

Lily of the Mohawks

VOL. XXXV NO. 1

SPRING, 1971

Middle USA To Host Prayer Day

Rosebud Reservation Is Scene

St. Francis Indian Mission, South Dakota, will host the Kateri Prayer Event of 1971, on Sunday, June 20. Rev. Bernard Fagan, S.J. director of the Sioux Mission, has welcomed this occasion and has stated that the members of the Rosebud Educational Society are very much in favor of having this special day in honor of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha and are ready to cooperate in every way to make it a success.

The Rosebud Reservation is in a central location of the United States and will symbolically serve to unite all sections of the country in prayer on June 20.

Sioux Love Kateri

Last year a statue of Venerable Kateri was erected and blessed in a prominent position as one enters the heart of the Mission. This fulfilled a promise the Sioux Indians made to Kateri in 1957.

Under the supervision of Jesuit priests and scholastics and the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity who are ably assisted by a core of 15 volunteer lay teachers and maintenance experts, the Mission provides an education for children who either are welfare cases or who live too far from a public school and need boarding school care.

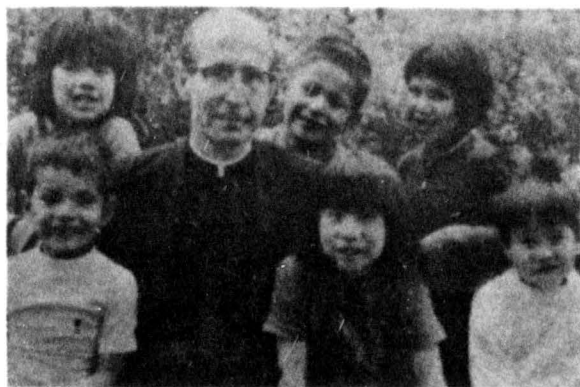
Emphasis upon prayer is the purpose of the Kateri Prayer Day. All League Members and others interested in the cause of the wonderful Mohawk Indian Maiden make a concentrated prayer effort on this day to ask Almighty God to bring about the one more first class miracle needed for Kateri's beatification.

Two specific spiritual events will be the holy hour in front of the outdoor statue of Kateri and weather permitting a concelebrated Mass on this same site. Exact times for these ceremonies are being worked out by Father Fagan and the Rosebud Educational Society.

A Debt Is Being Paid

To relate the Kateri life story performances by Mary-Eunice of Mary Productions and slides with a talk by Fr. McBride, S.J., vice-postulator for the United States, will be given in the Mission Auditorium.

In welcoming the suggestion to have the Prayer Day at the St. Francis Mission Father Fagan declared "This is the least we can do for we are in



Fr. Fagan And Little Sioux

debt to Kateri for all the help she has given us."

Further travel instructions, if it is possible to attend in person, may be had by writing to Father Fagan, S.J., St. Francis Indian Mission, St. Francis, S.D., 57572.

Other Stops Sought

The promotional troupe seek other engagements along the way to and from the Sioux Mission where the Kateri Story can be told. Mr. Joe Spagnola, retired but still active promotion coordinator, is arranging the trip and may be contacted at 58 Lennison Ave. Belford, N.J., 07718, if your organization, historical or religious, would like to hear more about Venerable Kateri.

This year's itinerary is shorter than last year's. Since it covers almost the same areas as last year's, new billings in the same areas are desired. No specific fees are required although donations to advance the Kateri cause are willingly accepted.

Stop-overs in Upper Michigan and northern Wisconsin would be most acceptable. Indian Reservations in these districts would be ideal situations to impart knowledge about Venerable Kateri. And any assignments along routes from Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh, etc., would be given definite consideration.

"I Have Already Decided What I Am Going to Do!"

God's loving Hand had been at work when smallpox scarred the beautiful features of four-year old Tekakwitha. He desired her for Himself. Ordinarily young men do not think much of girls with marred complexions...

Her foster parents tried their utmost to induce Tekakwitha to marry. At the very early age of eight, she was given in marriage to a boy of her own age. But this ceremony was no more than an agreement, common enough among the Iroquois, which served to strengthen the ties of friendship between two families. The boy thought no more about this "marriage" than did Tekakwitha, and it was soon forgotten.

