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 KATERI TEKAKWITHA, MOHAWK MAID  
 by Evelyn M. Brown  
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*Address all Correspondence to--*

*Kateri, Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada*

# K A T E R I



Volume 11, No. 2  
 March, 1959  
 Henri Béchard, S.J.  
 Editor and V.-Postulator





# KATERI Vol. 11 No. 2

## AIM

1. Our quarterly bulletin, "Kateri", published by the Rev. Martial Caron, S.J., intends to help you obtain favors both temporal and spiritual through the intercession of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. It is hoped her Beatification will thereby be hastened.
2. It aims to increase Kateri's friends and to procure from them at least a daily "Hail Mary" for her Beatification.
3. It seeks also your donations, for without them practically nothing can be done to make Kateri known and to have the important favors attributed to her intercession examined and approved.

## CONTENTS

Each issue of "Kateri" contains:

1. One or several pages on Kateri's life and virtues;
2. News from Kateri's friends everywhere;
3. The account of favors due to her intercession;
4. News concerning the Indians of America, with special reference to the Caughnawagas and to their friends.

## PRIVILEGES

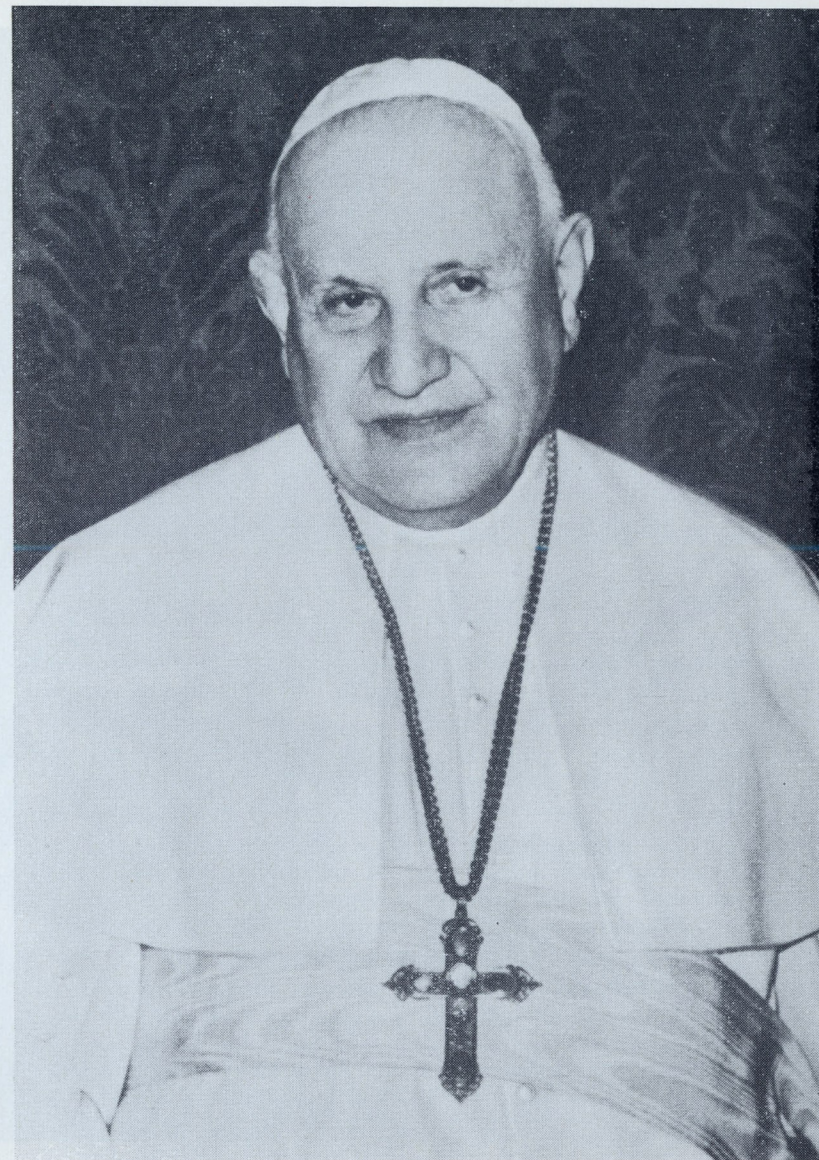
Your contribution (\$1.00 a year, as long as possible) enrolls you among "Kateri's Friends" for whom

