

BISHOP'S OFFICE  
225 MADISON AVENUE  
ALBANY, N.Y.

Rev. Henri Bechard, S.J.  
Mission Saint-Francois-Xavier  
Caughnawaga, P.Q.

Dear Father Bechard:

I have your letter of February 13th...  
I am glad to learn that I am enrolled as  
a perpetual member of the Tekakwitha  
Guild. The project has my approval and  
benediction.

I trust that your little publication  
will have the success it deserves in its  
mission in making better known the life  
and virtues of the Lily of the Mohawks.  
We are all eagerly awaiting the happy day  
when she will be raised to the honors of  
our altars.

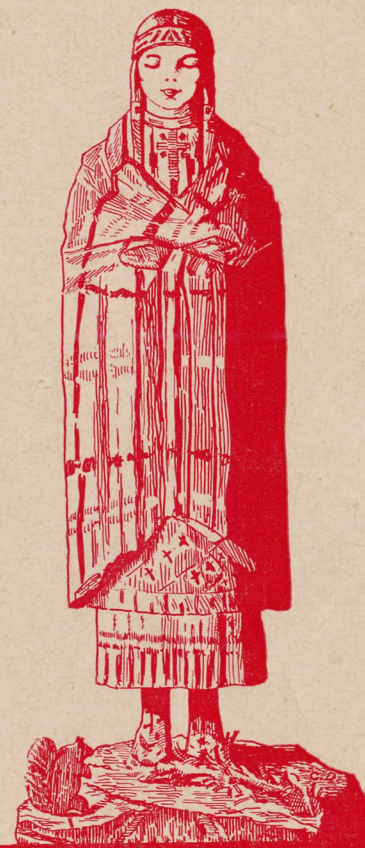
Yours sincerely in Christ,

† EDMUND F. GIBBONS,  
Bishop of Albany.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Most Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons is an old and staunch friend of the Mission. In 1931, His Excellency instituted the Tribunal for the Process of Information concerning the Cause of the Servant of God, Kateri Tekakwitha in Albany, a few miles away from her birthplace. On July 21, 1932, His Excellency and the other members of the Tribunal visited Mission Saint-François-Xavier. This Process eventually led up to the declaration of the Heroic Virtues of Kateri in 1943 by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. When the Iroquois Mixed Choir passed through Albany, Bishop Gibbons received the members with fatherly interest and affection. To His Excellency goes out the gratitude of the Mission and the best wishes of Kateri's many friends.



# KATERI





# KATERI Number 3

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### THE KATERI TEKAKWITHA GUILD

The sodalists of the Blessed Virgin of Caughnawaga, Quebec, who are descendants of the earliest Christian Indians in Canada and New York State, have formed themselves into a Guild to spread devotion to the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.

Our quarterly bulletin KATERI intends, above all, to tell her tale, to foster devotion to her and to record the favors both spiritual and temporal you receive through her intercession. As a result, it is hoped the cause of her Beatification will progress more rapidly.

A one year subscription to KATERI (\$1.00) or any other offering, no matter how modest, will enroll you as a member of the Kateri Tekakwitha Guild for one year, to share in a special Mass offered on the 1st Monday of each month for your intentions in the old Mission church of St. Francis Xavier.

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MISSION SAINT-FRANÇOIS-XAVIER  
CAUGHNAWAGA, P.Q. - CANADA

(Cum permissu Superiorum) JUNE-JULY 1949.



*An extremely interesting article from Rome  
By the Rev. Fr. Charles Miccinelli, S.J., Postulator General of the  
Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha's Cause*

## The cause of the Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha



IN the first place, this noble and exceptional Cause is greatly indebted to our saintly Missionary Fathers who directed this privileged soul and who wrote about her life and virtues.

Then, came those who either as postulators or as witnesses prepared in our own times, the canonical processes which resulted in an excellent documentation of the facts pertaining to the Cause.

