

## Art, Films, Plays Observe the Kateri Era

Last year, 1976, opened the Kateri Era which will run until 1980. These years commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the principle events in her life as a Christian. In 1676 she was baptized, in 1677 she received her First Holy Communion, in 1678 she was admitted into the Holy Family Confraternity, in 1679 she pronounced her Vow of Perpetual Virginity, and in 1680 she was born into Eternal Life.



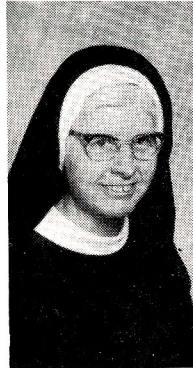
Mary-Eunice  
Spagnola

Kateri's baptism scene was painted by Sister Mary Felicitas, RSM, appeared on the front page of the Spring '76 LILY, and now is on display in the large window of the

National Kateri Center. Sister has completed a pencil sketch of Kateri's death, a preliminary to doing an oil painting which will also be viewed in the Center a bit before 1980.

Anne Scheuerman of Rochester, N.Y., completed the 16mm film of Mary-Eunice's dialogue on Kateri's life. In addition to this a special Super 8 Film shown at the Eucharistic Congress of the three Kateri Shrines will soon be available.

Known for her inspiring monologues and for her writing of many plays on the lives of the saints, Mary-Eunice of Belford, N.J., has given a one act play "Maid of the



Sister Mary  
Felicitas, RSM

Mohawks", a Christmas playlet "A Christmas Star" and has added another brief play "The Baptismal Birthday of Tekakwitha." These may be easily produced and may be obtained from the Kateri Center in Auriesville, N.Y.

Unable to be mentioned are the innumerable newspaper articles that have appeared throughout the country and the many paintings that have been done by ardent devotees of Kateri. Five of these works now hang in the Kateri Center. The filmstrip on Kateri done by the Daughters of St. Paul ranks high as a memento of the Kateri Era.



Anne  
Scheuerman

### PRAYER CELEBRATIONS DESIGNATED

Annually prayer events are designated for the Kateri cause. Only through prayer will the miracles needed for Kateri's beatification and canonization be obtained. Accordingly, since this is the 300th anniversary of the Lily's First Communion, both Holy Thursday and Christmas Day, the actual day of her First Communion, should be days of private prayer for all League Members.

Sunday, September 4, the Mohawk Indian Pilgrimage Day to Auriesville Martyrs Shrine, New York, is designated as the National Prayer Day for the Cause. League Members and friends are asked to say the Rosary and other prayers throughout the nation on this day.

April 17 a Mass is offered by Father McBride, League president, for deceased League Members.

### PROJECT DISPLAY LAUNCHED

Invitations to twenty Indian Missions and Reservations have been sent to participate in Project Display. Articles of beadwork, basquetry, rug weaving, etc., typical of the tribe's handiwork, are requested and are to show the tribe's devotion to Ven. Kateri.

Each item will be marked with the tribe's name and will be displayed in the National Kateri Center, Auriesville, New York.

Often visitors ask what do other Indians think of Kateri? This project will answer this question for the articles are to represent the particular tribe's love for the Lily of the Mohawks.

Objects are to be forwarded to the National Center by April 1, so that the displays will be ready for the opening of the Shrine on May 1, 1977. Names of Indian tribes who would like to contribute are requested.



## Some of

## Kateri's Answers

### HOUSE SOLD

I am very grateful to Kateri for interceding and selling my family's house. I will always be thankful for this favor. - *Amsterdam, N. Y.*

### NO CANCER

I was in the hospital in June and was told that I had cancer of the uterus. I had to undergo tests and x-rays and then weeks of radiation treatments, then back to the hospital for an operation. After the operation no more cancer - thank God and Kateri. - *Warminster, Pa.*

### MISSING MESENTERY

On May 25, 1976, I gave birth to a baby girl. She was five weeks premature but a fairly good size.