Several years later a snare was set to draw her into wedlock. An Indian brave was ushered into her down beside her. He well meant: if the girl offered became his wife, from the long house and Indian maize. Such on the part of an

Time and time again ill treatment was which must have hurt direction, but fool, parried each attack

After Tekakwitha's woman under whose roof of Saint Francis Xavier, wedded bliss upon her. creature and did all in her Kateri's intimate friend Anastasia, was drawn



lodge and told to sit understood what this him some sagamite, she Tekakwitha instantly fled hid behind a cache of conduct was unheard of Iroquois maiden.

the matter was pressed. dispensed; sarcasm, deeply, was flung in her Tekakwitha, who was no with amusing repartees. conversion, the Iroquois she lived at the Mission again tried to force She was a strong-willed power to succeed. and adviser, good into the plot. The whole

matter was finally laid before Kateri's confessor. Then the Lily of the Mohawks pronounced the vow of perpetual virginity:

"I have thought it over long enough; I have already decided what I am going to do; I cannot put it off any longer. I have dedicated myself to Jesus, Son of Mary; I have taken Him for my Spouse and only He shall have me as a Spouse."

PONDER AWHILE.....

"To the unmarried," wrote St. Paul, "and to the widows, I would say that they will do well to remain in the same state as myself, but if they have not the gift of continence, let them marry..." Kateri Tekakwitha harkened to the advice of the Apostle of the Gentiles. Are my opinions concerning purity and chastity in perfect conformity with teachings of the Church?...

- From Novena Prayers by Fr. Henri Bechard, S.J.

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STUDENTS STAGE A CHRISTMAS STAR

Three performances of "A Christmas Star" were staged by the Seventh Graders of St. Mary's School, New Monmouth, N. J., Dec. 22, 1970, in the school auditorium. The play treats of the life of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.

Mary Kennedy played Kateri Tekakwitha, supported by Elizabeth Nagel as Luana, Helen Glozenski as Teresa, Carolyn Campo as Guana,

"From that day forward - she always appeared to be full of love for God, and every person, and every animal. The spirit of Christmas stayed with her the whole year through."

- From "A Christmas Star."

Sean Kelly as an Indian Chief, Beverly Ekherth as Karintha, James Courtney as an English Trader, and Michelle Stillings as Anastasia.

Included in the program was a presentation of the history of the Mohawk Nation. In a typical Indian setting with the Indian Chief and the English Trader present the young Indians tell the story of the St. Regis Reservation, now in Hogsburg, N. Y. They recount how the Indians looked upon God as the Great Spirit and the trials they had to endure at the hands of the White Men.

Both the play and the historical narrative were written and directed by Mary-Eunice of Mary



FRONT - Elizabeth Nagel, Mary Kennedy as Tekakwitha, Helen Glozenski. REAR - Carolyn Campo, Sean Kelly as the Chief, Beverly Ekherth and Michelle Stillings.

Productions.

Sister Christine and Sister Mary Ann, seventh grade teachers, assisted in the arrangements which enabled the entire student body of St. Mary's and the parents of the students to view the production.

St. Mary's is staffed by 11 Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity of Stella Niagara, N. Y., and 18 lay teachers. Over 1,000 children make up the student body.

Prayer Power Must Zoom

How is the Kateri cause coming? This question is often asked. With a smile the Vice-postulator responds, "Fine, but is still a matter of prayer." He points out that Our Lord worked a miracle when He was asked, e.g., the blind man cried out "Lord, that I may see!", the lepers "Make us clean!" Prayer alone will bring the second miracle for Kateri's beatification.

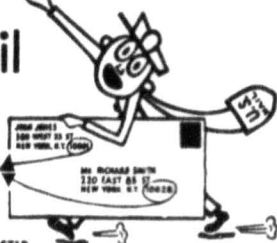
Out of a possible 45 million Catholics about 20,000 (a liberal estimate) are praying that Almighty God will soon allow a first class miracle to be wrought through Kateri's intercession. 20,000 certainly is a silent, silent minority. Get more to pray!