When the results of these processes arrived at Rome, the Historical Section of the Sacred Congregation of Rites over which presided the Most Reverend Father Ferdinand Antonelli, O.F.M.<sup>(1)</sup>, worked upon them with veritable love, and was happy to present a scientific and well-illustrated collection of documents to the consideration of the Theological Section. The latter was seized with admiration for the wonderful character of the Indian Maiden, and the regretted Cardinal Salotti, who was the first Proponent (Cardinal Micara, Prefect of the Congregation now acts as Proponent) was enthusiastic about her. His Holiness

1. In October, 1948, Fr. Antonelli with great devotion and satisfaction had the occasion to visit the Shrine at Auriesville and Mission S.-Frs-Xavier.



Pius XII not only was very happy to declare her virtues heroic, but conceded that, given the evidence and the authority of the testimonies, four miracles would not be necessary to proceed to her Beatification as is customarily the case, but that two would be sufficient.

Venerable Kateri is certainly not sparing of favors and of graces—even miraculous—to those who invoke her. In the last few years, in a manner which belongs to the realm of things miraculous, she made herself known in Poland. Whatmore, with regard to some of these favors, there has been a regular canonical process, but wartime conditions prevented the form of these processes and the matter from being quite satisfactory and, as such, from presenting them in all security to the Sacred Congregation.

Therefore, the Venerable's clients must multiply their prayers and organize under the direction of the worthy editors of this Review, a holy offensive to obtain the desired Beatification. From this Beatification would result great joy and edification not only for Canada and the United States and for all the Indians, but for the entire world, which, according to an elegant design of Providence, would be taught with authority in the virtues that it so badly needs, by a young Maiden of the Redskins!

CHARLES MICCINELLI, S.J.

“Kateri” thanks its new friends who have sent in subscriptions and addresses. When writing, always print your own name and address clearly.

## LETTERS TO KATERI

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

*Chicago, Ill., March 17, 1949:* I am late in acknowledging the receipt of literature and the relics that I requested of you some months ago. I was asking Kateri to obtain a miracle in the cure of my brother, afflicted with cancer. For a time I thought her intercession was working, but on March the 7th he passed to his eternal reward, but I do not feel our prayers were unanswered, for he had a very easy, peaceful death, and we had feared great agony for him . . . Rev. Sister M. P.

*Worcester, Mass., February 24, 1949:* My daughter, who is a nun, had a festering sore on the back of her neck. I asked Kateri to heal her, as she has never failed me yet. I had my daughter wear a relic of Kateri and put her picture in her prayer-book, where she could find the prayer to Kateri and say it often. I told my daughter that she would get results. Results came. I received communion several times, offering this for the Beatification of the Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha and in thanksgiving for what she did for my daughter. How glad I am to know that she is better! . . . Mrs. C. R. D.

*Manchester, N.H., February 16, 1949:* I am forwarding \$3.25 (1.00 for my subscription and the rest in thanksgiving to Kateri for a favor). My sister's baby refused to take any substantial nourishment . . . I gave my sister Kateri's picture and suggested that she make a novena to her. The child's appetite immediately became normal. You may well understand how grateful she is to Kateri . . . Mrs. R. A. T.

*Winnipeg, Man., March 26, 1949:* My novena to Kateri has been answered, my request granted, but to a degree far beyond what I had presumed

to ask. Kateri is more than generous. Every one in our two countries should know of her and pray that she may be raised to our altars . . . Mr. W. J. R. E.

*Saint Louis, Mo., February 7, 1949:* I want to write and thank Kateri Tekakwitha for a very great temporal favor—in fact, a real ‘miracle’ that she performed for me. I read an article about her in the *St. Louis Register* by Fr. Lord, and made a novena to her. Today my novena ended, and she has given me a favor so great that I cannot praise her enough. I will pray very earnestly for her Beatification. The favor was a reconciliation. Miss K. G.