Within 48 hours she had undergone extensive and major surgery. She had been born without a mesentery which is an intestine support, plus various other obstructions. Her surgeon inserted a plastic piece to hold up her intestines among a lot of other tasks he performed. There was quite a period of time when they thought she would not survive. This is an extremely rare case and the doctor could only guess how to handle it.

On June 12, we were visiting some friends and she told me about Kateri Tekakwitha and how she believed she had helped her daughter. So I asked Kateri for her prayers and within a few days the baby had made miraculous progress. On June 26 we brought her home. We were told it probably wouldn't be until the middle of the summer.

On Sept. 23 I was changing the

baby's diaper and I found the plastic piece on top of it. I rushed her to the hospital. Tests were made and to everyone's amazement surgery was not needed. The intestines were in place and some how formed a support. What is very puzzling is the fact that this plastic piece because it was a support was outside the intestine. Therefore, they have no explanation as to how this piece supposedly passed through her intestine and out with her stool. The baby has gained nine pounds and six inches taller and is an extremely healthy, active, and happy child. - *Tonawanda, N. Y.*

### FINANCIALLY ENHANCED

Enclosed please find an offering of \$50.00 for the Kateri Cause for two favors granted to me financially. - *Worcester, Mass.*

### COMPUTER GAINS

Thanks for sending the novena prayer. I just finished one and my daughter was successful in obtaining a job in the computer field in which she was trained. - *Los Angeles, Cal.*

### COURSES EASED

Asked for and received help in completing several college courses

of a difficult nature which were required by the State for the job I am seeking. - *Kansas City, Mo.*

### FAVORS IN TWOS

My own dear mother was in the hospital with a nervous breakdown and we were told she would never be well. Today she is 83 years old, living in an apartment alone and in excellent health. Kateri works miracles.

Three years ago my husband's artery in his left leg was completely stopped from his knee to hip. In 12 hrs. he underwent 3 operations and today is playing golf. This would never have happened without Kateri's help. - *Rochester, N. Y.*

### DENTIST'S FEE LOWER

Thanks to Kateri's intercession, I received good news from my dentist. Instead of expensive and more complicated dental work, I find that he will be able to repair a broken crown at a much lower fee. A friend and I had asked Kateri for her help before leaving for the dentist this morning. - *Phoenix, Arizona.*

### SUCCESSFUL TRANSPLANT

Did I mention before that I received a telegram from one of my nieces whose husband had been seriously sick for some time and had to have an operation, a transplant of a kidney. Telegram: "Kidney transplant successful Francis (her husband) home thanks to Kateri." - *Truk, Caroline Islands*

**MORE PICTURES** of the League's participation in the Eucharistic Congress appear throughout this issue. This was a typical scene during the eight days of the Congress around the Tekakwitha Exhibit.







**GUAMANIAN FRIENDS** of Fr. Ron Sams get a Kateri welcome at the Tekakwitha Booth. Left to right: Sister Angela, Fr. Brigido, from Guam, Fr. McBride, Sister Benedict, Guam, Fr. Sams, Bishop Felixberto C. Flores, Bishop of Guam, Princess Esther, Agatha Foote. Seated: Chief Running Wolf, Skytop, Tommy "Horrigan" Deer.

## TWO PROMINENT LEAGUE MEMBERS RECEIVE HONORS

Joseph T. O'Brien of Cleveland, Ohio, and Mrs. Anne Scheuerman of Rochester, N.Y., both members of the Tricentennial Kateri Committee, and long outstanding members of the Tekakwitha League, recently were given special honors in recognition of their dedication to works calling for self sacrifice.

Joe O'Brien has made generous contributions both to the League Office in Montreal and in Auriesville. He has put Father McBride under strict orders not to divulge his many helps. Father Bechard, vice postulator for Canada, has revealed that Joe gave a sizeable donation which hastened the completion of the new Kateri tomb in Caughnawaga.