1. A weekly Mass is offered;
2. The Vice-Postulator prays at the Memento of his daily Mass;
3. As benefactors of the Society of Jesus, 190,000 Masses are offered annually;
4. The spiritual treasure of the good works of some 31,000 Jesuits is opened;
5. Extra graces are merited by working for Kateri's Beatification.

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the Ordinary and Permission  
of Superiors

Caughnawaga, P. Q.



OUR HOLY FATHER POPE JOHN XXIII





## Pius XII and Kateri

**O**UT of the fulness of their hearts, Kateri's friends will continue to remember the late Pope Pius XII in their prayers. As early as 1936, when he was Cardinal Secretary of State for the Holy See, he became interested in the Lily of the Mohawks. That year, during his momentous trip to America, he visited the Auriesville Shrine to the Jesuit Martyrs. There in 1642, St. René Goupil, and in 1646, St. Isaac Jogues and St. John de Lalande spilt their blood for the conversion of the Iroquois. At this hallowed spot, ten years later, 1656, Tekakwitha was born. As Cardinal Pacelli trod upon this sacred ground, he recalled Tertulian's words: "The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians."

Shortly after his election, in 1939, to the Chair of Peter, he wrote to Miss Gilberte Bouvier of Brookline, Massachusetts, informing her that the last book read by his illustrious predecessor, Pius XI, before his death, was hers, **KATERI TEKAKWITHA**, written in French. On May 20 of the same year, Pius XII consented to the Introduction of Kateri's Cause. With his approbation, on November 26, 1940, the initial discussion concerning her virtues opened at the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

At Rome, on January 3, 1943, the first great step in her Cause was taken when the Holy Father signed the "Decree declaring heroic the virtues of the Servant of God, Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha."

Later still, the Sovereign Pontiff graciously promised that he would beatify Kateri when the prayers of the faithful had obtained two first-class miracles through her intercession. (Customarily four are required.)

Who can doubt that His Holiness Pope Pius XII did everything in his power to hasten Venerable Kateri's glorification here on earth? In this, he should be imitated by each and all. At the same time, as Kateri's friends pray for the repose of his soul, let them earnestly ask Pius XII to obtain for his successor, John XXIII, gloriously reigning, the honor of completing the work so well begun — the speedy Beatification and Canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha, the "future Saint of the laity!"



# To Kateri's Friends — A Strange Easter Wish!

**M**Y Easter wish to Kateri's friends will seem strange to many: May they always enjoy the cross that God lays upon their shoulders! Enjoy is the word.

Who could love suffering? A cancer-wasted patient, a husband with a run-away wife, a wife with a drunken husband, parents whose only son was killed in a stupid automobile accident, an aging person, alone in the world, feeling unwanted and unloved? Even they must learn the happiness of pain. If they but accept it, their own cruciation will make them more Christlike, and from it will break forth a pure and radiant joy.

During 1733, to the Spanish mystic, young Father Bernard de Hoyos, was exposed the Sacred Heart crowned with thorns and a cross. "I saw," he wrote, "the aperture where the most pure blood which redeemed the world looked visible. Jesus my divine Love, beckoned my heart to enter within through the opening of this wound: it would be my palace, my castle, and my rampart always. As mine accepted, the Lord said: 'Do you not see that it is barbed by thorns, and that they will prick you?' All this was the more to prod my love and only after entering into the confines of the Divine Heart, did it discover the thorns were roses."

Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha also drew similar happiness from suffering. On April 25, 1680, eight days after her death, she appeared to an old friend, Anastasia, who had helped lead her in the way of holiness.

