







VOL. XLI No. 8

SS Native Americans, Sept. 14, in SS Phoenix, Arizona (Top, left). Fol-

lowing this praise rose a thunderous applause lasting for

BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE, AURIESVILLE, NEW YORK 12016

minutes.

"THE BEST KNOWN WITNESS OF CHRISTIAN HOLINESS AMONG THE NATIVE PEOPLES OF NORTH AMERICA IS KATERI TEKAKWITHA, WHOM I HAD THE PRIVILEGE, SEVEN YEARS AGO, OF DECLARING "BLESSED" AND OF HOLDING UP TO THE WHOLE CHURCH AND THE WORLD AS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN LIFE. EVEN WHEN SHE DEDICATED HERSELF TO JESUS CHRIST, TO THE POINT OF TAKING THE PROPHETIC STEP OF MAKING A VOW OF PERPETUAL VIRGINITY, SHE ALWAYS REMAINED WHAT SHE WAS, A TRUE DAUGHTER OF HER PEOPLE, FOLLOWING HER TRIBE IN THE HUNTING SEASONS AND CONTINUING HER DEVOTIONS IN THE EN-VIRONMENT MOST SUITED TO HER WAY OF LIFE, BEFORE A ROUGH CROSS CARVED BY HERSELF IN THE FOREST." So spoke the Holy Father to 16,000

TOP, MIDDLE: Dick Adach and Father Tom Egan carried this heavy banner in the opening night procession of the Tekakwitha Conference. Marlene McCauley finished the beautiful Kateri banner just a few days before the Conference. It now hangs in the National Kateri Center.

TOP, RIGHT: Anne Scheuerman, LILY photographer, for a change is snapped showing the spiritual bouquet box presented to the Pontiff. She explains its contents: "On the silver box a message — Dear Holy Father, you are remembered in prayer — within were three special envelopes containing picture cards from each Shrine — 1.Auriesville where Kateri was born in 1656; 2. At Fonda, N.Y., where Kateri was

baptized in 1676; and 3. At Kahnawake where her tomb is."

FALL, 1987

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Excerpts from a diary kept by Anna Marie and Dick Adach who were the League reps at the Phoenix events follow:

- Sept. 11: Depart Albany at 5 P.M. At the O'Hare stopover we met Father Egan, Father Bechard, Brother Gerard and 25 St. Regis residents. Arrived in Phoenix at 9:30 P.M. and went to the Park Central aptly named because it was in the center of activity, The Heard Museum and the Veterans Coliseum. Exhausted we retired.
- Sept. 12: Picked up Conference materials at the Heard. Rest of the morning sight-seeing. Looked up the McCauley home. Shared in a liturgy. Visited Scottsdale, east of Phoenix, stores whose architecture dates back to the last century selling all kinds of local products. Temperature now 100 degrees so we relaxed. Met

(Continued on Page 3)

# KATERI'S INTERCESSIONS

messenger article's help speech therapy obtained son guided back job-back helped a miracle baby

#### A MIRACLE BABY

I found your address (Daughters of St. Paul) in the back of your book on Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. It is in her regard that I am writing to you. Two years ago my husband and I decided to start our family. We had finally bought our house and it seemed that a strong foundatin for our children was finally set. We were very excited at the prospect of having children. Unfortunately things did not go as planned. After 2 years and a battery of tests including surgery, my doctors told us that there was nothing else they could do. There was no medical reason why we couldn't have children; it just wouldn't happen.

One night when I was depressed and angry about our situation I "had it out with Jesus." I proceeded to tell Him how unjust He was being and that if He really loved me He would give me a baby. As I was yelling and crying I suddenly saw Jesus crying too. It was just a flash as if it were my imagination, but it stopped me short. I realized, probably for the first time, that Jesus really does share our grief. He does love us so strongly that He feels all that we feel. After that I left it in His hands. I finally realized that He was watching over me and my husband and He knew our pain.