Mr. O'Brien was made a Knight of Malta by Terence Cardinal Cooke, archbishop of New York, Sunday, January 23, 1977, in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Knights of Malta is one of the highest ecclesiastical honors bestowed on a layman.

Anne Scheuerman already mentioned on page one of this LILY is included in the tenth edition of "Who's Who of American Women." Besides her generous efforts to promote the Kateri Cause she is in a Catholic way most self-giving in her position of associate professor of Health, Phys. Ed., and Recreation Leadership at Monroe Community College, Rochester, N.Y.



## Kateri's Little Squirrels Gather Members

"I have been, with my girl friend Anne Bergeron, promoting our dear friend Kateri by giving out holy cards of her. But it seems to us not enough. We want to expand. So we are organizing Kateri's Little Squirrels." wrote Therese Bullard of Santa Ana, California.

Both young girls have studied the lives of the North American Martyrs and Indian lore and crafts. Equipped with Indian costumes Anne and Therese plan to give talks on Kateri.

Asked why they call themselves

Squirrels, Therese explained that they collect nuts and things, we want to collect friends for Kateri. Squirrels bounce around all over the place and we will go anywhere to tell about Kateri. Also, squirrels chatter a lot and so do we.

Anne is 13 years old and wants to play the piano. Therese is 17 and is working for the goal of being a concert violinist. In their spare time they decorate eggs, Ukranian style, to sell and to give to friends as gifts.

Their emblem is Kateri's clan totem, the tortoise or turtle. It is a black turtle on a white field, encircled with blue. For public appearances they wear the large Kateri medal.

**WINSOME** Ann McCauley sings a ballad to her pet puppet in her role as Kateri as a young girl, Philadelphia Civic Center Auditorium, last August.

**BE A  
SPECIAL "K" PERSON  
SUPPORT THE KATERI CAUSE**



Anne Bergeron Therese Bullard





Jesus' Baptism - main display in Civic Center.

"I would like to thank you and the Mohawk Indians for bringing Kateri to Philadelphia for the Eucharistic Congress. It was great to meet you and all the Indians I read about in the LILY OF THE MOHAWKS. As a League Member, I will never forget the Mass in Old St. Joe's. At Holy Communion I know Kateri was in our hearts." - **Andrew M. Hemmert, Phila., Pa.**

"It seems to me that the key word in speaking of the Eucharistic Congress in general and the Kateri Booth specifically is PEOPLE. It was certainly a privilege and a joy to meet and share with so many wonderful people, for we shared the Kateri story with more people than anyone could have dreamed. Perhaps it was a dream come true. . .but certainly it was an answer to prayer!"

**Maria Van Valkenburg, college student, Rochester, N.Y.**

"The spiritual uplift one received from attending the Congress can only be described as the work of the Holy Spirit. I have never seen so many people gathered in one place all working for God by helping others. God and Tekakwitha must have been pleased!"

**Skanaieah, housewife, Liverpool, N.Y.**



Little Peacock and Skytop present gifts at Liturgy.

"Kateri certainly belonged at the Eucharistic Congress. Her booth was in the finest location. I am sure all the minds of those who were there have been illuminated, their hearts full. That's important, and I know from myself I have been enriched in many ways that will show up in the future. The attendance was great so it just had to be one of the finest promotions ever. There is no doubt in my mind Kateri will become a saint within the next couple of decades." - **Thomas B. Constantino, President, The Noteworthy Company, Amsterdam, N.Y.**

# EUCCHARIS

"On behalf of the Board of the Eucharistic Congress may I express my contribution of time and talent to the benefits of the Congress exceeded my very proud of your contribution to the program which led to its ultimate success." - **bishop of Philadelphia.**

"Kateri's exhibit, as if provided at the Convention Hall, and acclaimed as the displays, attracted prelates, dignitaries, the faithful from around the World. This marvelous Indian Maiden touched the hearts of all. How they pray for her sainthood!"