Zip Codes Are Necessary

PUT ZIP
in
your mail

Include
ZIP CODE NUMBERS
IN ALL ADDRESSES

POSTMASTER



The League mailings are handled by a special company. Our files are set up according to zip code numbers, not alphabetically any longer. However, names and addresses should be clearly printed and the zip code accurately written. After every mailing there is a number of drop-outs due to deaths and other reasons, but new names come in thereby maintaining a membership of about 5,550.
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NOTES FROM THE BARK . . . by father mcbride

* Mary-Eunice will enact two monologues at the Auriesville Shrine, August 15, 1971. One will be "The Skeptic at Fatima" and the other "Teresa, the Huron Girl."

* Often asked is "Where do I write about Kateri to Auriesville or Buffalo? Are both handling League affairs?" The official headquarters of the Tekakwitha League is at Buffalo where the Vice-postulator has an office. All business is transacted there. Auriesville, birth-place of Venerable Kateri, is the national shrine in her honor and the scene of the principal para-liturgical events for the Kateri cause.

* Congratulations to Michele Cook, Father Mike Jacobs' niece, who won a New York State Regents Scholarship! Michele will graduate from Holy Family High, Massena, N. Y., in June.

* You are being remembered in the First Friday Masses of Fr. Walter Fogelsanger, on Truk of the Caroline Islands in the Pacific. This is one of the benefits of League membership.

* Clementine Lenta's article in TWIN CIRCLE about the League brought in a surprising response. Many thanks to Clementine! The article uncut will be run in the Kenosha Franciscans' excellent magazine Immaculata. Again, how grateful can we be to interested, ardent backers like these!

* Reminder: please do not send money for candles to the Vice-postulator's Office.

* Hoping the enclosed list of promotional pieces will help you tell others, we decided to send it with this LILY. It is not an appeal. Notice the spaces provided for possible new names. Jot down some friends or relatives who would like to know about the League and send in the list.

* Bro. Pat Flanagan, who has been mentioned in past issues and who is the Jesuit Bureau Office Manager, took his first vows in the Society of Jesus, March 6, 1971. All the best!

* A special tribute to Father Thomas Grassmann, O.F.M. Conv., who died

last October, was intended for this issue but failure to obtain a proper photo and a suitable account of his life ambushed our efforts. Father, as you recall, authored a work on the Mohawks and their Valley taking him twenty-five years of research. He was the curator of the Kateri Museum at Fonda, N. Y., where Kateri was baptized. May his soul rest in peace!

* Thanks to the many who mentioned how much they liked the plastic Kateri Christmas calendar.

* If journeying through northern New York State this summer, stop to visit the St. Regis Reservation off Route 37 at Hogsburg, N. Y., attend Mass in the restored Mission Church on the juncture of the St. Regis and St. Lawrence Rivers. Ask for Fr. Jacobs who will give you the history of the Mission.

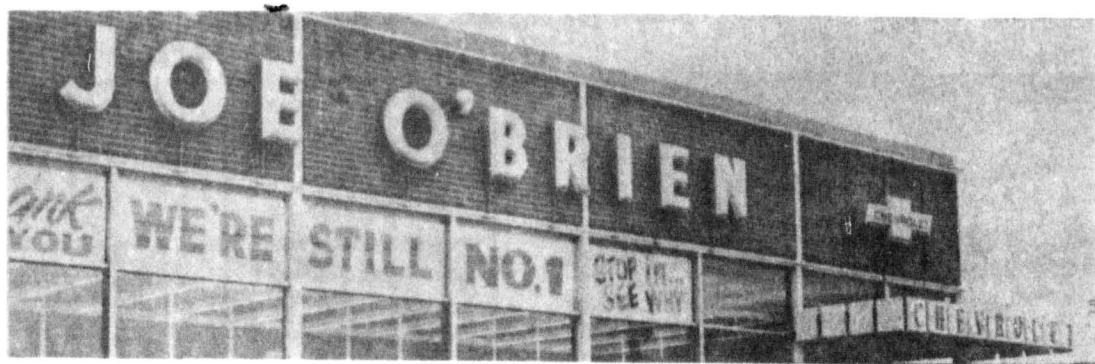
Kateri Is The Name



My name is Kateri Marie Owen and I was born on February 13, 1968, in Youngstown, New York. I live there with my Mommy and Daddy and two brothers at 875 Balmer Road.

