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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CLUB

KATERI

No 240

Katerina

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The Joseph Rontagarha Roll

Your intentions

LILY OF

THE MOHAWKS

Kahnawake, Quebec, Canada



AUTUMN 2009



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

KATERI

No 240

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: \$ 7.00 • International: \$ 12.00 a 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.

Autumn 2009

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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

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

1. In hydrocal, ivory or bronze finish (6 1/2"): \$ 12.00
2. Colored (6 1/2"): \$ 15.00
3. In hydrocal, 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

In English - *Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha*, by Henri Béchar, 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 Béchar, S.J.: \$ 15.00

SPECIAL: *Whitey 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"

Seven 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 July 3rd to October 26, 2009.

Articles found	2	Safe Trips	2
Better Health	4	Successful Studies	2
Cures	4	Successful or Averted Operations	7
Employment Found or Kept	5	Temporal Favors	8
Properties Bought or Sold	1		

Prayer Pledges for Kateri's Canonization

Total pledges to June 30, 2009: 30,696.

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.

2009 - Liturgical Year - 2009

January	1: New Year's Day - Mary, Mother of God 3: Holy Name Of Jesus 6: Epiphany
February	2: Presentation of Jesus 24: Mardi-Gras 25: Ash Wednesday
April	5: Palm Sunday 10: Good Friday 12: Easter 17: Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
May	10: Mother's Day 21: Ascension 31: Pentecost
June	21: 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	12: Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
November	1: All Saints Day 2: All souls Day 26: 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 _____

A Year for Priests

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of Curé d'Ars, Pope Benedict XVI has decreed a year for Priests that began last June 19 on the Feast of the Sacred Heart until June 19, 2010. If the occasion is the anniversary of the death of the "holy patron of all the pastors of the world" (Pius XI), Benedict XVI states this year's objective precisely: 1) "To promote an intense commitment of renewal among all priests in order to make their evangelical witness more incisive in the Church and in the world;" 2) "To recognize that priests are an immense gift, not only for the Church but also for all humanity".

Benedict XVI uses his letter to bring to the fore the teachings and examples of the Curé d'Ars that can be of help in achieving the objectives of this sacerdotal year, with supportive references to the Second Vatican Council. Saint Jean-Marie Vianney can offer a significant point of reference, above all, by his very great humility and by his awareness, as a priest, of being an immense gift for his people: "He says; a pastor according to the heart of God is the greatest treasure God can bestow upon a parish".

By his life of holiness of the ministry entrusted to him, he was a 'good pastor'. His presence to all parishioners and his concern for faith education of everyone, especially the young children, by the time that he provided for the collaboration of the laity, his love of the Eucharist and the time he accorded to adoration, and finally the importance he accorded to the Sacrament of reconciliation. Benedict XVI emphasizes: "The Curé d'Ars, in his time, knew how to transform the hearts and the lives of so many people because he succeeded in making them perceive the merciful love of God."

This sacerdotal year has already been the subject of many statements. The speeches that have been made about priests can sometimes be astonishing in view of the fact that their prestige has eroded in many regions of the world, including ours. To accept this year as good news, it is necessary for us to take note of the teachings of Vatican II. There, as in the thoughts of the Curé d'Ars, we recognize that priests do not only for themselves.

The use of the term "sacerdotal" rather "presbyteries" has the advantage of situating the priests in their relationship to others of the

A Year for Priests

(...following)

faithful. This is precisely what the constitution *Lumen Gentium* declares: "The priesthood of all believers and the ministerial priesthood, although there is an essential difference between them and not just one of degree, are however ordained one to the other: in fact, each in its own way, participates in the priesthood of Christ."

One of the consequences of this affirmation resides in a close collaboration between the priests and the lay faithful, in the recognition of the functions and charismas of each. On this subject, Pope Benedict XVI stated: his example of the Curé d'Ars) impelled me to speak of room for collaboration that must be ever widened for the lay faithful, with whom the priests form the unique people of God (LG n. 10) and in the midst of whom, by reason of the ministerial priesthood, are "to lead all to unity in love."

It is appropriate to recall in this context that the Second Vatican Council warmly encouraged priests "to sincerely recognize and promote the dignity of lay people and the proper part that they take in the mission of the Church." (*Decree on the ministry and the life of priests*, no. 9).

In each of its members, the whole Church is affected by the **Year for Priests**. May we, by our prayers, solidarity, and commitment, bring the grace of a faith more vital, enlightened and more fervently celebrated for the greater glory of God!