That was almost a year ago. I am almost 4 months pregnant. On July 13 my mother called to tell me that according to her calendar, Kateri Tekakwitha's feast day is July 14. It was on that day that I found out that I was expecting. Even though I had stopped asking for her help all that time she was reminding Jesus of my wish. I know that finding out about my baby on Kateri's feast day was not a coincidence. I

know in my heart that it was a sign from heaven.

I wanted to tell you this story because I believe that my baby is a miracle that was granted because of Kateri Tekakwitha. I wear her medal always so that she may now watch over my baby and keep it safe and healthy. I hope that in some way this letter may help Kateri be proclaimed a saint. I am not sure if the Daughters of St. Paul are connected with this cause but I'm sure you will direct either me or my letter to the people who are. I feel that writing on behalf of Kateri is the least I can do to thank her for her love and pravers.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I would appreciate it if you would help me channel this letter to the proper authorities. May our Lord's grace always be with you. — New York, N.Y.

#### JOB - BACK HELPED

It has been some time since I have been in touch with the League and for that I apologize. I had promised Blessed Kateri I would write and acknowledge her intercession in my obtaining a job. Also that I would be relieved of a chronic back problem. Both these requests have been granted. I thoroughly enjoy receiving the "Lily of the Mohawks" newsletter and look forward to receiving it. — Baltimore, MD.

#### SON GUIDED BACK

I am writing to let you know that my prayer has been answered. I have been praying to Blessed Kateri for about 1½ years asking her to help guide my son away from his drinking/drug

habits. I prayed to her to guide him to God. To make a long story short - I started attending Al Anon about 2 months ago. When I come home from the meetings, I leave the pamphlets out so my son will see them. For sometime now, he has not been drunk. He is not using drugs. As of last night. he told me he realizes that for many years he has been wasting his money on drinking and now he is trying to deal with life by staying sober. So I want to share my happiness with you and hope that my situation with my family helps to canonize Blessed Kateri. - Staten Island, N.Y.

#### MESSENGER ARTICLE'S HELP

I wish to lend my voice in praise of Blessed Kateri. Some months ago I faced a very difficult situation in my life. I was faced with the loss of my livelihood. I saw an article in St. Anthony's Messenger about Blessed Kateri and asked her for her help. To me, it was a miracle because the situation was resolved when I could see no solution. I shall continue to pray that she be made a saint. She certainly deserves to be. — Scranton, PA.

#### SPEECH THERAPY OBTAINED

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$20. . . . for a prayer that was answered by our Blessed Kateri. My daughter Sophia was born with Down's syndrome and is doing so well. she's 2 years old. I prayed to Blessed Kateri for us to be able to get speech therapy for her. Anyway we received approval through state funds for the speech therapy and hopefully we will get started within the next week. Thank you, Blessed Kateri for answering my prayer. — Paramount, CA.

#### (Continued From Page 1)

Anne Scheuerman and Cathy Ozug from Amsterdam, N.Y. Returned to the Heard Museum to get tickets. Conference started with a picnic supper on the museum grounds, a natural outdoor amphitheater, for 4,000 participants., Kentucky Fried Chicken catered. During the meal several groups performed Native-American dances and songs. Conference started at 7 P.M. Father Egan invited us to join the St. Regis Group. Many banners with Blessed Kateri on them. Traditional Pow-Wow continued into the evening with several speeches, the smoking of the peace pipe, more dancing, etc.

Sept. 13: Off to the Veterans Coliseum where the rest of the Conference's activities was to take place. Breakfast: an egg and cheese omelette, sausage, juice, biscuit and coffee. All meals were very good considering 4,000 served. Opening event was a penance service, then a Mass celebrated by Bishop Pelotte with whom we exchanged the sign of peace. In the afternoon many individuals had tables set up to sell hand-made items. The McCauleys had a table for their statues, posters and pams. We helped them and distributed the summer LILY, info folders and prayer cards. Several groups performed dances, singing or giving reports. A presentation by Julie Daniels, Algonquin-Mohawk, of the Syracuse St. Lucy's group was the monologue on Blessed Kateri similar to the one Mary-Eunice does. So

well done and so emotional was it that even the performers cried. A standing ovation was given. The only group so honored except one given Pope John Paul when he arrived. He got one without saying or doing anything. His presence was enough. We expressed our enthusiasm for the monologue rendition to Peg Bova and Sarah. The evening activity was a healing service after which we retired to rest up for the Pope's visit the next day.