**Bishop C. Sipovich, (center) of the Kateri Booth.**

"This was the first Eucharistic Congress to attend and to participate in. I was able to assemble and to administer for the benefit of so many of the faithful. It was a quite a contribution. It was a disappointment to my friends, Father McBride, S.J., and the American Indians and pale faces who were invited to this particular project, to see the Kateri program the committee put together. It was a delight to me to give the homily at Old St. Joe's. It was so very encouraging to see the Kateri committee materialize so beautifully. People contributed to all of this. Thank you, devotees." - **Rev. Ronald Schultz, Shrine of Catherine Tekakwitha.**



# IC CONGRESS REVIEW

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incere gratitude for your generous  
ngress. The spiritual and temporal  
fondest expectations. You can be  
lping to implement the Congress  
ess." - John Cardinal Kroll, Arch-

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st beautiful and outstanding of all  
es, clergy, nuns, and thousands of  
s amazing to learn how many lives  
ver the years. How they love her!  
Adams, Detroit, Mich.



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ss that I have had the opportunity  
ateri booth was a delight to help  
re week. Since our shrine was the  
exhibited, we feel that we made  
onor also to work with my good  
r Ronald Sams, S.J., and the many  
ade such an outstanding contribu-  
Mohawk Indian liturgy and to the  
the auditorium. It was a particular  
wo Mohawk Indian liturgies in old  
e the planning of the tricentennial  
lly at the Congress. So very many  
easy to see that Kateri has many  
Conv., Director, Fonda Memorial

"I was especially impressed by  
the number of people from other  
countries who had a special devo-  
tion to Kateri (India, West Ger-  
many in particular). A priest from  
India said that the Jesuit novices  
there said special prayers in her  
honor. The booth was first-class  
and I think made a fine impression  
on everyone who saw it. I can only  
anticipate much more prayerful ac-  
tion for her Cause because of the  
information given out at the Con-  
gress." - Ronald W. Sams, S.J., Pub-  
lic Relations, Canisius High School,  
Buffalo, N.Y.



Chief Running Wolf provides merri-  
ment.

"The esprit d'corps of the Kateri Committee softened the walls of the  
Civic Center . . . a giant undertaking . . . three cheers for the catalyst - the  
Kateri Committee." - The McCauley Family, Phoenix, Arizona.

"Many people ask us on our tours Who is Kateri Tekakwitha? Why do  
we not hear more of her? It was with great enthusiasm the Tekakwitha  
League was able to tell many of these people that visited the Congress all  
about Kateri. Many people told us they were inspired just seeing the League  
in action. Some said it was one of the best booths at the Congress with  
people truly interested in the making of a saint." - Mary-Eunice and Joseph  
Spagnola, Mary Productions, Belford, N.J.



Paleface ice cream melts a busy moment at Kateri Booth.