+ **Jacques Berthelet**, C.S.V.
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil

The Missionary

(first part)

Greetings to you 'friends of Blessed Kateri' in this month of October devoted to the Holy Rosary. I wish to share with you my experience as a Missionary. I belong to a community of missionary priests called MISSIONARY FRATERNITY OF MARY. In May 2010, we shall be celebrating twenty-five years of our foundation, which was in Guatemala, Central America my native country, The Land of Eternal Spring. So, this is our Jubilee Year. Well, I want to share with you my experience as a Missionary although for each one of us may be different from all others. For those who have not read articles in the Kateri Magazine before, my name is Alvaro Antonio Salazar, and at the present I am 58 years of age.

My first experience as a Missionary was in Brazil, in a small community in the North-Eastern part of the country, called Timon, in the state of Maranhao, working with a Catholic community economically very poor, but spiritually, very rich. The work, as well as the hot weather, was very intense. Along with me there were three other Missionaries, we were two Priests and two seminarians. In this particular place our parish was a palm-tree hut, with fourteen pillars to support the palm roof, and there were no walls. So, during the celebration of Holy Mass, it was frequent to see domestic animals coming in and going out. The pews were also very rudimentary, and the altar had to be kept in a private home in the neighbourhood. One of our other missionary brothers and me were ordained in the Diocese of Caxias, Fr. Hugo Santacruz in the Cathedral of Caxias, and myself in the parish where we were doing our pastoral work. It was a unique experience.

There were hundreds of people present for the ordination ceremony, but none of our family members could be present for this occasion. Then for health reasons, I had to leave Brazil and go back to Guatemala. For a number of years, I was designated to travel to the United States and Canada in missionary appeals for Missionary Fraternity of Guatemala, and after fifteen years of doing this fund raising mission, I was assigned to work for the Diocese of Longueuil, where Fr. Hugo was already working. At the beginning, I was told I would work in a French-speaking parish, but then for pastoral reasons, I was assigned to work at the St. Francis-Xavier Mission / Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Sanctuary in Kahnawake. I have been in this assignment for six years now, with ups and downs, as it usual is in missionary work. But here Blessed Kateri has taken good care of me.

We are both native, she as a Mohawk and I, a Mayan. We have in common our faith in God Our Lord and in the Blessed Virgin Mary, besides our traditions. I am sure that as Blessed Kateri has been with me during this time, since my arrival at her Sanctuary, she also is with many people of this community, and my prayer is for her prompt canonization, although to all of us, she is already a Saint.

Fr. Alvaro Salazar, m.f.m., pastor
St-Francis Xavier Mission

Greetings from the Vice-Postulator

During the summer, I had several interviews by news networks regarding the canonization of Blessed Kateri. One incident concerning Blessed Kateri came from a newscast in Montreal, both the English and French networks. It began by the general public asking for Amherst Street name in Montreal be changed because of the controversial British General Jeffrey Amherst, for allegedly advocating genocide of the Mohawk Nation, City Councilor Nicholas Montmorency had said in two resolutions. Renaming Amherst St. received much support.

In the Historical Journal (Winter 2002) Massachusetts, Amherst allegedly suggested transmitting smallpox to Mohawks in blankets as a goodwill gesture, a means of annihilating the Mohawk Nation. This was after being told by Swiss mercenary Col. Henry Bouquet of an outbreak of the disease at Fort Pitt. The name of Kateri Tekakwitha, an original inhabitant of this land was suggested as an alternate name change. Kateri Tekakwitha had already been known as a spiritual person of humility in the newly developing city of Montreal.

In one of the interviews, a reporter misquoted me taking my words out of context. He wrote; "*Deacon Ron Boyer of the St. F. X. Mission said, the reason Blessed Kateri has not been canonized is because she is Indian.*" When speaking to reporters, you are never sure they are quoting facts or printing sensationalism that does sell like hotcakes.

This all happened as I was investigating a healing that appears to be very positive for Blessed Kateri. Another healing from the United States is also being examined in Rome at this time.

I don't like talking about money but, dear friends and supporters of Blessed Kateri, our financial situation here at the Kateri Center is down. Presently, mailing out our KATERI QUARTERLY, costs \$9,200.00 each quarter or \$36,000.00 per year. It was in 1990 that the cost of KATERI was raised to \$5.00. Postage for mailing has since increased to a record high and several of our subscribers and benefactors have passed on and the younger generation is not coming aboard in great numbers. Perhaps, if by increasing \$5.00 per quarterly issue might keep us out of the red. The new price for yearly subscription to KATERI will now be \$10.00 per year. Our staff works only three days a week to cut back on expenses. Myself, I do not receive salary.

Our Bishop told me, "Deacon, you will have to start evangelizing to the baptized. How true! There is truly a need to bring the GOOD NEWS that Christ is ever present and does want to be invited into each one of our lives. He keeps asking us; *"What do you want me to do for you? Let me come into your hearts and your homes! Amen?"* Also, keep praying for Blessed Kateri's canonization. God will truly reward you abundantly. Through the intercession of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, May the blessings of Our Lord bless and watch over you your loved ones! Amen!

