Claude Chauchetière had painted Kateri's portrait using many symbols to depict her life.

The location of the chapel was depicted in the portrait. The shoreline of the river and the painted church accentuated the location of the Mission at the Sault until 1689³. The Chapel was pronounced by the painting of a larger church.

Fr. Claude painted many red lilies on Kateri Tekakwitha's white vest and they represent her virginity and purity. Before the 17th century lilies were drawn on Our Lady's robe to symbolize Her virginity and purity.

The canoe represents Kateri with those accompanying her on their voyage and arrival at the Mission. There were four people in the canoe there are four persons, one Native from the Huron Mission of Lorette, Québec along with the brother-in-law of Kateri Tekakwitha,

¹ Sepia ink, a reddish brown pigment prepared from the inky secretions of cuttlefish.

² Father Claude Chauchetière had written to his brother in a letter the life that he had written of Kateri Tekakwitha was in three parts. The first part had three books. The first book had twelve chapters and was her life before baptism, the second book was her life she led at the Mission and the third book the particularities of her death. The second part had several revelations and other marvels. The third part was the bodily cures attributed to her by year 1681 to 1696.

³ The river was the Great River or presently known as the Saint Lawrence River.

both are in front facing Kateri Tekakwitha.

Kateri Tekakwitha is painted in red, representing the red blanket she had at the time she arrived from the land of the Mohawks. There was only place for three persons in the canoe as written by Father Chauchetière, but he also painted the Divine Providence behind Kateri Tekakwitha because God had guided her to the Mission as was repeatedly said by Father Chauchetière.

Kateri Tekakwitha's vest is white representing her purity, possibly the same vest given her by her companion before her death. She also had a belt around her waist slightly seen and noticed from the contour of her vest.

Father Chauchetière wrote of her appearance that her hair was straight and parted. Her eyes, eyelids, her prominent right high cheek and broad face expresses her Native features.

Her round face seems to have a slight characteristic of an Algonquin, perhaps taken after her mother's Algonquin features. Her face is of a rosy colour. This was the appearance of her face when her face was transfigured shortly after her death. The left side of her face is shaded, perhaps to depict her covering of the face during her holy life. Her face inspires devotion.

Her moccasins are dark red to brown colour, which is mentioned in her life where she used glue from sturgeons to colour the hides red. Her left moccasin is painted different from her right, which is wider or loose, indicating that she had walked with a limp on her left foot. Also, her left foot is not painted straight as her right foot. Father Cholenec had written that she was

small and walked with a limp. This injury happened before she met Father Jacques de Lamberville, and this infirmity remained with her throughout her life. She appears to be of small stature in the portrait, and from her femur relic, she was slightly more than four feet and five inches in height.

Her blanket that she wore is a dark blue. This was the same blanket she wore on the days when she would receive Holy Communion. A double chain necklace attaches the color of her vest. Chauchetière painted the Cross in her right hand and as in the other paintings of her. Father Cholenec said this was how Kateri Tekakwitha appeared to her close friend Anastasia.

The shrub on her right side, would it depict the shrub that she took the thorn branches from and placed on her mat to sleep on⁴?

Father Chauchetière without any doubt painted the oil painting, because the drawings he did previously in 1685 or sometime later, the hands of those painted when enlarged on paper are of the same style as those in the portrait.⁵

After her death, Kateri appeared in a vision to Father Claude Chauchetière. He painted her in the way she had appeared to him. When portraits of Kateri were placed on the heads of the sick, marvellous cures occurred.

God did not deprive us from having a portrait of Kateri. Portraits were of great importance after her holy death for cures and instruction.

⁴ Northern Prickly Ash shrub.

⁵ The canvas of the oil painting is slightly more than 35 inches in height and 29 inches in width. The image of Kateri Tekakwitha was painted after the background was painted on the canvas.

Psalm 51

1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions
2. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin
3. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me
4. Against You, and You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment
5. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me
6. You desire truth in the inward being, therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart
7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow
8. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have crushed rejoice
9. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot all my iniquities
10. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me
11. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take away Your Holy Spirit from me
12. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit
13. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You
14. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance
15. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise
16. For You have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, You would not be pleased
17. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise
18. Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem
19. Then You will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Greetings from Vice-Postulator

Dear friends of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Since our last publication, it has been a very busy and exciting time both here and also in the many parishes that I have been visiting giving talks on the Life of Blessed Kateri. I will be soon completing my visits to parishes throughout our Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil (second largest diocese in the Province of Quebec). As well, I have been on the road traveling out of Province. I also address youth groups visiting at our Shrine of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha and as well as going out to wherever cities wherever I am invited. I spoke to a large group of women of the C.W.L. in Cornwall Ontario this past month. I will be speaking to more C.W.L. groups in the very near future. Praise the Lord, so many people wanting to know about Blessed Kateri.