## SACRED MUSIC AMONG THE IROQUOIS by Francis X. Weiser, S.J.

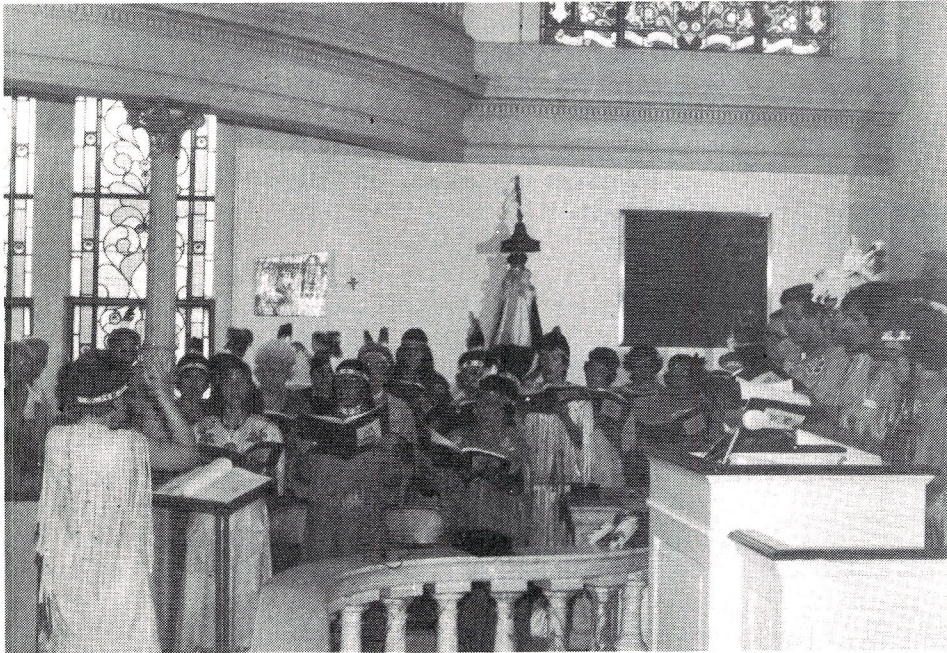
(Continued from last LILY)

The missionaries, following the example of Saint Francis Xavier, utilized the Indians' love of singing in the task of religious instruction. They wrote a series of Iroquois hymns whose text closely followed the various parts of the Mass; thus the faithful could accompany the priest in their own language all through the Holy Sacrifice. In a similar way, the Fathers taught them in the form of simple, attractive melodies, to sing the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, Hail Mary, the Creed, the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, the Act of Contrition, etc., also the Ten Commandments and other points of the Catechism. The catechumens, especially the children, eagerly memorized these texts and sang them with great enthusiasm, not only in church but also in their wigwams and at their work in the fields.

We give here only a few of the many hundred examples mentioned by the missionaries in their reports: The Catholic Iroquois had the custom of singing the morning and evening prayers in their wigwams - the whole family together. Three times every day, morning, noon and night, the church bell rang for private prayer. Everybody stopped working to recite or sing the Our Father, the Hail Mary and a prayer for the Holy Souls. Women and children used to sing the prayers at their daily chores while the men sang them on their hunting and fishing trips.

Father Cholenec, who was superior of the Jesuits during the years when Tekakwitha lived there (1677-1680) and who wrote her first biography, reports many details of her prayer-singing. "Every morning," he says, "she came to

Mass. At noon she attended the instruction of the faithful. In the evening she returned to the house of God for the common singing of the Rosary." - "On a walk through the woods or fields she always prayed the Rosary, not reciting but singing it as was custom among our Christian Iroquois." - "Going through the village to visit the sick she would hum the prayer songs or sing them in a low, sweet voice." -



Mohawk Choir singing at the Eucharistic Congress

"In her last sickness, a few weeks before her death, she was extremely weak, suffered painful headaches, and had to stay in bed all day long while the others worked in the fields. Being alone, she spent those hours singing the Rosary and other prayers with fervent devotion."

### POPULAR RELIGIOUS HYMNS

The obvious delight of Huron and Iroquois converts over the singing of prayers and liturgical texts prompted the Jesuit missionaries to provide their Catholic Indians also with a number of hymns to be sung during festive seasons of the ecclesiastical year and in honor of saints, especially of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thus originated many Iroquoian hymns of great beauty and charming simplicity; they spread like fire through all the missions and conquered the hearts of the faithful Indians.