Ronald Boyer, *deacon*
Vice-Postulator

The saint who healed me

*I had given up prayer and nearly given up hope.
Would my psoriasis ever heal?*

by Joseph A. Izzillo as told to Thomas Fleming

Thirty-five years ago, my wife Noreen and I decided to take a trip to Montreal. As a busy lawyer, I seldom took vacations, but I needed some time off for a reason that had nothing to do with overwork. I suffered from a debilitating skin disease, psoriasis, which in its acute phase covered my entire body with scaly, bleeding plaques, and my flesh with throbbing pain.

Sleeping in a bed was almost impossible. I would sit in a chair in my living room and watch old movies until I nodded off from sheer exhaustion. I had to bathe in hot water twice a day; a single bath did not prevent the plaques from cracking and bleeding. When numerous doctors told me psoriasis was incurable, my depression deepened. I began to think I might rather die than continue to suffer as I was.

Noreen and I were hoping that a visit to a city like Montreal, full of new sights and sounds, would lift my spirits. A tourist booklet urged us to visit the Mohawk village of Kahnawake, on the south bank of the St. Lawrence River, opposite Montreal. Each Sunday there was a high Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church, sung in the Mohawk language.

I found the music stunning beautiful. Afterward, I thanked Father Henri Bechard, the pastor. He assured me that I was not the first person who had been stirred by the ceremony. "I attribute a lot of the emotional impact to Kateri", he said, "Kateri who?" I asked. Kateri Tekakwitha. She died near here over 300 hundred years ago. Someday I hope her holiness will be recognized by the Catholic Church. I'm convinced she was a saint." As an Italian Catholic growing up in New York City, I was familiar with dozens of saints. But I had never heard of Kateri, who had supposedly found holiness in the American wilderness. Embedded with my illness, I had not prayed to a saint – or to God – for a long time.

Father Bechard pointed to a crystal box about a foot high, tied by a ribbon and seal. "These are Kateri's bones," he said. I ran my fingers across the gleaming surface of the box. I suddenly had a desire – even a need – to know more about Kateri Tekakwitha. Father Bechard told me her story.

Kateri was born in 1656 in the village of Ossernenon, present-day Auriesville, New York, the daughter of a Mohawk chief and an Algonquian Christian woman who had been captured on a Mohawk raid into Canada. The Mohawks were the sworn enemies of the French rulers of Canada and their Native American allies.

When Kateri was 4, smallpox swept her village, killing her father and mother and a younger brother. Kateri survived, but her face and body were covered with oozing sores, which became ugly pockmarks.

As I thought about my own ravaged body. I suddenly felt a strange bond with this young woman. Kateri was not only badly disfigured by smallpox, Father Bechard continued, she was left almost blind and extremely sensitive to sunlight. Adopted by her father's brother, another Mohawk chief, she was nicknamed Tekakwitha, which in Mohawk means "She who feels her way before her."

The saint who healed me *(...following)*

When Kateri was 10, the French and their Native American allies burned Ossernenon to the ground. The survivors moved up the Mohawk River and built another village in what is now Fonda, New York. When the Mohawks agree to peace with the French, Jesuit priests – called “Black Robes” by the Mohawks – came to Kateri’s village to preach the Gospel. Jesus’ suffering and death, as well as Mary’s sorrow, had deep meaning for Kateri. She was inspired by their acceptance of God’s mysterious love. In 1675, at the age of 19, she asked to be baptized and took the Christian name Catherine – Kateri in Mohawk.

Kateri’s uncle and many other people in her village were infuriated. They regarded Christianity as the French enemy’s religion. Boys flung stones at Kateri. She was abused and insulted by her uncle and the rest of her family. Fearing for Kateri’s life the Jesuit missionaries arranged for Kateri to be removed to Laprairie, a few miles east of present day Kahnawake. Most of the villagers were Christians, including some Algonquians who had known her mother.

There on Christmas in 1677, Kateri received Holy Communion for the first time – an ecstatic experience for her. In 1679 she took a vow to remain a virgin and devote herself to caring for the sick and needy. During the next four years, her tenderness and generosity touched every heart in the village.

But the ravages of smallpox had left Kateri with a badly weakened body. At the age of 24, she died, whispering as her last words the names of Jesus and Mary. One of the Jesuit priests knelt beside her/bed, praying for her soul. Suddenly the pock-marks on Kateri vanished. She had the smooth skin of a beautiful woman! The priest cried out in amazement and dozens of Native Americans rushed into Kateri’s hut. They fell to their knees and began praising God.

“That,” concluded father Bechard, “was when people started praying to her.”

