

Lily of the Mohawks

FALL
1969

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No. 2



VENERABLE KATERI has inspired many people by her virtuous life. Her statue (center) catches the eyes of many pilgrims to the Shrine of the Martyrs in Auriesville, New York. Before a large audience attending the Kateri Prayer Event, August 30-31, Mary-Eunice (upper left and lower right) dramatically presents her character skit of the wonderful Indian Maiden. So perfectly did she portray the young girl's life that she was forever being asked "Are you a real Mohawk?" Another authentic touch was the dances performed by the young Indian Princesses from Hogansburg, N. Y., whose pictures are inside this LILY. "Kateri", a song in Mohawk, was given a thrilling rendition by the Indian Choir from Caughnawaga, Canada, under the direction of Father Henri Lalonde, S.J.

STORY OF THE KATERI SHRINE IN DULUTH, MINNESOTA

by Mrs. O. J. Renier

It all started about thirty-five years ago. I had been quite ill during most of my younger life, and after having my fifth surgery, we went to visit Sister Scholastica, O.S.B., a very dear friend of our family. She was at the college of St. Scholastica, but since deceased.



She asked me why I did not pray to Catherine Tekakwitha, and upon my telling her I had never heard of her, she said, "Well, it's just about time you did." She said, "Tonight I am starting a novena to her and I want you to make it with me."

I made this novena. It was my last surgery. My health began picking up and I was soon able to let the extra help go who were helping me care for my family - we were six.

In 1941 my eldest son went into service, the second World War. By this time we had become so interested in Catherine Tekakwitha that we were asking many favors and she was always interceding for us. I placed my son under her protection, saying my novena each day with three extra Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glory be's for her canonization, and asking for his safe return home if it were to be the will of our dear Lord.

He was in the service four years. I started buying war bonds and promised to use the money to further Kateri's cause, or send it to one of the main shrines.

During this time my son was in Germany two years, including the Battle of the Bulge. When peace was declared he had to stay in the Army. He was now a captain.

Riding along a road with his driver in a jeep one day, they hit a mine. My son was thrown through the windshield, being hurt badly and receiving a deep cut in the forehead. He was taken to the hospital, not able to see anyone for a couple of days. Upon being allowed visitors, the driver of the jeep came to see him. The first thing he said was, "Who is Catherine Tekakwitha? Holding out on us, eh?"

My son was shocked and asked where he has heard that name. He said, "That is who you called when you went through the windshield." My son replied, "Really...that is a little saint my mother prays to." This my son wrote us from Germany. He recovered perfectly without anything wrong but the scar he carried on his forehead. (Continued on Page 4)



1656

1680

Lily of the Mohawks

THE VENERABLE KATERI TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE: To spread the life story of Kateri Tekakwitha by passing out her holy cards and literature, by promoting her cause as a project for your club, organization or society, or through the schools in your area.

OBLIGATIONS: 1. Recite daily the prayer for the beatification of Venerable Kateri. 2. Offer some work for the intentions of the League Members.

BENEFITS: 1. Each 1st Friday—a Mass is offered for all League Members by a missionary priest in the Caroline Islands. 2. Annually—a Novena of Masses for League Members, Sept. 18 to Sept. 26. 3. Our publication LILY OF THE MOHAWKS is sent to all members. 4. Daily remembrance in the Mass of the Vice-Postulator. 5. A sharing in the spiritual works, and apostolic labors of over 5,000 League Members.

Address all communications to:

Office of the Vice-Postulator
12 Central Park Plaza
Buffalo, New York 14214



PICTURED AFTER DOING THEIR NATIVE DANCES on Saturday evening are the Indian Princesses from St. Regis Reservation. Front row, left to right, are: Lorraine Oakes, Myrna Marie Phillips, Leesa Herne, Mary-Eunice (Indian for the occasion), Janice Oakes, and Fr. McBride. Back row, left to right, are: Shelly Papineau, Brenda King, Elizabeth Montour, and Ann Mitchell.

Cross Country Promotional Trip Announced

A cross country tour to promote the cause of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha was announced soon after the Kateri Prayer Event at Auriesville, N. Y., by Father Joseph McBride, S. J., Vice-postulator.