The most beloved of these

hymns were songs to Mary and Christmas carols. In fact, the first American Christmas carol, *Jesous Ahatonhia*, was written as early as 1641 by the great pioneer of the Indian missions, Saint John de Brebeuf, S.J., who died a martyr's death in 1649. He set his poem to the tune of a popular French folk song. After the suppression of the Jesuits a copy of his text and tune was found in the papers of a Canadian Missionary in 1794. Brebeuf's carol has recently been reintroduced into the treasury of American Christmas carols ("T was in the moon o f winter time ...). Unfortunately, this modern version (a free rendition of a prior French translation) lacks, despite its brilliant poetical formulation, the charming, child-like simplicity of Brebeuf's original text:

*O, listen to the  
angel's word!*

*Do not refuse the joyful message  
Which you hear:  
Today has come of Mary pure  
The Child Divine. Let us adore.  
Jesus is born.*

Of the other carols and religious songs no trace is left today. Due to the complete destruction of the Huron missions (1648-1650) and the almost total decline of the Iroquois missions after the suppression of the Jesuits (end of the 18th century) all the church books and papers of the missionaries (except some official parish records in Canada) disappeared. We have, however, many reports in the *Jesuit Relations* describing the usage of popular religious songs among the Indians.

(Concluded in the next LILY)

1976 — KATERI ERA — 1980





**POSED BUT A MOST ACTIVE** worker at the Kateri Booth was Maria Van Valkenburg who graduates from Nazareth College, Rochester, this June.

## Well Known League Members Are Dead

Early this year Dr. Dietrich von Hildebrand of New Rochelle, N.Y., and Mrs. Marian A. Wesselman of Cincinnati, Ohio, died.

Dr. von Hildebrand served 18 years on the Fordham University Faculty, wrote 30 books, and 100 articles on philosophy and morality.

1952 began Marian Wesselman's dedication to the Kateri League. So prominent was her love of Kateri that over thirty friends have sent in donations in memory of her. Her obituary requested gifts to the League. A fitting memorial to her will be in the Kateri Center.

### SPECIAL BULLETIN

At press time 3 16mm films of Mary-Eunice's monologue of Kateri's story from heaven became available. The film runs for 18 mins. and is suitable for showings to all groups.

The film may be purchased for \$250.00. Order now from National Kateri Center, Auriesville, N.Y., 12016. First come, first served. Only 3 copies offered.

# Jesuit Attributes Restoration Of Eyesight to Indian Maiden

The above heading met Father McBride's eyes as he opened the January 27th issue of the CATHOLIC NEWS, The New York Archdiocesan Newspaper. Immediately he phoned Father Bechard in Canada who knows the Jesuit and his family.

Father Walter M. Abbott, S.J., an American Bible scholar, said he suddenly regained sight in his left eye after he and friends had prayed for the miracle for more than a year to Kateri Tekakwitha.

The 53-year-old priest, who works in Rome as Pope Paul's representative in all common Bible work, said that he had letters from two leading eye specialists who claim that the return of his sight was "medically impossible and beyond explanation." The letters are being turned over to the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

## Colorado Couple Tell Plans To Promote Kateri Cause

Ever since last September Frank and Dorothy Alcon visited the National Kateri Center, coming all the way from Pueblo, Colorado, they have worked on plans for special events to help the Kateri Cause.

They have conducted a spaghetti dinner and arranged for a Mass to be offered for Kateri's beatification, January 19.

A more elaborate program is scheduled for April 6 when Mary-Eunice will present dramatic sketches at the Pueblo Sangre De Christo Arts Center Theatre in Pueblo City.

Most Rev. Charles Buswell, bishop of Pueblo, in a letter to the Committee wrote that he is "keeping Kateri in prayer and in the celebration of Holy Mass."

**MARLENE MCCAULEY** and five-day old *Joseph Ignatius* play Kateri's mother and Kateri as a baby at the Eucharistic Congress.

Father Abbott, a native of Boston, lost sight in his eye when he fell down a marble staircase in his Rome residence on June 24, 1975. The priest fractured his skull and wrist and dislocated his jaw. Physicians said head damage caused a hemorrhage which eventually destroyed the optic nerve in the left eye.

Father Abbott began to pray to Kateri and with his Mother, sister and several others, visited the tomb of the Indian Girl in Caughnawaga.