When I went home to Greenwich, Connecticut, and resumed my law practice, my psoriasis continued to torment me. But I no longer reacted to it as I had in the past. I stopped asking God, why me? When I thought of Kateri’s suffering, I found I could accept my own without my old bitterness. I began praying to God in Kateri’s name. At first my prayers were stumbling, embarrassed. I made a pilgrimage to Auriesville, her birthplace, and Fonda, where she had been baptized. These places have shrines that are visited by thousands of people each year. I realized that I was not alone in my veneration of this young woman. She was a channel of God’s grace for countless believers.

Although I was often depressed, I felt a curious, stubborn hope. That hope urged me to seek medical help again. At Cornell University in Ithaca New York, I met Dr. Dauphne Roe, who was doing research on psoriasis and had created a diet that helped psoriasis sufferers. She was a small, fragile woman who was almost totally blind. Her resemblance to Kateri, I thought, was remarkable.

Over the next several months, I started to improve. Large areas of my lesions disappeared. I was sleeping well and practicing law with new vigor. This improvement continued for a number of years until, with no warning, I had a relapse. I put in a discouraged telephone to Dr. Roe, who said she would visit me in Connecticut. But she never came. I learned a few days later that she had died.

Before I had “met” Kateri, I would have sunk into self-pity. But instead, I saw this loss as a test of my faith in God’s caring love. I asked Kateri to help me sustain that faith. I joined the campaign to persuade the Catholic Church to designate her as a saint, and was thrilled when in 1980, Pope John Paul 11 proclaimed her “Blessed.”

Meanwhile, I stayed on a modified version of Dr. Roe’s mostly vegetarian diet. I still needed frequent treatment in several hospitals, and was told I would require medical care for the rest of my life.

Then, abruptly, my psoriasis went into remission. As an act of gratitude, I decided to paint a portrait of Kateri. I had been painting as a hobby for many years, but I never done a portrait. I flew up to Kahnawake and Fr. Bechard found a Mohawk woman willing to pose for me. Anne Marie Snow wore traditional clothes she herself had made. I took many color photos and returned to my studio to complete the portrait.

My friends at Kahnawake liked it so much that they asked me to donate it to their church, where it was given a place of honour near Kateri’s tomb. I was astonished, and profoundly honoured, when my portrait was selected by the U.S. Postal Service to honour Kateri on the 350th anniversary of her death. I now believe not one step in my struggle for health and sanity could have been achieved without Kateri’s inspiration.

In gratitude, I devote one day a week working at St. Matthew’s House, a homeless shelter in Naples Florida, where I now live. I prepare food and often help to serve it. My wife, Noreen, joins me on these visits working in the thrift shop. Now 83, I still travel to many parts of the United States to paint portraits of individuals from other tribes.

Kateri’s life has inspired me in so many ways. I pray to God in her name every day to help the sick, especially the terminally ill. Her faith in God’s mysterious love is a gift she can enkindle in the hearts of anyone who reaches out to Him, thanks to her tremendous example.

For more information, contact: National Psoriasis Foundation,
6600 SW 92nd Ave., Suite 300, Portland, OR 97223-7195. E-mail: getinfo@psoriasis.org
Phone: 800-723-9166 or 503-244-7404 Web: www.psoriasis.org

Dear Friends of Blessed Kateri...

The theme for the 70th Tekakwitha Conference was "*With Kateri We Spread God's Word*". It was a common bond that brought the 2009 participants together in Raleigh, North Carolina from July 1st - 5th.

During this event Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha was the primary focus for prayer, keynote speakers and workshops. The on-going hope-filled atmosphere was that our patroness will SOON be raised as the **First Native American Saint** in the Universal Church. We express much gratitude and appreciation is to our prayer leaders, presiders, homilists, keynote speakers and workshop presenters who helped us draw greater attention to our model, our 'saint'.

For a few decades Kateri Tekakwitha has been known as the patroness of ecology to foster care for the earth, the environment. With the Tekakwitha Conference members and staff there is a conscious birthing of an eco-spirituality. This can be native spirituality lived out in our daily lives. Bishop Pfeifer states in a pastoral letter in: "Human life and all life as we know it, is dependent on "Mother" Earth for survival. Similarly, as we are coming to realize more and more, Mother Earth is dependent on her inhabitants for survival. In God's design a delicate balance, a "web of life" and mysterious interconnectedness exists among all forms of life impacting the ecology and environment of the earth, a spiritual bond holds all things together. To strengthen and renew this bond and interconnectedness, there is a need for a spirituality of the earth, an eco-spirituality." (Quotes from ORIGINS).

As a staff we have joined many other organizations to do our part in caring for the earth and environment by 'going green'. We are utilizing the internet to reduce use of paper and postage by voting on-line for board elections, and by sending membership renewal notices via e-mail. Many of our members send articles and photos electronically for the 'Cross and Feathers' which are shared with you and the tekconfnews emails which provides you with some current information.