Father Peter Cholenec, S.J., Anastasia's spiritual guide, gives us her first-hand account of it:

This fervent Christian woman remained alone in prayer that night after the others of her lodge had gone to bed. Feeling herself overcome by sleep, she finally lay down on her mat to rest, but no sooner had she closed her eyes than she was awakened by a voice which called her with these words: "Mother, arise." She recognized Kateri's voice. Far from having any



"Don't! There are other ways of finding friends for Kateri!"

fear, she immediately raised herself into a sitting position, and turning to the place whence the voice came, she saw Kateri standing beside her, brilliant with light. Half her body was engulfed in this brightness, and the upper part was as bright as the sun. She carried a cross in her hand which was more brilliant than everything else, and from it there shone forth so much light that she thought there could be nothing more beautiful upon earth.

"I saw her," she insisted, "in this position clearly, awake as I was and I heard these words very distinctly: 'Mother, look at this cross and see how beautiful it is. It was the source of all my happiness during my life, and I counsel you to make it yours also.' After these words she disappeared, leaving her mother overjoyed and with a spirit so filled with this vision that after many years her memory of it is as fresh as it was the first day.

**HAPPY EASTER TO ALL KATERI'S DEVOTEES!**





ARRERIA / ARRERIA    HAPPY EASTER FROM KATERI'S MISSION !



## THERE KATERI BELONGED!

A yearly account of the foundation of the Mission of the  
Sault up to 1685

by CLAUDE CHAUCHETIÈRE, S.J.

*Spiritual Adviser of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha*

A.D. 1679 (Cont'd.)

IT IS TRUE that the Mission grew as a frond under the weight of afflictions and that the service of God was never so exact and splendid as it was then. The Indians had been separated [ from the French ] for only three years. They were accustomed to it before, or rather they only used to assist at Mass and Vespers which was sung by the French, but now they do everything by themselves in their own chapel. They had already begun to do so but the church was too incommodious being only a bark chapel. After the old chapel was completed, the appearance of the Mission was quite different. The Indians did all they could to adorn properly the chapel which they had just finished. They had already contributed abundantly the wherewith to build it. The Mohawks distinguished themselves in their generosity.

This affection which the Indians had for their chapel made it easier for them to learn the chant of the Church such as the hymns to the Blessed Sacrament, the hymns to the Virgin and a few others to the Confessors, the Martyrs, *Inviolata, Veni Creator*, the Psalms and more than thirty different kinds for Mass as well as for Vespers and for Benediction without forgetting the ceremonies of the blessing of candles on the Purification, of the ashes, of the palms, of Good Friday, of the Blessed Sacrament processions which people come to see as a rare occurrence, and those of the Assumption. Since their faith gave them much fondness for these things, they learned them at once. In this the women excel who sing quite beautifully and devoutly. It is a pleasure for all those who hear them. The children who have learned to serve Mass and who are most eager to do so, are dressed for all these ceremonies as young clerics and know their duties so well there is never any disorder.

Each day people are astonished, and with reason, that the Indians have learned this so soon, they who can be heard yelling in the woods when they sing in their own way, and who have an upbringing so different from that of other nations.

Indians had not yet been seen instructing one another so successfully as we have seen them here. The missionaries are already beginning to have to teach too many people who at first find these customs so new. It was necessary to show them how to make even the smallest inclinations which are made on entering or leaving the church, before or after having taken Holy Water, to rise for the Gospel, to kneel in church. God raised up this year a number of persons who themselves took care of this and who, also, taught catechism to the children and to the newcomers. Here they are well worth many missionaries, because, having thoroughly understood our mysteries, they express them in their own language with an admirable eloquence which results in the ignorant understanding them immediately and being touched by them. When it is known that the newcomers are put up in certain lodges, the missionaries are not worried about their instructions, for entire nights are taken up instructing them. (To be continued.)



They know their duties so well there is never any disorder . . .



# KATERI'S SMILE UPON YOU!

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

SCHUMACHER, ONT., Dec. 9, 1958: Two years ago I had an operation. I had promised ten dollars to Kateri if my operation was successful. Well it was and I was never able to pay my debt to her. Now I am sending you the money to use as you see fit in honor of Kateri . . . Mrs. W. H.