*Havana, Cuba, April 3, 1949:* . . . Enclosed please find a money order for \$5.00 I promised to Kateri. I asked her for help and she helped me; you see I am a sick person. . . Mrs. M. T. M.

*Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, February 17, 1949:* I was extremely happy to receive “Kateri”. You may be sure that little Kateri is very dear to me. I hope to see her honored by the Church as Blessed and as Saint . . . Mr. M. C.

*Toronto, Ont., February 9, 1949:* One of my requests made at your church has been granted, and another partly so. It is rather remarkable—so worth your noting. Rev. J. W. F.

*Montreal, P.Q., May 15, 1949:* . . . I am enclosing a small check (\$5.) for little Kateri. I prayed to her so that my eldest son would find a job. And he did . . . Mr. H. S.

*Montreal, P.Q., May 22:* Novenas were made by our friends and ourselves to Kateri with the favor of finding a home for our family implored. This favor was granted today and we hereby give thanksgiving to Kateri. Mr. and Mrs. V. O



*"The training of a child begins twenty years before its birth, at the moment the mother's training begins." — NAPOLEON I*



*C. Langlois, S.J.*

ST. JOHN DE BRÉBEUF

The faith of Kahenta's people was strengthened by frequent contacts with the Montagnais and other neighboring Indians, all excellent Christians. Strengthened also by the visits of the numerous Blackrobes on their way to their distant Mission fields . . .

Kateri's mother, in her early teens, quite certainly saw Saint John de Brébeuf and many of his companion Saints. Possibly, she even assisted as they offered the Holy Sacrifice before they fanned out over the continent . . . And when the news of their martyrdom traveled back along the mighty St. Lawrence, when

## Her Mother

**K**ATERI'S mother . . .

The little that is known about her may help us to understand Kateri better.

Her name? . . . Unrecorded. Father Holland, S.J., the poet, once called her Kahenta, the Iroquois for Flower-of-the-Prairie.

Kahenta—you don't object, do you?—came from far away Three Rivers. She was not an Iroquois by birth, but an Algonquin. As far back as 1652, Father Buteux remarked the deep faith of the Algonquins, which flowered in a truly extraordinary spirit of prayer.

the remains of Brébeuf and Lalemant on their way back to Quebec reposed in "chapelle ardente" in the little Three Rivers church, Kahenta, in spite of her youth, understood once and for all what her baptism, what her religion meant. And she never forgot it.

Algonquin and Iroquois did not get along any too well in those days—no better than the rival nations of Europe . . . So they warred upon each other. And one day, Flower-of-the-Prairie found herself transplanted to Ossernenon (Auriesville, N.Y.). The fortunes of war had made of her a captive.

After the shock of separation began to wear down, her youthful vitality reasserted itself. Doubtless, the time came when she could cheerfully hum snatches of songs to herself as she kneaded the golden maize into cornbread . . .

And then, one day, her anxiety completely disappeared for she felt running after her, the eyes of the young chief-tain, her master. He was a courageous soldier, but fierce and haughty. He was a pagan; she was a Christian. Her modesty and meekness, so unlike anything he knew, drew him to her.

One late afternoon as the shrill notes of a few tardy cicadas rent the air, he sat

down beside Kahenta in the longhouse, and asked for a bowl of food. She smilingly handed it to Kenhonoronkwa (her Beloved) . . . And thus they were wedded in the manner of the Mohawks.

Two children were born of this marriage, Tekakwitha and a baby brother. The Lily of the Mohawks was not four years old when she was left alone in the world. An epidemic of smallpox carried off the rest of the family.

Did Kateri's mother influence the child in the short span of years allotted to her? She most certainly did. Nowadays educators admit that the six first years of a person's life are the most important of all. A child is already "saved" or "spoilt" the day he enters kindergarten.