At this summer's conference, members returned their clear plastic name badge holders to be reused next year. Some who did not need/use their conference bag either left or returned them to the registration desk. For health and sanitary reasons we are unable to reuse the red lanyards. If you so choose, please bring your red lanyard next year to the conference and the exchange will be made at the time of registration.

Let us join together: "God's people are caretakers of this earthly garden. An eco-spirituality draws on the word of God, which gives hope for the future while discerning and acting on the signs of the times in the present." (Bishop Pfeifer)

In Blessed Kateri,
Sister Kateri Mitchell

The Annual National Conference Tekakwitha

The 71st Annual Tekakwitha National Conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico July 28 - August 1, 2010. The year 2010 also marks the 300th anniversary year of Blessed Kateri's death.

The Tekakwitha National Conference is held each year to honour Kateri and to affirm North American Native culture and spiritual heritage.

Membership in the conference is open to everyone with a goal of unifying Native Catholics while respecting tribal differences; empowering Native Catholics to live in harmony with their Catholic and Native spirituality.

It also promotes and maintains ongoing communication and involvement between tribes and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in North America.

The conference also urges its members to pray for the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha and to follow her example of holiness.

For information, contact the:

TEKAKWITHA National Conference Centre, P.O. Box 6768, Great Falls, MT 59406; call 406-727-0147, or visit the web site: www.tekconf.org

The tomb of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is located at the St. Francis Xavier Mission that is located in Kahnawake, Quebec, on the South Shore of Montreal separated by the St. Lawrence River and the famous St. Lawrence Seaway.

Contact the St. Francis Xavier Mission to arrange pilgrim tours and for times and dates of daily and weekend Masses. P.O. Box 70, Kahnawake, Quebec J0L 1B0
Phone: 450-632-6030; Fax: 450-632-6031

E-mail: kateritekakwithasanctuary@yahoo.ca

The Kateri Center is the office of the Canadian Vice-Postulator and publishes a quarterly magazine KATERI.

To contact the office of the Kateri Center 450-638-1546. Fax and email are received through the Mission at the above address.

Images

By Anne Scheuerman



Canadian Delegates led by Youth at Grand Entry



Youth and Elders singing at opening Mass

We remember Father Leon Lajoie, S.J. Apostle to the Amerindians of Kahnawake

A few days before his death, Father Jacques Bruyere reminded us that it was 10 years since Father Leon Lajoie had passed away. This anniversary gives us the opportunity to remember how Father Lajoie devoted himself to the people that he served by his pastoral engagement and mostly by his humanitarian way, while he was pastor of the St-Francis Xavier Mission, in KAHNAWAKE. We have obtained two tributes: one of them is by a diligent collaborator through the years, and also one from an Amerindian who was involved in different ways in the parochial and community life of Kahnawake.

[A priest greatly respected and appreciated]

It is hard to believe that Father Leon Lajoie has been gone 10 years already! In 1967, I went to work at St-Francis Xavier Mission in Kahnawake where Father Lajoie was pastor. In the beginning, my main job was to familiarize myself with the souvenir shop and look after the visitors that came to the Shrine, and also answer the door and the phone. In no time at all I noticed that Father Lajoie was often asked at the office that he was available most of the time, and it was remarkable how faithful he was to visit the sick. His philosophy was "it is up to us to adapt ourselves to their ways and not to the opposite way."

This priest was admired and respected by his parishioners. For one thing he did not discriminate amongst the people who asked for help, no matter what their beliefs were. He had a deep understanding of his parishioners and the necessary ability to listen to those seeking his advice, and with his remarkable judgment that characterized him, could find words to comfort these people and offer suggestions to help them solve the problems that were confided to him.

In 1968, there came a time when the community needed someone at the Mission to do the accounting, and having had experience working as a bank teller previously I was asked to do the bookkeeping and I accepted. It was then that I understood that Father Lajoie, apart from his ministry, in order to help his parishioners who lived on the Reservation, had decided to change the welfare cheques. As a matter of fact, the welfare agent would come to the rectory every month to hand out the cheques to the welfare recipients. At that time there was no bank in Kahnawake, therefore Father Lajoie or another Father would cross the Mercier Bridge to cash these cheques and refill the cash box. So, there you are a sort of Social Service with banking privileges.

Another facet to his apostolate that demonstrated his compassion and humanity was the link he had established with the prisoners in Kingston, where the autochthones were sent. His sense of charity was not limited to the Amerindian, having known so many people when he was involved with Father Paul Aquin in 'Bon Dieu en Taxi', many had recourse to his good sense. I would say that he was a busy man, really, but he always had time to give to others, and he did it without complaining.