VERDUN, P.Q., Oct. 14: It was not a question of life or death, but even so, for my father and myself it was of some importance. My father and I were to pass the weekend in New York. We were to fly there. I thought that it would be too bad to spend so much money without being able to visit the city. Friday evening the weather couldn't have been worse up until the moment of our leaving, but at nine o'clock it was perfect and remained so until the end of the week. Consequently I am forwarding you a gift money order of five dollars for Kateri's Cause with my thanks . . . Miss G. P.

JERSEY CITY, N.J., Nov. 9: I am enclosing a check for ten dollars to further the Cause of Kateri. I promised her I would send it if she helped me through my labor and delivery of my expected child. I frequently had a pain, not connected with my pregnancy which was quite bad, and I had a great fear that I would have it during my labor. I had a hard and long labor but was not bothered further by this pain. This greatly eased my anxiety. I am very grateful to Kateri. Mrs. R.N.

LASALLE, P.Q., Nov. 8: I am sending you some money for Kateri's Cause. I've been well for the last two years after having completed my novena in November '56. I have had no new attack of false angina. I have prayed regularly to Kateri since. Will you be kind enough to say a low Mass for the holy souls in purgatory? I am also enclosing four extra dollars for Kateri's Cause. Mrs. L. C.

EAST CHICAGO, IND., Oct. 28: Kateri, our honorary director, has done a great job for us in our business enterprises this past season. With great pleasure and due appreciation we enclose a check for fifty dollars to further her Cause on earth. Thanks from the Jayjack Bros! . . . Mr. E. J.

MONTREAL, P.Q., Nov. 3: I prayed to Kateri not to be obliged to undergo an operation in my eye. And I immediately discovered that it was getting better. So I am sending five dollars which I promised . . . Mrs. R. C.

BOSTON, MASS., Oct. 7: Enclosed please find a donation of two dollars for Kateri's Cause. I promised Kateri that if a friend's X-Rays did not show any malignancy, I would make the donation. Mr. W. J. M.

QUEBEC, P.Q., Oct. 24: You will find enclosed one dollar which I promised to Kateri in the month of June '58 for the success of my son's examinations at the end of the year. He is in the liberal arts course. My prayers were answered. I thank Kateri and will continue to pray to her. Mrs. G. F.

VAL SENNEVILLE, P.Q., Nov. 25: Here I come to thank you and to tell you my deep gratitude. You sent me two packets of earth from Kateri's tomb and I applied it to a sore my little boy, Jean Pierre had. I discovered that his jaw was cured from this sore lasting for more than four years. It is a great favor — no medicine could cure it. Jean Pierre told me, "I was at the Seminary and I discovered that my jaw was cured." I am enclosing one dollar. I will be able to send you more a little later on . . . Mrs. A. D.

ALTOONA, PA., Dec. 2: Enclosed a small donation (\$10.00) to Kateri's Cause which I promised in answer to a favor granted. My husband had a serious chest infection which improved remarkably on the ninth day of my novena to Kateri. The doctor in attendance did not expect a rapid improvement. Thanks to Kateri's intercession my husband is much better. Kateri has smiled on us many times and we shall never forget her. Mrs. E. C.R.

MONTREAL, P.Q., Nov. 22: I am a member of the Business Unit, C.W.L. I attended the tea, and your talk on Sunday October 26. I had to leave early and did not turn in my pledge and have since mislaid the slip of paper. I hope I am not too late to include it in the group. Besides I want to acknowledge an answer to my prayer to little Kateri. I was suffering from sciatica pains in the hip and back for several weeks. One morning the pain was so bad I thought I could not go to work. So I implored Kateri to help me, was able to go to work, and have not felt the pain since. I promised to send her two subscriptions to Kateri for which I am enclosing two dollars . . . Miss R.D.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Aug. 8: I visited your parish recently in a group with Msgr. Quinn. I am signed up with the magazine. I prayed to Kateri to help fix my wash-machine. It works, so I am sending this small donation of two dollars . . . I love your parish. I will try hard to remember the prayer to her . . . Miss F. F.