 Sept. 14: the Holy Father arrived in Phoenix at 9 A.M., went to St. Joseph's Hospital, the only hospital still staffed by religious in Arizona. Since the hospital was only 2 blocks from our motel we decided to pass up the morning conference activities to see the Pope close up. We saw the Pope as he arrived. He spoke with some of the children and spoke with staff members in front of the hospital. We didn't see him, but heard his remarks. The motorcade left through Phoenix. We waved to him in the "Popemobile." To the conference, to await his arrival at 4:30 P.M.

Numbers at the Conference swelled to include others till 15,000-16,000 reached. "Polish Dogs" or Polish Kielbasa was sold to honor the Pope. At 1:30 the coliseum was to be opened. All gathered at the many doors which didn't open until 2 P.M. Everyone had to pass security as at an airport. It took 40 minutes to get in. Fortunately all got in by the time the Pope arrived shortly after 4:30.



UNITY DAY AMONG the Akwesasne Reservation residents focused on all-important issues such as concern for young people. combating alcoholism and drugs. etc. This banner held by Veronica Cooke and Mary Thompson. viewed by Josephine Angus was exhibited on Sept. 6 at Auriesville, pilgrimage day for the Mohawks from St. Regis and Kahnawake, Canada.

At the Pontiff's arrival, all cheered, waved and stood up. He circled the center podium twice and greeted the people. We were in the 14th row, about 150 feet away. The podium revolved so all could witness the ceremony. It was a thrilling experience! He was there 90 minutes, then left for a papal Mass for the general public at 7 P.M. at Arizona State University Stadium attended by 7,000 people. His departure ended the Conference.

In the evening the McCauleys had a group of Kateri's friends over for a "Polish Feast" in honor of the papal visit — a great way to end this eventful experience. All during the Conference Anne Scheuerman, with her grandson Joshua, took pictures and had the privilege of kissing the Pope's ring.

— Sept. 15: The trip home. Early rise for our 10 A.M. flight. We returned the rental car near the airport. We were delayed because the Pope's motorcade would be passing to take him to his plane to Los Angeles. This was the fourth and quickest glimpse of John Paul as he whizzed by. On the return flight were Father Ron Schultz from Fonda and the Tom Constantino Family of Amsterdam. We got to Auriesville about 8:30 P.M. where Father McBride was waiting with a cup of tea.

Here are the answers. What are the questions?

1. The word used from time to time in scientific and lay literature when talking about the races of man that lived it.

World before the arrival of the T

2. Practiced by the American Indians using roots, of plants, the barks of trees and other materials — a craft also used in mak-

ing of nets, traps, etc.

3. Usually a ceremonial staff of authority and carried by the chief or shaman. They were made of bone, deer antlers, and sometimes of flint.

4, He painted Kateri in a standing position holding a rude cross because she carved a cross on a tree to venerate.

5. Not a tribe but an uncomplimentary term, a corruption of the French word "sauvage" used by people in the Northwest.

Questions can be found on Page 4. 

# NOTES FROM THE BARK by father mcbride

A winner — Claudia McDonnell, a free lance writer of New Rochelle, N.Y., wrote an article about Kateri for the July issue of the widely circulated St. Anthony Messenger. A 10,000 copy reprint was made by the Noteworthy Company. For a copy send a business size self-addressed envelope to the League Office.

The Adachs' creative talents appeared at the Shrine's all-night Vigil in August when they put together the Kateri novena and chaplet reflections for a prayer service. Copies of this can be gotten by writing to the League Office.

Jeopardy's answers: 1. What are the Amerinds? 2. What is basketry? 3. What are batons? 4. Who is Chauchetiere? 5. What is siwash or savage?