In 1980, when Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha was beatified, a trip to Rome was organized in Kahnawake for the Amerindians on the national level. Father Lajoie had accepted, at the request of the travel agency to supervise the project. This involved applications for passports that were all handled by the office at the Mission, and all details before and during the stay in Rome and elsewhere in Italy.

In conclusion, I would like to add that it was never unpleasant to work at St Francis Xavier Mission in Kahnawake. Father Lajoie knew how to treat his employees: knowing how to emphasize birthdays and other feast days. He had a sense of humor, was a good cribbage player, and very simply, would make us all feel as part of a big family. It was truly an honor to work at his side. Without a doubt, he is still guiding us from above.

François Bruyere

Father Leon Lajoie, S.J., 'Kapitan'

by Alan Goodleaf, Kahnawake

It has been ten years since Kahnawake has lost a man who to us was a priest, confidant, friend, man of honor. He came to Kahnawake many years ago by way of Montreal, where he had served as chaplain for the Montreal cab drivers. He came as 'cure' for the St Francis Xavier Mission not sure of how he would be received with his French accent and not really knowing the people, but his forte as a man who took people at face value, who showed respect and compassion for all soon prevailed.

He went about his priestly duties, getting to know as many people as he could possibly meet, making his annual rounds, visiting every home, not just the Catholics. He would occasionally tell of some interesting meetings with persons of different persuasions, who were not exactly pleased to have him at their door. The encounter was usually enlightening, as he told it, the people he met, often came to know the man; he was as he came to know them, even if it meant agreeing to disagree.

He came to know and love Kahnawake, just as the people came to know, love and respect him. Father was always busy taking care of his people, sometimes to the point of occasionally annoying some of the parishioners who would complain that he was not at the church enough. They were the lucky ones, as I came to learn from experience.

Having suffered an accident, Father showed up at my bedside as was his usual practice, and unless you were in a position to be a recipient of this visit, no one really knew. He had promised me that he would be back during the week. During this time, my sister had been in a fatal accident, I needed his words of comfort, it became late and I finally fell asleep. During the night, I sensed that there was someone there, two o'clock in the morning, Father Lajoie, was standing by my bed, as promised, and explaining that the weather had delayed him on his return from visiting another person from Kahnawake in prison. He was always there to say mass the next morning.

He gave true meaning to the terms of the shepherd who cared for his flock and will always be remembered by the people he chose as his own.

Thank you and good morning Kapitan!

Reflection on the Fifth Luminous Mystery

The Eucharist by Graydon Nicholas

I awoke to the sound of birds singing as the dawn was breaking into a new day in my life. It was 5:00 am. I felt like Juan Diego at the time of his first meeting with Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 9, 1531. I got up to have a prayer time in preparation for this reflection.

I reflected on my experience of accompanying the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Bernard's Church in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, on the morning of the 4th of July, 2009. We set up the Image prior to the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. After quiet adoration, we prayed the Rosary and asked for the intercession of Our Lady.

I was reminded during the adoration that Jesus sent His Mother to meet Juan Diego in order to draw others to Him. Our Lady promised to listen to the troubles, cries and pleas for help in those difficult times. She told Juan Diego that she was his mother. She asked him to be her ambassador and to convince Bishop Zumarraga to have a temple built. Mary succeeded in bringing many indigenous people into God's family.

Pope John Paul II told the gathered faithful on the occasion of the canonization of St. Juan Diego on July 31, 2002, that,

[3]... "The Guadalupe Event", as the Mexican Episcopate has pointed out, "meant the beginning of evangelization with a vitality that surpassed all expectations. Christ's message, through his Mother, took up the central elements of the indigenous culture, purified them and gave them the definitive sense of salvation" (14 May 2002, No. 8). Consequently Guadalupe and Juan Diego have a deep ecclesial and missionary meaning and is a model of perfectly inculturated evangelization.

That morning, as an indigenous person, I experienced the success of Our Lady's evangelization. I had a beautiful prayer experience as I sat in silence and awaited the inspiration of Jesus in my life. There were about a hundred people present for the celebration of the Eucharist in honor of our Lady's Saturday. I experienced an overwhelming sense of peace, joy and love.

Jesus' sacred legacy of the Eucharist has been more than a blessing and a place of refuge in my life. I am a Judge who deals with adult and youthful offenders charged with various crimes. I have been doing this for over 18 years. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend daily Mass because I desire and need the graces that I receive from the Eucharist to help me in my work. I bring my wounds and worries before the altar. I need to be reminded of my humble beginnings and the gifts I have received from Jesus. I need the nourishment and healing that comes from the *Body and Blood of Jesus* in the Eucharist.