PENETANG, ONT., Dec. 15: Before my baby was born I had promised Kateri five dollars if everything went well, and on the 29 of November I was the proud mother of a new baby boy (a fourth child) in perfect health and so am I.

Please find enclosed five dollars . . . Mrs. M. M.

NEW YORK, N.Y., Aug. 22: Enclosed is a check for three dollars in thanksgiving which I promised to Kateri if she would ask Our Lord and His Blessed Mother to help me find relief of the pains of my hip and legs and she has helped me. Many many thanks to her. Please publish. Mrs. G. W. H.

BOSTON, MASS., Oct. 15: Perhaps you do not remember my visit to your Mission last summer, as doubtless few of my faith call on you, but if not, it does not matter. However what I have to say, I am sure, will be of interest to you.

My father had been critically ill for the past two months with a recurrence of a former ailment from which he had apparently recovered. This time at the age of eighty-three we had learned that the illness would be terminal as further surgery now would be impossible. His physical and mental suffering increased with each passing day. He made his peace with God each day according to our faith and waited with saintly patience for the good Lord to claim him. And each day at sundown, great was his disappointment in being rejected as unworthy of release. This went on day in and day out for six weeks. His mounting pain and mental anguish were also more than I could bear. He was ill at home all this time because such was his wish — to end his days in familiar surroundings and we complied with this wish.

At last, however, his doctor strongly recommended that we place him in the hospital. The doctor told me that my father's condition was not yet a dying condition and that it would be several weeks yet before he would enter the final stage. His suffering would be tenfold and he would be better off in a hospital. We deferred to the doctor's judgement and took my father to the V. A. Hospital (my dad was a Spanish-American war veteran), Friday October 10. That night my anguish was almost unbearable and I prayed, yes I prayed to Kateri, begged her to intercede with Our Lord to grant my father release from his physical and mental torture. I then fell asleep and saw my father arise from his bed of pain, dress himself, look in the mirror to inspect his image and as he put his hat on his head he smiled. The phone's ringing waked me and I knew even before I answered, my prayer to Kateri had been heard — my father was out of pain. His patience had been rewarded. This I believe! My father was buried last Monday. He looked as handsome as he was twenty years ago. No sign of illness showed on his face. I believe he was given not only relief but final redemption. Out of deepest gratitude to Kateri please accept my most insignificant thanks and a slight material donation (of ten dollars) . . . Miss S. N. A.

MONTREAL, P.Q., Jan. 13, 1959: All thanks to Kateri for having obtained a cure of a lady given over to drink . . . Mrs. A. P.

\*APRAIRIE, P.Q., Jan. 13: Enclosed is one dollar for a favor obtained from Kateri. I had promised her this sum for the unfreezing of a pipe . . . Mrs. L. D.

HARVEY, L.A., Jan. 8: I am enclosing one dollar as thanks for a wonderful favor we have just received from little Kateri Tekakwitha. I heard of her wonderful work from someone in the hospital where my husband was in a serious condition. He improved wonderfully within twenty-four hours after I started reciting the prayer. The doctor said that it seemed a miracle had been performed. If you have any little cards or literature on her life, I would appreciate your sending same to me as I want to spread devotion to her. Thanks. Mrs. J. D.

LONGUEUIL, P.Q., Jan. 22: A few months ago, the doctor told us that my daughter would have to be operated on. I was very discouraged as she was very weak at the time. So I promised Kateri I would send her five dollars if the operation could be postponed until she was stronger. The operation was not only postponed, but there is no need of an operation now. I am sending you my check as promised. Many thanks to Kateri! I recite the prayers you sent me every day for her cause. Mrs. P. S.