Mary-Eunice left early to fulfill a 7 day billing for a Carmelite convention in Chicago. She left this note: "The children of the White family of Greenville, N.Y., visited us and wondered when the next rosary before the outdoor Kateri statue would be held. They had been reading an old poster in reference to the National Observance of Blessed Kateri's Feast Day. They said they would go out and conduct one. The four children did just that! Someday they hoped to each have their own Kateri rosary. They were fascinated about the story of the Kateri chaplet and the 'sturolite' cross which is nature's amazing wonder mineral found in the shape of crosses in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, North

Carolina and New Mexico. The Indian legend is that on the day that Christ died on the cross the animals wept, their tiny tears falling upon the earth and crystallizing into these tiny crosses.

Frances Janeski of Amsterdam, New York, has given much of her time and energy to the project of making Kateri's rosary or chaplet. It is one of the most popular items and makes a beautiful gift. Thanks to the skilled Frances Janeski!"

Speaking about the chaplet, please note the one given to the League is the original, official chaplet to help accrue monies for the canonization process. Watch out for substitutes. No permission has been given to copy the chaplet because of the intention of the originator.

Two veteran workers among the Native Americans passed away recently: Father Joseph Brown, S.J., August 28, and Sister Mary Edna, S.P., August 27, both of Spokane, WA. Both had received the B1. Kateri Tekakwitha Award. Father Brown, a Blackfoot Indian, worked since his ordination among his own people in Montana and Sr. Mary Edna for 38 years worked with the Coeur d'Alene Indians in Desmet, ID. Please remember their souls in your Masses and prayers.

This is really putting it on the line. Mrs. Biangardi writes from Brentwood, N.Y.: "We leave all your mail at prayer meetings, Churches, so that messages are given to others. Also please inform people (many of us know) yet there

are some people in the dark about this subject!! Doctors are dedicated people and many are good people, yet among them is a new danger and that is they are beginning to urge mothers to abort when they think they detect a faulty baby! Let me please tell you something about this sad, sad tragedy. We have 2 semi-handicapped sons who are a blessing indeed! We also had a brilliant son who was gifted in everything he touched; he played the piano and organ, and now nobody plays it because he was the only gifted player. We can't play any instrument. God plucked him from us last year on Mother's Day. So you see, we don't play God with our children. God gives and he takes at His Will, not ours. All of our children are special, yet there are people who may make the mistake of aborting, not realizing God has a plan for us all! Once we play God, we make the mistake of a lifetime!"

In honor of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha a Scholarship Burse is being started. A Burse begins with a donation and is completed when a sum of \$8,000. has been contributed. Anyone at any time, can donate any amount. The League initiates this with \$500. Burses are a way of supporting Jesuit Priests and Brothers.

Where's my LILY? Don't blame the League Office if you have to wait for your LILY. Blame the Post Office. One lady waited and waited until she finally went to her P.O. where she found her copy resting merrily(?) on a counter. Woe! Woe! Woe!

#### Canonization Rumors Cause Disappointment

Why did the confusing rumors arise about the Holy Father's canonizing Blessed Kateri when he visited Phoenix? One reason is that the source of correct information was not contacted. At the end of last year it was known that neither an announcement nor the canonization would happen this year.

After the papal visit Father Joseph McBride, vice postulator, wrote to Father Paul Molinari. the Postulator General, in Rome for authoritative comments on these questions. In response Father Molinari wrote: "I had already heard about the incorrect statements which appeared in certain sectors of the press and according to which His Holiness would have canonized Blessed Kateri during his visit to Phoenix or that he would at least have announced her forthcoming canonization. I do not know who was at the bottom of these rumors which were totally unfounded and harmful because they raised hopes which then would only result in disappointment."

Noticed also in the press was an account about the miracles needed for canonization. Again the Postulator General responded: "According to the legislation of the Church one miracle is required before a Blessed can be canonized."

Father McBride reports that documentation about a healing has been submitted to Rome last May. The case is under the consideration by specialists for an answer. Another cure will be sent to Rome soon.