The strong faith of Kahenta wove around Kateri's early years a tapestry of love. How often did the little one hear her mother murmur the sweet names of Iesos, Wari and Sose, how often did the bright-eyed child smile up to her as she sang those hymns the Blackrobes had taught her as a little girl in Algonquinland? . . .

Often enough to mark this child of destiny, often enough to prepare her for long years undefiled amongst pagans . . .

H. B.





## A NEW PAINTING OF KATERI

Madam Andrée Sobosca de Groot painted this new picture of Kateri last autumn at Mission Saint-François-Xavier. Miss Kateri Beauvais, an Iroquois girl, served as model. Madam de Groot is of French Polish origin; she studied art under Maurice Desvallières and Maurice Denis of the famous Ateliers d'Art Sacré of Paris; she also studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris, etc. Many international exhibits of her paintings have attracted considerable attention, particularly in Europe, South America and Canada. She was a member of the faculty of Fine Arts at the Universidad Bolivariana of Medellin and Xaveriana of Bogota in Columbia, South America. Several of her works have won official recognition, for instance in Paris in 1937 at the Salon d'automne as well as at the World Fair, and at Rio de Janeiro in 1940. Her specialties are composition and special techniques, especially fresco-work. Her husband, Dr. Jan de Groot, who is quite an artist himself, is a faculty member of the Arts Section of the French Canadian Université de Montréal.

Before mixing her colors for this painting, the artist carefully studied the relation of a vision which occurred on the 3rd of September, 1681. Here it is—from Father Cholenec's Life of Katherine Tegagouita, written in 1696:

"This fervent Christian (Kateri's friend, Anastasia), after everyone had gone to bed in the hut, remained alone in prayer that evening. Feeling herself overcome by sleep, she lay down upon her mat to rest, but she had hardly shut her eyes when she was awakened by a voice which called her with these words: 'Mother mine, arise'. She recognized Kateri's voice and immediately, far from being afraid, sat up and turning in the direction whence came this voice, she saw Kateri, brilliant with light standing close by. Part of her body, up to the waist, was concealed in this brightness; the other half according to this woman, shone like the sun. She held a cross in her hand which was more brilliant than all the rest, and from it proceeded so much light that I do not believe that, here on earth, it is possible to see anything more beautiful.

" 'I saw her', she went on, 'distinctly in this position, awake as I was, and she spoke these words which I also heard distinctly: Mother mine, look at this cross. Oh! how beautiful it is! It was the cause of all my happiness during my life, and I counsel you also, to make it yours' ".  
H. B.



*The roof was struck by flying steel . . .*

## *Herr Schulte Speaks of Kateri*<sup>(1)</sup>

IT was during 1940-41 that I read the holy *Life of Kateri Tekakwitha* which appeared in the *Stadt Gottes Annals* of the Fathers of the Divine Word (1933, Vol. LVII, pp. 7-10). I was deeply impressed by the story of her life and I then resolved to pray much for the advancement of her Cause. Ever since, I have quite faithfully kept my resolution.

The war, and in its wake, the American planes which came to our section of the country in tens, then in hundreds and even in thousands, renewed my devotion. At each bombing, I prayed for the Cause of Kateri, adding: "May she protect us from the bombs!"

In March 1944, my prayer was heard. From the 6th to the 12th of March several hundred bombs fell in our neighborhood. Some speak of as many as 300 bombs aimed at Arnsberg which is located at three kilometers to the west. There, Allied bombs weighing 2,000 kilograms destroyed the viaduct.

On March 12, 1944, a veritable downpour of bombs fell upon our town. One house was completely destroyed, many were damaged—63 of them were left uninhabitable—but there were only five deaths.