Mary-Eunice and Joe Spagnola of Mary Productions Guild, Belford, N.J., will accompany Father McBride. The principal feature of the programs to be billed will be the dramatic characterizations written and played by Mary-Eunice on the life of the Indian Maiden.

The Spagnolas have many contacts across the country and are busy establishing definite bookings for the tour which will begin in March 1970.

Instigating the tour idea are an invitation extended by Sister Winifred of Assisi Heights, Rochester, Minnesota, and an Apostleship of Prayer meeting in Los Angeles during Easter Week.

Sister Winifred in connection with the celebration of her Diamond Jubilee made the trip to Auriesville for the Kateri

Week End. Her enthusiasm over Kateri doubled after what she saw and heard at the Martyrs Shrine. She assured the Spagnolas and the Vice-postulator that there would be a great audience awaiting them in Minnesota.

Possible stops will also be the several shrines and the many churches which honor Venerable Kateri all over the country such as the shrine described on the previous page, the one at Indian River, Michigan, and others.

Father McBride urges anyone who can sign up the troupe for one or more appearances to write to him as soon as possible giving the time and place of the engagement. Every audience, young or old, will be happily addressed. No specific fees are expected.

Mary-Eunice authored the one act play "Maid of the Mohawks" which was published earlier this year. She and her husband currently conduct interviews for CBC-TV in Red Bank, N. J.



DYNAMICALLY ENTHUSIASTIC was Father Michael Jacobs, S. J., all during his eloquent sermon at the noon day Mass on Sunday, August 31. He traced Kateri's life from her birth in 1656 in Auriesville to her death in 1680 in Canada. His listeners noticed a touch of pride in this Mohawk priest as he spoke, for it was his people to whom Kateri belongs. Strongly did he remind everyone that through prayer and penance God will bring about the one needed miracle to gain Kateri's beatification.

Father brought a bus load of pilgrims from his parish, the St. Regis Reservation at Hogansburg, N. Y. Often he expressed his satisfaction over the wonderful performance of his Indian Princesses during the Saturday evening pageant.

DULUTH SHRINE (Continued from Page 2)

It was then my husband and I decided the money from my bonds should go to build our Kateri shrine.

Through the help of Father Bechard, the vice-postulator for Canada, we were given the name of Miss Adrienne Bouvier of Boston, who would sculpture the statue. Four months later our statue arrived. By this time I had most of the rockery

CENTER FOLD PICTURES

1. Sunday's Concelebrated Mass: Fr. Eugene Romano, Paterson Diocesan Director of the Apostleship of Prayer, Fr. Walsh, a visiting retreatant, Fr. Michael Jacobs, S.J., Preacher and main celebrant from St. Regis Reservation, Fr. William Schlaerth, S.J., former vice-postulator, Fr. Lawrence McGinley, S. J., former Fordham president, and Fr. Joseph McBride, S.J., Vice-postulator. 2. Tom Constantino, dynamic president of the Noteworthy Co., Amsterdam, N.Y., who headed the renovation of the Kateri Museum. 3. The Princesses enter for their dances, Saturday, in the Coliseum. 4. Princess Esther, from St. Francis Xavier Reservation, Caughnawaga, Canada, negotiates a sale of some Indian wares. 5. Two of the hundreds of visitors who admired the artists' corner of the refurbished museum. 6. Fr. Burns leads the pilgrims up the Hill of Prayer on their way to the first Benediction while saying the Stations of the Cross.

built. The statue is three feet high, of cast stone in Terra Cotta color, and stands amidst the stones filled in with soil and peat moss with plants between the stones. It has stood outside uncovered five of our Duluth winters without damage. In a most beautiful setting it can be seen from our large parlor windows.

During the time my son was in service my Father who was 76 years old, came to make his home with us. About two years later he had a car accident with a train. He received a brain concussion and other injuries. I put a blessed medal of Tekakwitha on him and started my novena that his mind would not be affected. He was released from the hospital three weeks later as bright as a new dollar and lived to be 87 years old with no sign of damage to the brain.

Five years ago my sister, Sister M. Generosa, O.S.B., had a complete left-side stroke. She was completely paralyzed and could not speak. Her face was terribly distorted. She wore a Tekakwitha medal and we prayed she would come out of it all right if the dear Lord would allow. Tekakwitha helped us again by giving Sister her health. In two years you would not know she had been ill. She is not as strong as she was before her stroke but she walks, talks perfectly and is working.