Timothy, age 5, and Gregory, 4, are my brothers. And I am so happy to have my picture in the Kateri Album.

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Why is Joe O'Brien No. 1? Because he is a successful business man in Cleveland, Ohio.

Why is he successful? Joe gives all the credit to Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. As soon as I started saying the Kateri prayer one thing after the other fitted together bringing me happy conclusions to my business enterprises and my family life, is the answer from Joe O'Brien himself.

It was back in the thirties after graduating from John Carroll University that Joe faced a life of just pumping gas. Times were tough. He came upon the prayer to Kateri and his faith in her changed his life and turned it on to the road of success.

Joe lives with his wife and his younger son, John. His older boy, Joe, is, besides being a John Carroll grad and an accomplished organist, assists him in managing the popular Chevrolet dealership. His daughter is engaged in college studies.

Recently Mr. O'Brien retired from serving

forty years on the board of trustees of St. Ignatius Retreat House in Cleveland. During this time he contributed valuable business advice to aid the progress of the retreat movement in the Cleveland area.

Fr. Henri Bechard, S. J., Vice-postulator



JOE O'BRIEN

....Kateri is a partner.

Composer to Do Work Based on Kateri's Life

Mr. Louis W. Ballard, a handsome Quapaw-Cherokee Indian, dean of the music department at the American Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, has always wanted to compose a musical work based on Kateri's life and spiritual aspirations.

Presently, having received a Ford Foundation grant for research, study and composition in the field of American Indian music education, Mr. Ballard is studying Kateri's life to obtain proper background. He plans to produce a Chamber Work with Chorus and/or vocalist for competition in Europe.

Last November, Mr. Ballard conceived the theme, designed and composed a highly effective score for an Amerindian classical ballet, "The Four Moons," which premiered in Tulsa as part of the celebration of Oklahoma's 60th anniversary of statehood.

Another work, "Koshare", the first ballet to be composed by an American Indian, was premiered by the Harkness Ballet in Spain at the famed Teatro Liceo of Barcelona.

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for Canada, credits Joe with aiding his work in promoting the Kateri cause many, many times.

In January a purchase of a new car at a very reasonable price by the League Office was realized through Mr. O'Brien's business acumen.

Artfully executed in Italy according to Mr. O'Brien's suggestions, the statue you see in the picture is a very prominent adornment to his office. Whether you are a perplexed religious or a competing athlete like a Cleveland Indian Joe readily will tell you the story of Venerable Kateri and the power of her intercession with Almighty God.

Joe O'Brien is really No. 1.

Kateri Is The Name



My family have deep devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha (Wow, that's a big word!). We pray to her and for her. At one time we lived in East Aurora, N. Y., but now our home is at 11 Deepwood Road, Simsbury, Conn.

We always stop at the Shrine in Auriesville whenever we pass through the Mohawk Valley. This is a picture of me when I was a real little baby. I have red hair and so does every one of my family including Mama Pat, Daddy Neil, sisters Anne, Kathleen, and Jane, and my brothers Patrick and Barry.

Kateri Cited As An Example of Love

Love! What is it? How do we reflect it in our lives? Love is what Christ expressed when He became man, died on the cross and rose from the dead. Love is following Him along the road to the Kingdom, giving of ourselves as He did. The way each person gives is different. It can be shown in complete service to God and the world as a priest, religious or lay apostle. It may be in being a mirror of Him who resides in us.

Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha is an example of

NOW READY

Laminated Kateri Cards

Picture on front - Prayer on back

Stiff — \$1.00 each

Soft — \$.75 each

Add the number you wish to
the order blank enclosed.

Limited supply.

Enhance the Kateri Album

You are urged to send in pictures of children whose name is Kateri. The photos must be black and white; color pictures cannot be used for publication.

Attach data giving birthday, name of parents, brothers and sisters, home address, and why the child was called Kateri. Add any other note of interest about the child or her family that would involve devotion to Kateri.