The roof of our house was struck by flying steel. A bomb fell at 300 feet from the house and it was not removed until 1946; it never exploded. People who recall the formidable air-attack of that day cannot help but wonder at the few resulting casualties. *I, myself, attribute the protection given us to the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.*

The 11 of April, 1945, about 8 o'clock in the morning, we received for the first time a small detachment of American soldiers of occupation. When they entered the town at the sight of all

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1. The writer is the former principal of the school at Rumbeck and organist of the parish church. Mr. H. Schulte, who is 55 years old, retired from teaching because of what he had to suffer during the Nazi regime, as he always refused to be a party member.

the damage, they spoke of those "young aviators". That evening, on account of a fire at Arnsberg we were called upon to house some American soldiers. We chatted, joked and laughed together. Our house was inspected but well treated. *There again I see the protection of the Venerable Kateri.*

The Armistice found me asking other favors from Kateri—protection against the arrogance (!) of the occupation troops and just treatment at the victors' conferences. Now, this is what I was able to see for myself. Many Germans would have died of hunger without American aid. My own family was saved thanks to parcels of food and clothing sent to us by relatives living in Saginaw, Mich. *I consider this a recompense that Kateri obtained for me.*

I am enclosing a newspaper clipping which fell into my hands in November 1948 and which spurred me on once again to pray for the advancement of the Cause. The unexpectedness of it was a great surprise to me. The journal in question was until then unknown to me; consequently, I was not a subscriber. It was due to an error in distribution that I learned about the efforts of Kateri's people to help the Cause.<sup>(1)</sup>

Besides, I consider as an undeniable result of my prayers (to Kateri), the settlement finally achieved and published in the *Westfalenpost* journal of January 18, 1949. My wishes for the good of my country were thereby nearly realized in full. The Military Authorities have imposed for the maneuvers, the strictest respect for property and the best treatment for the population. It is a 100 p.c. proof of the protection and of the power of intercession of the Lily of the Mohawks.

It is purely through gratitude that I have written these lines. Even if they helped in nowise the Cause of Kateri's Beatification, at least they will give word to my conviction that Kateri is for me a protectress in the eternal Kingdom, close to the Father who is in Heaven.

HERMANN SCHULTE,

*Rumbeck via Arnsberg in Westphalia,  
Kreisstrasse 13, British Zone.*

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1. See KATERI, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 12. The Author however, had read the details concerning these efforts in a German paper published in Munich.



# CALENDAR TIDBITS

*March 4, 1949.*—The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier, comenced today.

*March 7.*—Rev. Fr. Goulet, S.J., Rector of the Scholasticate of the Immaculate Conception (Jesuit Seminary) in Montreal, and Rev. Fr. Silvano Columbini, S.J., National Publicity Director of the Missionary League of Italy, visited the Mission Church.

*March 20.*—Fr. Albert Burns began the annual retreat for the women of the Mission. Next Sunday he will undertake that of the men. Father's deep understanding of Caughnawaga and his ready humor will be utilized in full.

*April 8.*—Kateri received the Very Rev. Joseph Bergeron of France, Superior General of the Sacerdotal Confraternity. He was accompanied by Rev. Albert Lafleur of the same Community. An Anglican minister, the Rev. Zimmerman of Brantford, Ont., also visited our church.

*April 10.*—During the impressive ceremonies of Holy Week, Rev. Fr. Noel Germain, S.J., Director of the Canadian Martyrs' Shrine in Quebec City (14, rue Dauphine), very charitably helped us out. This year, the tercentenary of the deaths of St. John de Brébeuf, St. Gabriel Lalemant, St. Charles Garnier and St. Noel Chabanel, has seen Fr. Germain with the reliquary containing signal relics of these Saints, in particular, the cranium of de Brébeuf, in many cities of Canada.

*April 17.*—Easter Sunday. Arreria! Alleluia! During the Solemn Mass, according to an old custom 8 young ladies came up to the altar railing at the Offertory to make their offering in the name

of the Mission. Into exquisitely beaded baskets over a century old they dropped a piece of silver, an outward sign of the gift of themselves to God. Then the blessing of the loaves took place. Decked with flags, these loaves towered up in the sanctuary over the celebrant's head. (See *cul.*) This bread was the gift of the Dominion Bridge Indian Workers of Caughnawaga. It was then distributed to all the assistants.