• • • • TWO LETTERS FROM ITALY • • • •

From Father Paul Molinari, S.J., postulator of all Jesuit causes in Rome sent the following after the last "Lily": "Thank you very much for the copies of the spring issue of LILY OF THE MOHAWKS. On page 8 I have noticed your note on 'Notices about changes'. In fact the procedure of Causes of Beatification and Canonization are going to be changed quite essentially. The procedure will be simplified and more power will be given to the local Ordinaries.

"However, as far as the Cause of Kateri is concerned, things remain pretty much as they have been in the past, since the changes concern essentially those phases of a Cause which precede the declaration on martyrdom or the heroicity of virtues. Since the Cause of Kateri has reached this stage already, all that is wanted now are some good miracle Cases. I hope and trust that in the near future you can report on some such cases so that we really can get going with the last phase of the Cause. I pray frequently for this intention and I am sure that

sooner or later some really authentic miracles will turn up."

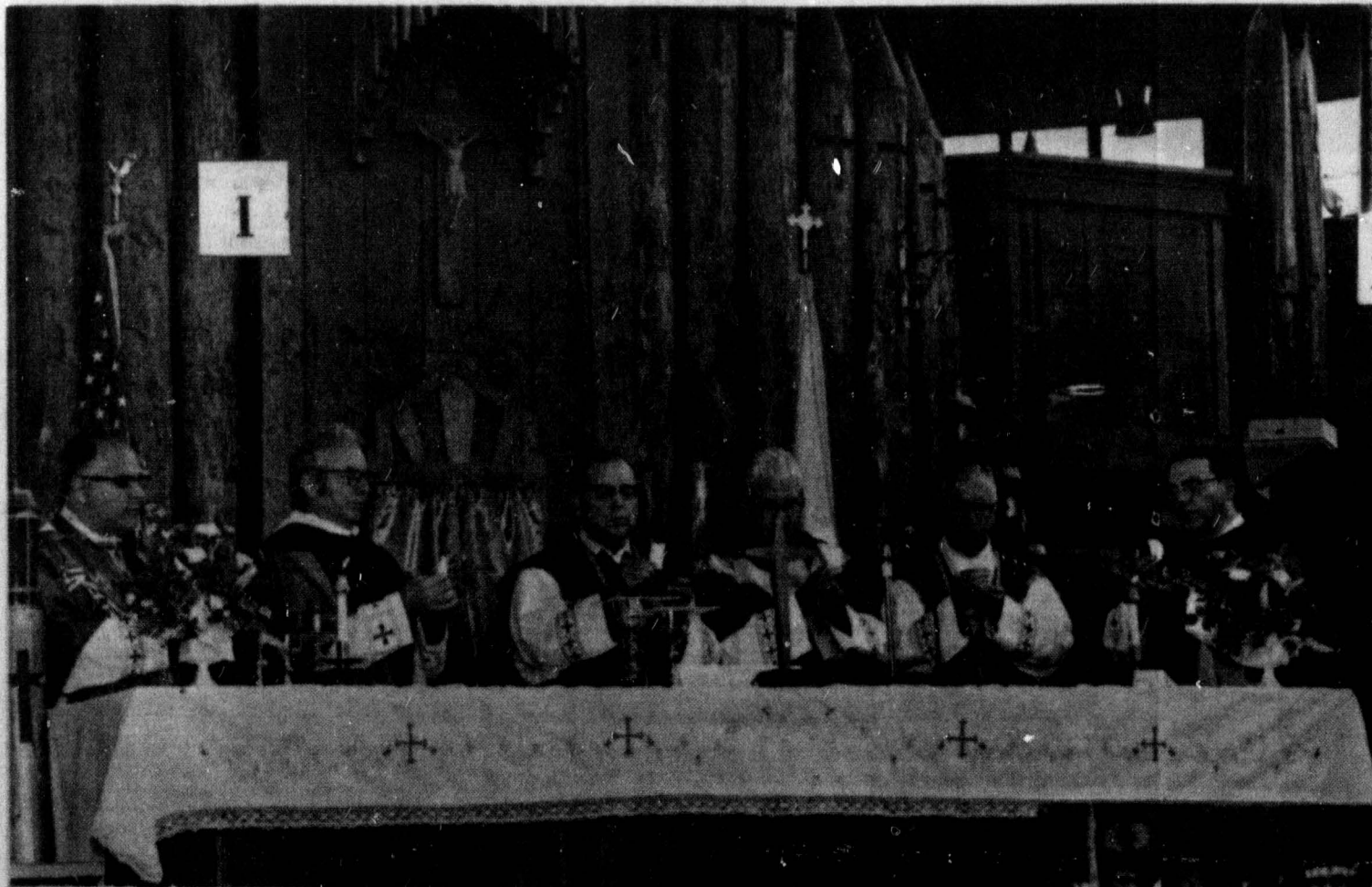
Virginia Gordoni who is writing an opera about Kateri wrote from her home in Milan: "Thank you so much for your kind letter and article printed in the spring LILY. It delights me to see so much interest in our beloved Kateri.