Pictures cannot be returned.

this. This young American Indian girl as a result of her love of God, was an example of Christian virtue to those around her just by how she lived. She was born and raised here in our own United States in the middle of the seventeenth century. After her conversion to Christianity she was forced to leave her homeland and go to Canada because of the turmoil caused in the pagan village by her virtuous life. Despite dying at the age of 24, she was a model of Christ-followers and inspired others to follow Christ. Are we in our every day life living the true Christian way that would inspire others to follow Christ? If not, can we really say we love Christ?

- Sacred Heart Devotion News by Nancy Roth, January, 1971, Elkins Park, Pa.



1656

1680

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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-Pastulator. 5. A sharing in the spiritual works, and apostolic labors of over 5,000 League Members.

Address all communications to:

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

" Tekakwitha " Suggested As College Name



*Rev. William J. Schlaerth, S. J.
...fifty golden years*

Fr. William Schlaerth, former Vice-postulator, will celebrate his Golden Jubilee in the Society of Jesus this year. He was Vice-postulator from 1965 to 1968.

A native of Buffalo, he entered the Jesuit Order in 1921 and was ordained June 23, 1934. He engaged in four years of historical study in Europe, obtaining his doctorate from the Gregorian University of Rome in 1940. After posts in teaching history at Canisius College, Buffalo, and Fordham University, New York, he was named the first rector and president of Le Moyne College, Syracuse, in 1947. He was responsible for the first buildings of this Jesuit College. He returned to Canisius in 1954 where he taught history until 1956 when he received his appointment as Rector at Auriesville.

In 1962 he was given the directorship of the National Shrine of the Jesuit Martyrs and undertook the construction of the new Dining Hall and cafeteria. As Vice-postulator he contracted to have the Kateri statue sculptured and erected in the Coliseum.

Today he serves as assistant director of the St. Ignatius Retreat House, Clarence Center, N. Y., after serving for several years as treasurer of the Buffalo Province. Many celebrations held later this year will honor this remarkable Jesuit priest, educator, and administrator.

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A former Jesuit house of studies in Spokane, Wash., may become the first All-Indian- directed school in the nation if Father Armand N. Nigro, S.J., innovator of the dream can swing it.

When this news broke Fr. Joseph McBride, Vice-postulator, immediately sent in the suggestion that the college be called "Tekakwitha College." Fr. Nigro answered, "I like your suggestion for naming the school. I hope the Indians will buy the idea."

Fr. Nigro pointed out that the school would be a major development for Indians - staffed by Indians, and controlled by Indians - "the only school like it in the nation."

Three Stages Involved

Plans for the school call for setting up an institute for Indian studies and also a facility for Indians to live in while attending other professional schools and colleges in the area. Opening goal, Fr. Nigro said, is 100 freshmen students and a faculty of four Indian administrators and instructors. Eventually there would be 200 to 250 students.

The Jesuit's dream has three stages: college, boarding school, and a facility that would serve as a national convention center for Indian meetings. Juniors and seniors would have the opportunity to work on research projects for various national Indian organizations and receive credit for their efforts.

Financing, he admitted, "is probably the biggest problem to overcome," but he believes it can be done. "I am very proud of what the Indians have done for their people in the last 10 years."

Towards Efficient Office Procedure

Every piece of correspondence to the League Office gets an answer. However, do allow at least two weeks for a response. At this writing only on Saturdays does help come in to make acknowledgements and fill orders and other requests.

Should you receive no reply please let the Office know at your convenience. It is good to inform League Members that the mail pilfering situation has been stopped. Most advisable is it never to send cash, always a check or money order. Clearly identify all gifts.

Some Of Kateri's Answers

INFECTION INHIBITED - Enclosed is a check in thanksgiving to Kateri for two favors received. (1) A friend's husband had a very rare infection. They were afraid it would go to the lungs. Thank God, he is home from the hospital, doing very well. (2) I had a bad fall. Thank God, I had no bones fractured. - Cohoes, N. Y.

MURDER PREVENTED - I have no miracles to record from Kateri, but only a constant series of remarkable answers to prayer for help.