One week later, I again awoke to birds singing at 5:00 am. It had been quite a week. The Image of Our Lady had visited homes, a Trappist Monastery and was present at four Masses at four different churches. A young mother holding her infant crying with joy, a widow mourning the loss of her husband, a person suffering from cancer and people worried about lapsed Catholic members of their families all participated in the

Reflection on the Fifth Luminous Mystery

The Eucharist by Graydon Nicholas

(...following)

Eucharist. The last Mass was at St. Ann's Church in the indigenous community of Burnt Church. People were drawn to the Image of Our Lady and how she invited them to her Son's holy banquet. They gathered and prayed for their community.

Jesus loves us so much that He gave us the Sacrament of the Eucharist to fulfill His promise to remain with us always and be our spiritual sustenance. He calls us to be His compassionate disciples and to turn back from Emmaus. He invites us to follow Him, the Way, the Truth and the Life. We do this best by living the *Beatitudes* and following His *Greatest Commandments* of loving God, our neighbor and ourselves. By living this way of life, we are building up the Kingdom of God where one day all of God's creation will live in harmony.

I held a teddy bear that had been given to me in August, 2006 by a dying Mi'kmaq woman named Grandmother Bear. Like Juan Diego, I heard the birds singing. I am grateful that Jesus is with me each day of my life. Jesus invites us to be His eyes, ears, voice, hands and heart so as to bring His love and mercy to all people. A peaceful silence replaced the joyful songs of the birds.

NITLAYIJ! (AME00N)

The Honorable Graydon Nicholas was born and raised on the Tobique Maliseet Indian Reserve, in New Brunswick. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Math) from St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N.S. (1968), a Bachelor of Law from the University of New Brunswick Law School, Fredericton, N.B. (1971), and a Masters of Social Work from Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario (1974). He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from St. Francis Xavier University in 1994 and from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2002. His distinguished record of leadership includes over 18 years of service as a New Brunswick Provincial Judge and a dedicated advocate on behalf of New Brunswick's Aboriginal communities. He was the first Aboriginal person to receive a law degree in Atlantic Canada. He was active in the New Brunswick Law Society, the Canadian Bar Association and the Indigenous Bar Association. In 1991, he was appointed to the bench as a Provincial Court Judge. During his time on the Provincial Court, Judge Nicholas was also appointed Co-Facilitator of New Brunswick's Aboriginal Task Force on Aboriginal Issues. He received the New Brunswick Human Rights Awards, the Fredericton YMCA Peace Medallion, and the Canada 125 Medal for longstanding service and community leadership, an inaugural recipient of the Golden Jubilee Medal. Mr. Nicholas has served on the Board of Governors of the St. Thomas University and as a member of the Canadian Bar Association Working Group on Racial Equality. He has spent much of his career working in the field of indigenous political development at the regional, national and international levels and maintains a keen interest in these areas to this day. Mr. Nicholas and his wife Elizabeth live in Fredericton and have two sons, Brian and Michael and grandson Cato.

It was an honor being present at his Installation. I have known and worked with Graydon more than twenty years. He continues to be an ardent promoter of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Cause of Blessed Kateri. Graydon is a bridge-builder and a spiritual role model.

Ron Boyer, deacon

Testimonies of favors obtained

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

Enclosed is a cheque to cover a sympathy enrolment and the remainder in thanksgiving for favours received. My daughter was diagnosed with two kinds of cancer – one that was very rare and very aggressive. After two surgeries, she is now cancer free. Thank you Blessed Kateri. I will continue to pray to Blessed Kateri to take care of all my grandchildren and keep them safe. I pray every day for Kateri's canonization.

(Burlington, ON)

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

The enclosed twenty dollars is for Kateri's Cause. Again my prayers were answered and my daughter recovered and was able to return to work. I am now praying for Kateri's intercession for a work situation and a school situation.

(Biddeford, MA)

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

Thank you Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha for many favors received, especially safe trips in an automobile.

(Hawthorne, NY)

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

Enclosed is a cheque in thanksgiving for favors received, especially for a friends successful operation...

(Etobicoke, ON)

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

I wrote in March for prayers for my son to find a job. They were answered quickly...

(East Syracuse, NY)

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

Please accept a small donation for Blessed Kateri. I pray to her and ask many favors of her that has helped me in health matters. I also pray for her "Canonization" to happen very soon. She is always there for me no matter what I ask of her.

(Sudbury, ON)

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

Enclosed please find twenty-five dollars. Five dollars for a subscription and twenty dollars to thank Blessed Kateri for the new car. I was able to visit Kateri at Blessed Sacrament Church where I first met you.

(Bronx, NY)

Testimonies of favors obtained (...following)

✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. G.S.!