"Truthfully my opera is far from the stage where one might take the score and start preparing it for a performance. However, many of my colleagues are thrilled with the arias had have wanted to include them in their concert programs. Still the composing of this work started out to be a hobby to relax myself during the pressures of demanding performances in major European opera theaters.

"I have received many, many letters from people all over who share also an interest in a creative form to Kateri and delights me to see this. I send every best wish and warm regards for continued success in our mutual cause."



CHOIR MEMBERS from Caughnawaga, Canada, listen to Fr. Jacobs praise their singing of the Mass.



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YOUNGSTERS THRILL LARGE AUDIENCES BY THEIR STAGING KATERI 1 ACT PLAY

Through the initiative of Mrs. Thomas Centi, Monaca, Pa., a group of young girls staged the one act play "Maid of the Mohawks" by Mary-Eunice. Two performances were given, one for the Catholic Daughters of America on June 10, and the second, a matinee, for the children of St. John's Grade School, June 9, 1969.

The death scene is shown below. As recorded by witnesses Kateri's skin became as smooth as silk, having been marked all her life with the scars left by small pox she contracted at an early age.

Left to right below are: Evelyn Zigerelli, Susan Polce, Joyce Rambo, Debbie McPherson, and Mary Mosca. Kateri, lying on the couch, was played by Patti Centi.

"Although serious in nature, the play went over greatly.", wrote Mrs. Centi, "We hope this helps the Kateri cause."

Father McBride has enrolled the young thespians in the Tekakwitha League.



"Let's not miss the bull's eye: prayer power for Kateri!"

LILY of the MOHAWKS

*She was small in the beginning,
but a great saint in the end.
Kateri Tekakwitha, a very worthy friend!
If we pray to her she will give us joy,
All of us, every girl and boy!*

*She traveled far, from door to door,
To every man, both sick and poor.
Lily of the Mohawks if she may
Was the greatest woman of her day.*

— Nancy Nagengast, 5th Grader





BEFORE KATERI'S STATUE on the Martyrs' Shrine grounds the procession of the Blessed Sacrament ended where Father William Schlaerth, S.J., former vice-postulator, gave the final blessing with the Blessed Sacrament. Father also was the main celebrant of the opening Mass on Saturday in the Coliseum and renewed friendships the rest of the time.

VICE-POSTULATOR ANSWERED NEWSWEEK'S LIGHT AND LIVELY STYLE

According to Madeleine Edmondson of the NEWSWEEK Staff "It has always been our policy to write our stories in a light and lively style." One such story was "Saints March Slowly" in the April 28 NEWSWEEK. Madeleine's comment was part of a reply given to the following letter from the Vice-Postulator to the Editor of NEWSWEEK.

"Dear Editor: Shouldn't there be thousands of more saints in the United States? According to your inference (April 28 NEWSWEEK, page 73) the eccentric has sainthood in the bag.

"Would the hippies, yuppies, the college protestors, the draft-card burners, the assassins rate an upgrading in the NEWSWEEK science of sanctity?

"May I ask if you would present a NEWSWEEK halo to those who depart from your standard of living to devote their lives to teaching retarded children, who sacrifice a comfy existence to work among the sick and poor, and even devoted parents who scream not over the

Church's birth control teaching? Aren't these eccentric? Certainly they don't conform to the free-for-all, licentious, plush-to-the-hilt living NEWSWEEK seemingly adopts as the way to heaven.