#### **Litany Author Found**

The Litany in honor of Kateri Tekakwitha which appeared in the Winter LILY, 1987, was composed by Miss Doris Staton of St. Paul, Minn. Her name was temporarily lost in the League files. Writing it Doris intended to help spread devotion to the Indian Maiden. Apologies to Miss Staton for the omission when her piece was printed.



NO, THIS DIDN'T FALL OFF THE WALL. It is a regular photo of the Board of Directors who met Sept. 6. Left to right: Father Joseph Moltesz, S.J., elected sec.-treas. of the League, Anna Marie and Dick Adach, Anne Scheuerman, Chet Adams, Father Henri Bechard, S.J., Canadian vice postulator, Father Tom Egan, S.J., and Father Joseph McBride, S.J. Discussions focused on events for the ensuing year, e.g. next Feast Day celebration, candidates for the Tekakwitha Award, etc.





"We have decided to eliminate hand springs from our physical fitness program."

# HELLO, 1988!

Hello, 1988! Your birth will be welcome as we think of all your days because it will be the 20th year for Father McBride as vice postulator . . . Winter & Spring issue of the LILY will probably be combined into a 12 pager . . . Fr. Simon Mohr, OFM, Conv., formerly of the Fonda Shrine will be missed . . . who will receive the '88 Tekakwitha Awards? Suggestions are welcome . . . the base around the new Kateri statue must be rebuilt and may be an excellent memorial to a loved one, ask about it . . . layettes will be presented on Blessed Kateri's Feast Day . . . will the League membership reach 10,000? . . . let every day be a prayer for what all of us want, namely, Blessed Kateri's canonization.

#### HERE ARE SOME GIFTS TO MAKE CHRISTMAS MERRIER FOR A RELATIVE AND/OR A FRIEND

All prices are donations to the Kateri Cause. Mark the quantity you want in the column at the left of each item, postage is included. Fill out the form at the end, detach page, send in the enclosed envelope with payment.

 Kateri stationery, 2 sets of 8 drawings, 16 pieces with envelopes, 3.50.

Original Kateri Chaplet, for private devotion, \*7.00.

Kateri Chaplet Bracelet, **4**.50.

- Bronze medallion, 2" diameter, with Kateri imprint on both sides, in plastic case, \*25.00.
- KATERI TEKAKWITHA, a 167-page biography, by F. X. Weiser, S.J. — hard cover. \*7.00; soft, \*5.00.

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP,

**2.00** per year.

- Handmade Indian corn rosary, 5 decades, with rounded wood cross, 4.25.
- "Songs of Kateri", cassette of 5 songs, sheet music and lyrics, \*8.50.
- Kateri of the Mohawks, a coloring-story book, \*2.00.
- Sterling Silver Kateri medal, no chain, 17.00.
- Kateri seals, 36 gummed stamps, for envelopes, notes, \*1.25.
- Small aluminum Kateri medal on 18" chain, 3.00.
- Laminated Kateri-in-woods prayer card with medal. <sup>1</sup>2.00.
- Kateri Statues Circle



choice: 6" colored, \*8.50; 7" in ivory or bronze color, \*10.75; 8" colored bisque. \*12.00; 8" bisque with wood base, \*15.00; McCauley cast: 6", baleek ivory, \*12.00; terra cotta, \*8.50. Plastic relic case, \*3.00.

- Two plays Maid of the Mohawks & A Christmas Star by Mary-Eunice — with an original hymn "Kateri the Faithful One", a map of Kateri's escape route to Canada, 3.00.
- Holy Card with official Kateri picture and prayer for canonization: in color, 5° each, 100 for \*5.00; 500 for \*20.00. Single laminated, 50° each.
- Official Kateri picture in white frame with gold trim. 21/4"x3/4", \*2.00.
- Kateri-in-woods by Mother Nealis for framing. 9½"x13½", **3.00**.
- Framed 8"x10" Kateri-inwoods picture, \*3.50.
- Framed black and white Kateri picture, \*3.00.
- Book mark, glossy picture of Kateri statue on bronze door of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City,