"One morning in November, Father relates, "I opened my left eye and I saw the ceiling clearly. I looked around the room and I could see things. I stood up and found that I could see the bottom half of the room perfectly. It was a strange feeling."

The latest report is that 75% vision has been restored to Father Abbott's eye.

Father Abbott is the general editor of the universally popular book containing the Documents of Vatican II.





# NOTES FROM THE BARK

by father mcbride

**NOTES AROUND** - Two songs in honor of Kateri have been written and sung. One by Mrs. Pat Dunning of Rochester, N.Y., called "My Lily of the Valley." The other "Kateri Tekakwitha" composed by Frank Alcon of Colorado. Both were on tapes and were very good. The next LILY should carry the words of each, if not the music.

**NEWEST SAINT** - Since Sts. Isaac Jogues, Rene Goupil, and John LaLande, America hasn't had a male saint. Now on June 19 the Holy Father will canonize Bl. John Neuman, the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, Fr. Francis Litz, C.S.S.R., is the promoter of the Neuman Cause and is to be congratulated on his sterling devotion to this holy bishop.

**A VOICE IS LOST** - Princess Esther Phillips was president of the Caughnawaga Mohawk Choir up to last October. She was most energetic despite an ailing knee in giving her time and talent to the League's Congress programs. She has retired from the Choir. A beautiful voice is silent but will resound for a long while in the Mohawk Valley. The League thanks her, Father McBride thanks her, the Kateri Cause thanks her!

**STILL SWIMMING** - Yes, the

League spent a good sum, even drawing from the savings account meant for beatification and canonization expenses, for the Congress programs. But we're still swimming thanks to extra donations sent in. To measure what the workers expended would be impossible, so we're due for olympic honors.

**POSTSCRIPT** - After the Mohawk Choir's performance at the Eucharistic Congress the bus to take them to the airport didn't show. Pooling the pecuniary resources present a limousine got the 32 member-choir to the airport to catch the plane to Montreal. What happened? No one knows.

**A TREASURE** - The National Kateri Center will feature this Shrine Season a copy of the painting of Kateri done by a missionary, Father Chauchtierre, who personally knew Kateri. Father Bechard brought the picture from Caughnawaga. It was photographed by Armour Landry of Montreal.

**AVAILABLE** - A third class Kateri relic - a piece of cloth blessed and touched by the bones of Ven. Kateri - has been made available by the handiwork of Anna Rose Balsamo, '75 Award recipient. Only one copy to a person may be obtained.

**A MEMENTO** - A commemorative book treating the various themes of the Eucharistic Congress and containing an array of pictures of Congress scenes may be purchased from Logos International, 201 Church Street, Plainfield, N.J. 07060. See two familiar sketches opposite p. 132 and a picture of the Mohawk Choir in Old St. Joe's.

**LATE EDITION** - Over a year late is Fr. Henri Bechard's book "The Original Caughnawaga Indians", \$8.75, from Kateri Center, Box 70, Caughnawaga, Canada, JOL IBO. Father gives accounts of 12 persons who were contemporaries of Ven. Kateri. The book culminates 15 years of research.

**INSTANT IGNITION** - To get a candle(s) lit before shrine of Ven. Kateri quickly send donation directly to Martyrs Shrine, Auriesville, N.Y., not the League Headquarters.

**AWARDEES** - Five candidates - 3 women, two men - have been notified as choices for the '77 Tekakwitha Awards. 2 Mohawks and 1 Sioux are among the selected. Presentations take place Sunday, Sept. 4, 1977, in the Shrine Coliseum, Auriesville, N.Y.

## Kateri Tekakwitha League

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LEAGUE MEMBERS not only share in the noble work of making Venerable Kateri better known and loved by means of literature, etc., but their membership subscriptions and donations make possible this promotion.

R P HENRI BECHARD SJ  
EDITOR, KATERI  
MISSION ST-FRANCOIS-XAVIER  
CAUGHNAWAGA P Q CANADA