"Young people today say they are finding Christ in their neighbor. A saint, according to the Church this time, is one who is living a very Christ-like life. Once committed to Christ a saintly person will do meaningful things (eccentric in your dubbing), even sacrifice their human existence as many men and women are doing this moment in the mission fields. Foolish? Senseless? We know and believe their model Jesus Christ did such things. Hence the saints become an inspiration to us who want to transform our human existence into something pleasing to Almighty God, yet eccentric and odd in the eyes of those who perhaps are still searching for meaning to life in this world.

(Continued on Page 11)

DIAMOND JUBILARIAN TELLS OF HER DEVOTION TO KATERI

With joy and determination still in her heart after traveling miles from Rochester, Minnesota, diamond jubilarian Sister Winifred arrived at Auriesville for the Kateri Week End accompanied by the young Sister Chabanel.

Sister told the story of her devotion to Kateri and how it began as far back as 1934 when she started to pray daily for the beatification of the Indian Maiden. In the same year she obtained a relic from the first vice-postulator, Father John Wynne, S.J.

Her pastor also had a living devotion to Kateri. He painted in color a life size painting of Kateri which now is in possession of the Sisters' Motherhouse in Rochester. The room where it is displayed is called the "Tekakwitha Lounge".

In 1934 Sister put on a play in Rollingstone, Minn., about "Tekakwitha." A result of the play according to Sister Winifred was a vocation to the Carmelite Order. With the money received from the audience a small stone shrine was erected near the convent.

Sister's father became very ill in

1935. Almost 80 he had to be carried about. His doctor said he had pernicious anemia for one thing and could not live. Kateri's relic was applied by Sister and "Lo! He became better by the next day and lived another year".

When he grew sick again, Sister was called and was told by her father: "Don't put the relic of Tekakwitha on me this time. I want to die." Commented Sister, "It seems this alone would be enough for great sanctity."

"My sister, too, had great love for Kateri." She became ill with cancer in 1950. About four months before she died, she told how she saw Tekakwitha. In great pain she said the prayer to Kateri during which Tekakwitha appeared radiantly beautiful. Every attempt to sketch the likeness of what she had seen failed for it was impossible to make her as beautiful as she was.

These accounts partially depict the enthusiasm of a diamond jubilarian who today is ready to tell the world of a powerful friend she has in the Lily of the Mohawks.



VISITING SISTERS at the Kateri Prayer Event were: Sister Mary Marguerite, R.S.M., Buffalo, N.Y., Mother Mary Richard, R.S.M., Mother General of the Buffalo Mercy Sisters; Sister Celeste, S.C.; Sister Zita, S.C., promoter of the Sister Miriam Theresa cause; Sister Chabanel, Rochester, Minnesota; Sister Winifred, diamond jubilarian from Rochester, Minnesota; and Sister Louise Marie, I.H.M., Syracuse, N.Y.



WITH THE VENERABLE KATERI RELIC Father McBride blesses the crowds at the final ceremony.

VICE-POSTULATOR ANSWERS

(Continued from Page 9)

"For your files I am enclosing a one act play, and an announcement about an opera being written - both inspired by the Lily of the Mohawks. So there are still some of us who are moved by the 'odd-ball activities' of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. I invite you to look over the files in my office to get an eye-full of countless Americans who have been and are still being inspired by the 'shenanigans' of Kateri. Will NEWSWEEK rather switch to join the fight for a proper understanding of what a saint is?"

NEWSWEEK regretted space limitations prevented printing this letter for the benefit of its readers. Father McBride thought it a service to let the country know how a "light and lively style" can be void of good reasoning, sound doctrine, and some common sense.

A GOOD WAY TO HELP THE KATERI CAUSE IS TO TELL SOMEONE ELSE ABOUT IT.

LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

BROOKLYNITE TELLS IT LIKE IT WAS

"On Feb. 8, 9, 10 we had an almost blizzard in New York City. A long-time friend took sick with her fourth heart attack. On Feb. 11 she phoned me to come to help her. After repeated calls the ambulance arrived for her and brought her to the Prospect Heights Hospital. It was in returning to my home that I appealed to little Kateri. The snow was in mounds, banked up along the city streets. The hospital neighborhood was not good. I was alone on those snow-packed streets but with Kateri's guidance, I got home safely that fateful night.