*April 24.*—Forty Hour Devotions. The different parochial associations came each in turn to adore Our Savior in the Blessed Sacrament.

*May 1st.*—Forty of our little ones made their First Communion accompanied by their fathers and mothers, who received also.

*May 8.*—Mothers' Day. Each year the mother of a sodalist is chosen to represent the mothers of the Mission. Mrs. William Bush's name was drawn. In the name of all the other mothers, she offered a bouquet to Our Blessed Mother. Mrs. Bush was also privileged to receive Holy Communion first.

The sodalists, who had made a corporate communion at an early Mass, completed their celebration of the World-Wide Sodality Day with a procession and with the reception of their new members. A special blessing was also given to all the mothers present.

*May 22.*—The Iroquois Mixed Choir sang at the High Mass at Brébeuf College in Montreal. During the Mass His Excellency Miguel Miranda, Bishop of Tulancingo, Mexico, heard it. In the afternoon he came to visit the Mission and to pray before the relics of Kateri. His Excellency was accompanied by Rev. Fr. Carlos, D.D., and Rev. Fr. Maurilio Montemayor, S.J.

FATHER ANGUS

*The old Mission Church to which thousands of Kateri's friends will flock this summer.* ➡➡➡



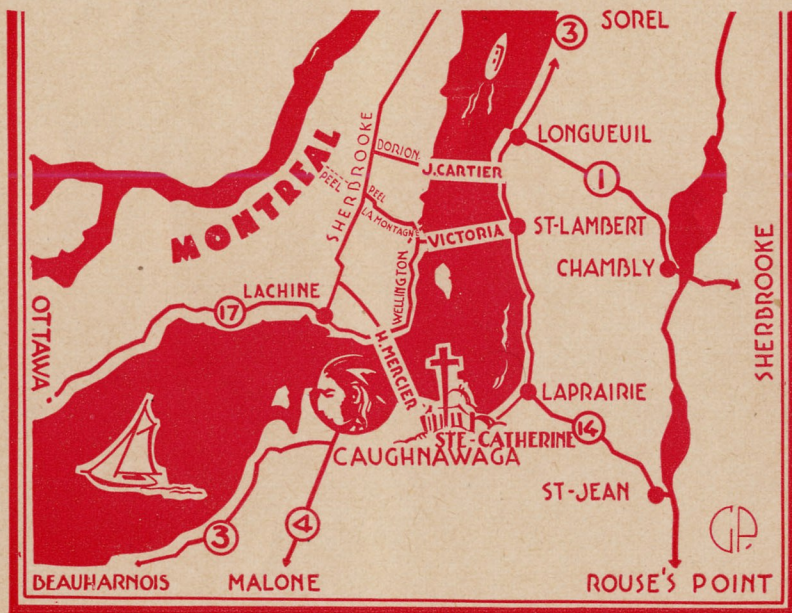


## HOW TO GET THERE

Routes from Montreal

to Caughnawaga

and Kateri Tekakwitha's Shrine.



## PRAYER

*for the Beatification of Catherine Tekakwitha.*

+

O GOD, who, among the manifold marvels of Thy Grace in the New World, didst cause to blossom on the banks of the Mohawk and of the St. Lawrence, the pure and tender Lily, Catherine Tekakwitha, grant, we beseech Thee, the favor we beg through her intercession—that this Little Lover of Jesus and of His Cross may soon be raised to the honors of the altar by Holy Mother Church, and that our hearts may be enkindled with a stronger desire to imitate her innocence and faith. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

*Our Father and Hail Mary, once, and Glory be to the Father, three times.*

*Imprimatur :*

† Em.-Alph. DESCHAMPS, V.G.,  
Bishop of Thennesis  
Auxiliary of Montreal.

April 1st 1927.