As there are no roads in these forested mountains, my rounds of the villages take three months at a time. As I camp out in the Patamona or Macusi villages (Two tribes of Amerindians live in these mountains.) I often remind Kateri that these people are her people, from the same ancestors...living in ways most remarkably similar to those of her time (Bar the ferocity, for they are very gentle.) I ask help in the drawing of the people, especially the children, to the sacraments. In these cases, there always takes place a noticeable jump in the numbers and in the devotion. I came across a poor young mother, living far in the forest, who was going blind if her eyes were not treated. Remembering Kateri's own eye trouble, I asked her to help the poor girl. By the unexpected removal of some communication problems she was able to get out by light plane to a hospital and is now back again and well.

I mentioned that they are gentle. One day I found myself with an exception. A terrific row blazed up between two men. It was in a very lonely village. I got in between them; but they punched each other over my head and around me...at last there seemed sure that there would be murder and I promised to write to you if no murder took place. One man broke away just then, ran far into the forest and slept off his anger. The other said he was sorry and went back home. - Guyana, South America.

BABY AND MOTHER WELL - Enclosed is a check for \$5.00 for a favor granted by Tekakwitha, and to further her cause. I have a niece that had a seven months premature baby (her fifth child) that weighed 3 lbs., 8 ozs. The doctors told her that the chances for the baby to live were very slim. So immediately I started praying to Tekakwitha to let the baby be born alive and that my niece would be well. Again she has granted me a favor. My niece is well and the baby now out of the incubator, weighs 4 lbs., 9 ozs., and should be home in a week or so. Kateri has also granted me other favors. I am really grateful to her and have so much faith in her. - Lafayette, Louisiana.

HOUSE SOLD - Enclosed find check to help expenses for the cause of Kateri Tekakwitha. My daughter and I have received many favors through her intercession and have just received another favor as we have been praying for my daughter to sell her house. This has been granted and we are

very grateful to our dear Lord and his blessed saints and Kateri's intercession. I have been a league member for many years and hope to live to see Kateri canonized. - Pompano Beach, Florida.

VARIOUS FAVORS - We are grateful indeed to Venerable Kateri for granting these favors to us: (1) While we were preparing some activities in honor of the feast of our patron, it rained heavily and there was a sign of a storm. Our teachers and students were downhearted. I invoked Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha and the day of its celebration the rain ceased and the weather became favorable. Everybody was happy and contented for the celebration was successful. (2) There was something growing in my throat, I consulted the doctor and after the examination he told me it is a goiter. He advised me to be operated. I prayed hard thru the intercession of Ven. Kateri. On the day of the operation it disappeared and the doctor told me that the operation is not needed anymore. (3) One of our schools in the Philippines was celebrating its Golden Jubilee of its foundation. The Sister Principal invited many schools to participate in the Academic Contest. For our school we sent five contestants. Looking at the opponents our own contestants were much younger and smaller. I was quite discouraged but I remembered to invoke Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha to help them. After the contest we were very contented to hear the result that we got five medals: 2 first prizes, 2 second prizes and 1 third prize. Thanks to the intercession of Ven. Kateri. (4) Last June I was confined in Singian Hospital. According to the findings of my X-Ray I have enlargement of the heart, slight enlargement of the liver and numerous calculi in my gall bladder. From the time I was hospitalized I suffered from the rapid palpitation of the heart, indigestion and gastric hyperacidity. I never ceased invoking Ven. Kateri to help me bear this sickness patiently and if possible for my cure. In the September Novena of Masses held there in New York and up to the present I feel much better and with this I attributed it thru the prayers and good works of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha League.

There are also these small favors received after invoking Ven. Kateri: lost things were found, raising of funds for the improvement of our newly founded schools, conversion of sinners and for the safety of travels. I hope these favors we are sending to your office will be of great help for the beatification and canonization of Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha. - San Juan, Rizal, Philippines.

FINANCES STRAIGHTENED - This letter is a testament to the power of Kateri's intercession. I promised to write an acknowledgement for publication if a financial problem was settled. This situation was solved and I am indebted to Kateri. I am also grateful for the help in finishing my master's thesis. May I ask for continued help in my teaching position. - St. Louis, Mo.