"My sister Anna was hospitalized for 44 years after a mental breakdown. One June 5th, she fell and fractured her hip. I beseeched Kateri to intercede with God. On Aug. 23rd my sister died of a heart attack. I feel that Kateri's intercession with God was powerful at this time.

"These are not miracles but it does show Kateri's power of intercession with God."

---Marcella G., Brooklyn, N.Y.

NOTES FROM THE BARK . . . by *father mcbride*

***Bouquets to Miss Mary Memrick** of Palatine Bridge, N.Y., who played the role of Kateri in the Boy Scout Pageant in the Coliseum on Saturday, September 27!

***Work on up-dating** the files of the League continues. Over \$800.00 was spent to bring into line the file in the office with that used by the mailer. Many priests' names have been deleted because they are not listed in the 1969 Catholic Directory. On envelopes mailed we have requested a corrected address. Eventually, names will be removed permanently if no response has been made in the last ten years. Let us know when you move, give us your new address. If you know anyone else has moved please let us know this too.

***First Friday Masses** for the next six months are being said for League Members by Father George McGowan, a veteran missionary on Truk, Caroline Islands. This helps the missionary and is keeping with the fact that Kateri was introduced to the Faith by the first missionaries to the new world. Remembrance in these Masses is a benefit of League membership.

***Congratulations to Father Thomas Grassmann, O.F.M.**, curator of the Kateri Museum, Fonda, N.Y., on the publication of his monumental book "The Mohawks and Their Valley". Twenty-five years of research went into this book. Priced at \$20, it may be obtained from the author at Fonda, N.Y., the commemorative site of Kateri's baptism.

***Sister Zita of Convent Station, N.J.**, in charge of the cause of Sister Miriam Teresa fell and broke her hip. With Sister Celeste she attended the Prayer Event at Auriesville. Her hospitalization in no way diminishes her joy over the news that the Sacred Congregation has approved the writings of Sister Miriam and the supplementary process relative to the cause of this Servant of God.

***Almost 500 new names** have been added to the League's membership this year while an equal number was removed because of death or failure to notify us about change of address.

***Promotional materials available:** Decals...10¢ each; Kateri Seals...\$1.00 per sheet; Coloring Books...15¢ ea., lots of 100 less 40%; One Act play "Maid of the Mohawks"...50¢ per copy; Novena Leaflet...5¢, 50¢ doz.; Short Life, 32 pp by Fr. Coffey, S.J....25¢; Holy Card with prayer...2 for 5¢, 25¢ doz.; Medals...5¢, 25¢, 60¢, and \$1.25 (Sterling-silver).

***For the past two years** Mrs. Marilyn Eynon Scott has received the title of Poet Laureate of Ohio. She has written a beautiful poem entitled "Lily of the Mohawks." Mrs. Scott was a student in Sister Winifred's high school English class. The poem is to be printed by itself in an attractive booklet. Thanks and congratulations to Ohio's first lady of poetry!

***With the exception of Buffalo's MAGNIFICAT** and Rochester's COURIER-JOURNAL every area diocesan newspaper ran articles about the Kateri Prayer Event. Local papers and radio stations in the Amsterdam vicinity were very generous in their coverage of the happening.

***No sufficient gratitude** can be given the men who worked to give the Kateri Museum a refurbished glow. There were Tom Constantino who was the tiger in the tank, John Hasselback whose skill with the paintbrush was evident, John Jakowski who spent all day August 31 explaining his precious diggings from the Mohawk Valley, and Dr. Kingston Lerner from Gloversville who showed deep interest by arranging two showcases-ful of valuable pieces from Fr. Grassmann's Museum. Tom Constantino has more ideas for the Museum's future. So, always make the Museum a prime point of investigation on your Shrine visits.

***Please, please do not write** asking your name to be taken from the League Membership because you cannot send an offering. If you can say the prayer every day for the beatification of Kateri you are doing your thing. Those who did write were very generous in the past. Their names will remain on all the mailings. Just keep up the prayers!