WORCESTER, MASS., Jan. 3: Enclosed please find an offering (\$5.00) for the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha in answer to my novena to her which was realized before it was finished. My niece, husband, and two babies were taken sick before Christmas with very bad colds and one with walking pneumonia. I prayed that they would recover and return to New York State after the holidays in better health and out of danger and God willing would be blessed with average good health. My husband who had walking pneumonia got a clearance from his doctor and thank God, Blessed Mother Mary, and the intercession of Venerable Kateri, my prayers were answered. I hope to continue to contribute to her Cause . . . Mrs. M. A. K.

MONTREAL, P.Q., Jan. 12: I am sending you for Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha's Cause the sum of fifteen dollars as I had promised for a favor obtained: the successful sale of a house! Mr. and Mrs. A. R.

MANCHESTER, N.H., Jan. 12: Enclosed find two dollars for Kateri's Cause for a favor which she obtained for us. We wanted, at any price, a day off, and we obtained it. Mr. L. P.



## THE VICE-POSTULATOR'S DIARY

At a very new and shiny hotel in Montreal, I was asked to speak to the Business Women's Unit of the Catholic Women's League on Sunday afternoon, October 26, 1958. During the past year, it was my privilege, also, to address the Lachine Parish Unit, and the St. John of Quebec Unit of the C.W.L. of Canada. Nobody will be surprised to discover that the subject of these talks was Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. At a retreat to priests during the third week of November, I could not resist the temptation to mention Kateri several times. Mr. Harold Poitras of *The Montreal Star* was responsible for having me, on Sunday morning, November 23, as guest speaker at the Communion Breakfast of Council 284 of the Knights of Columbus. Incidentally, Council 284 is the oldest in Canada.

In response to a letter of November 15, begging for help towards paying for a new Flexowriter (necessitated by a gratifying increase in Kateri correspondence and by my heart condition and operation of a year ago), the mailman brought Kateri \$144.50 (less \$186.57 for the printing and mailing). The Flexowriter debt is now reduced to \$1142.07. I wish I could publish each note accompanying the offerings. May I at least mention the Sisters of Service from Toronto (not a wealthy Order), Miss E. H. from Hamilton, Ont., who wrote: "I am a handicapped worker, or I might be able to contribute more!", and a Protestant businessman from Montreal who sent in his check for \$150.00. Small or large, I was not indifferent to these donations, and I feel little Kateri was unforgettably touched by them

Big news. During March, a Kateri office will be opened in Montreal. Mr. Albert Lazare, Kateri's secretary, Hot

Ashes, and Firebrand will work at the new location and I will accompany them. Growing interest in Kateri has made this move imperative. Please continue, however, to address your letters, enrollments, checks (vitaly needed), etc. to *Kateri*, Caughnawaga, P.Q.

A Christmas note from Msgr. Pietro Amato Frutaz of the Sacred Congregation of Rites along with his best wishes for 1959, suggests to all Kateri's friends that they pray perseveringly for the miracles needed for her beatification. Msgr. Frutaz visited the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, Kateri's Mission, during the autumn of 1955.

A delightful new Kateri brochure, *ON MOCCASINED FEET TO GOD*, has just been authored by Florence Wedge and printed by Franciscan Publishers, Pulaski, Wisconsin. 62 pp.: 25c. In the *LILY OF THE MOHAWKS*, volume XXII, No 3 (30 West 16th Street, New York), Fr. Thomas J. Coffey, S.J., American V.-Postulator for Kateri, indicates among other publications to be read by devotees of Tekakwitha: *STAR OF THE MOHAWK*, by Francis MacDonald (Benziger Brothers, Banner Books: \$2.00).

Unfortunately, *THE VISIONS OF BERNARD DE HOYOS, S.J.*, were not ready for you at Christmas. At Easter? Quite probably, or very little after. Lovers of the Sacred Heart and of Kateri will be happy to learn that the new book will contain more than 20 full-page illustrations. Why not put in your order now for a copy of this biography of the young Spanish mystic, at \$3.50 a copy (regular price, \$4.15, postpaid)? . . .

Now is the time !

The Kateri debt is up to \$5000.00.

We humbly beg to be remembered in your will !

Venerable Kateri, the "future Saint of the laity" counts on you.

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Spread far and wide

THE NEW KATERI NOVENA

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