On the weekend of May 2-4, my wife, Sheila and I will be participating in the Annual Prayer Weekend at the Kateri National Shrine in Fonda, New York where we will be presiding over the evening healing service as we have been doing since early 1980's accompanied with our ministry members from Akwesasne and Syracuse, N.Y. The two other weekends that we all gather there are on the July 14th weekend (Blessed Kateri's Death Feast in the USA), and also on our Thanksgiving weekend (Columbus Weekend in USA). Many of our ministry members serve as Advisory Board Members there at the Fonda Kateri National Shrine.

I have also been invited to keynote speak at the 10th Annual Kateri Healing Weekend in Pembroke, Ontario on May 16-18 weekend. I will also giving the homily at the closing Mass celebrated by our dear friend, Bishop Marcel Gervais, former Arch-Bishop of Ottawa (retired). Following that weekend, I will be preparing to go to the Diocese of Santa Fe, N.M. to attend the June 24th dedication of the Kateri Altar (in the San Juan Church). It is also the Feast Day at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo (formerly San Juan Pueblo). San Juan Parish is the oldest parish in the USA. It is a two hour drive from Albuquerque to Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. The following weekend we will be preparing to attend the Tekakwitha Conference in Edmonton, Alta. Do hope to see many you there. God bless all of you and please say a little prayer for your Vice-Postulators that through all our presentations reaching out to the young and old, that Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha be canonized soon.

Deacon Ron Boyer, V.P.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Lily of the Mohawks

Tekakwitha was the daughter of a Christian Algonquin mother and a non-Christian Mohawk Chief. She was born in 1656 on the south bank of the Mohawk River, in a village called Ossernenon. When she was four years old, a smallpox epidemic claimed the lives of her parents and baby brother. Their names were unknown. Tekakwitha survived the disease but her eyesight was impaired. Her face was scarred and the disease left her weak for the rest of her life. After about five years of the sickness, survivors of the village moved to the north bank of the river to begin a new life. Tekakwitha and her relatives moved into the turtle clan village called Gandaouque (Caughnawaga).

The first time she saw a priest was in 1677 when Fathers Freeman, Bruyas and Perron visited Caughnawaga.

In 1670, St. Peter's Mission was established in Caughnawaga (Fonda, NY). A chapel was built inside one of the longhouses. In 1674, Fr. James de Lamberville took charge of St. Peter's Mission. Tekakwitha met Fr. De Lamberville a year later when he visited her home. She told him about her desire to become baptized. She began to take religious instruction, and in 1676, April 5th, on Easter Sunday, she was baptized and given the name Kateri, or Katherine.

In August of 1677, Kateri fled her village to go and live at Sault St. Louis, St Francis Xavier Mission near Montreal. Two months later and about two hundred miles through woods, rivers and swamps, Kateri arrived at the

Sault with the help of friends. On Christmas Day, 1677, Kateri received her first Holy Communion.

During a winter hunt, Kateri was falsely accused of sinful relations with a hunter. Mary Teresa (Tegaiauenta) and Kateri became friends. Both girls performed extraordinary penances. Kateri and her friend asked permission to start a religious community. Request was denied. In 1678, Kateri enrolled in the pious society called The Holy Family because of her extraordinary practices of all virtues. On March 15, 1678, Feast of the Annunciation, a moment after receiving Holy Communion, Kateri pronounced her vows of perpetual virginity. Her whole life was devoted to teaching prayers to the children and helping the sick and the aged until she was struck with an illness that was to claim her life. On April 17th, 1680, Wednesday of Holy Week, she died at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at the age of 24.

Her last words were: "Iesos Konoronkwa," "Jesus I love You." Fifteen minutes after her death before the eyes of two Jesuits and all the Indians that could fit in the room, the ugly scars on her face suddenly disappeared. On January 3, 1943, she was declared Venerable by Pope Pius XI. She was beatified by Pope John XI on June 20, 1980.

Written with permission of my dear friend, Sarah Skanaieah Hassenplug, author of Vignettes on the life of Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks.

Send in your Intentions now

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- ☐ Obedience to the Holy Father

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- ☐ Positions
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Lodgings
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When making out your last will and **testament**, why not reserve a share for the Cause in view of Kateri's Canonization and for the upkeep of her sanctuary. Simply make your request to:

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