Enclosed is a check in the amount of twenty dollars. Five dollars for my subscription and fifteen dollars for Kateri's Cause. I prayed to Kateri for successful surgery on my kidney. My surgery was successful and the tumour benign. Thank you Kateri!
(Manasquan, NJ)

✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Miss V.H.!

Please find enclosed a donation in thanks to assistance given by Kateri to a dear friend facing challenges in their personal life and who needed some assistance. We give our thanks to Kateri for her intercession.
(Oakville, ON)

✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. D.H.!

Please accept twenty dollars for prayers answered by Blessed Kateri. We love her and she has answered so many of our prayers. It seems to me we are always asking for her help lately. Thank you.
(New Minas, NS)

✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. P.H.!

I would like to thank my dear Saint Kateri for her help in making our move to BC so successful. We love our new home. Kateri is always with me.
(Courtney, BC)

✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. G.D.!

I am enclosing a cheque for Kateri's Cause for a favor obtained. I prayed Kateri for my daughter and she heard my prayers and granted her a new job. Kateri always come through for me. Thank you Blessed Kateri.
(Oakville, ON)

✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Miss M.W.!

Grateful thanks to dear Kateri for positive results of an eye exam, no surgery was needed. Continue to keep my many intentions in Masses and prayers. I am enclosing a cheque for one hundred dollars....
(Walkerton, ON)



The Joseph Rontagarha Roll

In 1677, Joseph Rontagarha, then twenty-five years of age, came to live at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier. He had already been to France and had showed himself a fairly good Christian after his return. Following a hunting expedition with Touastreskon, a Mohawk brave, member of the Holy Family Association, he became a devout church-goer. The conversations with his friend led him to a personal love of Christ. He often collected the children of the neighborhood in his longhouse and taught them the Creed and other prayers that were sung at church, much to the satisfaction of the Blackrobes.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Berthe Prémont | 14. Mr. Lorain Weston | 27. Mr. William Fitzgerald |
| 2. Miss Irène Gagné | 15. Mr. Frank Joseph Wool, Sr. | 28. Mr. Roger Buddy Laroche |
| 3. Mr. Alexandre Richardson | 16. Mrs. Marceline Richardson Brideau | 29. Mrs. Gisele Bouchard |
| 4. Mr. Stanley J. Pocztak | 17. Mr. Roland Levesque | 30. Mrs. Florence Bouchard |
| 5. Mr. Claude Labre | 18. Mr. Chester J. Brooks | 31. Mrs. Rita St. Laurent |
| 6. Mr. Roger Buddy Laroche | 19. Miss Kathleen Brooks | 32. Mrs. Edith Allain |
| 7. Mrs. Henriette Ishpatao | 20. Mrs. Doris Scopa | 33. Dr. Fernand Charest |
| 8. A Soul in Purgatory | 21. Mr. Alphe Masse | 34. Mrs. Liane Killiany |
| 9. Mr. Arthur Poirier | 22. Mrs. Denise Dion | 35. Mr. André G. Levasseur |
| 10. Mrs. Alvera Gheduzzi | 23. Mrs. Catherine Thibodeau | 36. Mr. Edmond Thibodeau |
| 11. A Soul in Purgatory | 24. Mr. Guy Lecavalier | 37. Mrs. Anne-M. Malec-Merstokosho |
| 12. Mrs. Eva Roussel | 25. Miss Suzanne Doucet | |
| 13. Mr. Thomas Marino, Sr. | 26. Mrs. Colette Dans | |



Send in your Intentions now

Spiritual

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- ☐ Obedience to the Holy Father

Temporal

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

Other Requests _____

Would you like to help Kateri's Cause?

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:

Kateri Tekakwitha Center

Mission St. Francis Xavier

P.O. Box 70, Kahnawake, Quebec J0L 1B0

Kateri will then take good care of you and your beloved ones on earth as in heaven.

The Kateri Sympathy Cards!

4 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 sign a card and send it to the bereaved family.

1. A Mass is offered each week for the members of the Guild.
2. A High Mass is sung each week for the deceased members of the Guild.
3. Annually a Novena of Prayer, ending on April 17, Feast of Blessed Kateri.
4. Daily remembrance of all the Guild members in the Vice-Postulator's Liturgy of the Hours.

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

One dozen cards: \$5.00 (Postage included). Each yearly enrollment in the Kateri Tekakwitha Guild: \$2.00

Please renew your subscription;

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PLEASE INDICATE MR., MRS. OR MISS AND CODE

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- (5) Name M. _____
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City or Town _____ Code _____
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(Gift note sent unless otherwise requested)

FROM: Name _____

Address _____

As I am sending **the names of FIVE new subscribers** and their addresses to the Kateri Center (\$30.00), I now inscribe free of charge, the name of one deceased person dear to me on the Joseph Rontagarha 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.