- Auto plate red background with gold lettering and image of Blessed Kateri prominently inscribed KATERI LILY OF THE MOHAWKS 1656-1680, NA-TIONAL KATERI CENTER, AURIESVILLE, N.Y.. **5**.00.
- Plastic easel frame, 2"x21/2", with Kateri picture, **2.00**.
- Leather cross, approx. 4½" high, handpainted with Lily, on leather cord, \*3.00.
- Decals for car, windows. etc., 25° each.
- Small wood cross (approx. 3", on a leather cord, for use as a necklace, packaged in plastic envelope with colored prayer card, 2.50.
- Kateri Notepaper, 100 sheets, per package, \$2.00.
- Plastic Key Holders with Kateri imprinted, 50° each: 12 for \*5.00

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TRY THE MIGHT PRAYER POWER

# NOVENA OF MA

IN HONOR OF BLESSED KATERI **DECEMBER 23 - 31, 1987** 

9 FIRST INTENTIONS — ONE PRIEST

AT KATERI'S BIRTHPLACE

FILL IN

**SEND** TODAY

# The Day Kateri Came to the Jemez Pueblo

by Francis X. McQuade

While staying in New Mexico this past year, it wasn't long before I met Native Americans with enthusiastic devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha. One of my new friends, Juana Pecos of the Jemez Indian Pueblo, told me of the happy day when Kateri "arrived" among the Jemez.

The name "Jemez" is the Spanish transliteration of the Towa-language word "He'-mish", which means, "the people". The Jemez are Pueblo people of Northern New Mexico, principally located in their commune fifteen miles south of Jemez Springs. The Jemez took part in the Pueblo Uprising of 1680, in which the mission church of San Jose de Giusewa was destroyed (the ruins are now the feature of New Mexico's Jemez State Monument). Since then, Jemez history has seen evangelization that established a vibrant Christianity among them, practiced with the enriching flavor of their traditional spiritual customs and trappings. The Jemez Pueblo community takes part in the Cursillo movement, the Charismatic Renewal, Kateri Conference activities, kiva prayer as well as weekly liturgy at the Franciscan-run San Diego mission church. Juana Pecos is presently working on a translation of the Lord's Prayer into the difficult Jemez-Towa dialect.

In 1985, the Jemez community obtained a beautiful ceramic statue of Kateri. On October 13, Kateri made her "grand entrance". A procession bearing the statue began at the Pueblo entrance. There, a contingent of the "He'-mish", including the tribal governor and the cacique (chief). The cacique, the late Ray San Juan, proclaimed to Kateri:



Ester Pecos with a handmade Kateri statue.

"Mother, I am so happy you are here. Welcome to Jemez Pueblo. This has always been your home. Now, I will show you to your home." He then made the traditional prayer gesture of blowing on and sprinkling a pinch of corn meal. The gesture recalls the Hebrew concept of "ruach" (wind), in which the animating breath of the Creator, which is in the corn, is mixed with the breath of the person offering prayer - a communion of the essences of two elements of creation, animated by the same Creator. The procession winded through the pueblo and reached the San Diego chapel. There, Padre Meldon, O.F.M., welcomed the people and led them to the place where the Kateri statue was enshrined. Mass was celebrated.

Juana Pecos feels that Kateri represents a powerful evangelization tool for the Native American people, and a source of encouragement. As pleased as she was over the beatification of the Mohawk virgin, Juana shares the hope for Kateri's eventual canonization. She travelled to Phoenix to see Pope John Paul II in September of 1987. Juana Pecos has travelled to Kateri Conferences all over the country and has visited Auriesville. Her simple piety is laced with zeal, insight and mysticism, especially evident when she relates the special moment of Kateri's "coming home" to the Jemez Pueblo.

Living	
Jiving Deceased	My offering of \$

# Push For Us, Kateri!

### Excerpts from Feast Day Homily by Father William Reilly, S.J.

Each of us is given — by our all-knowing and all-loving God — a time to live and have our earthly being, and to pray. Time — my time — is important. Each of us has his or her share. It is the only share I'll ever have. Time is important.

Time is important for God. The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity took human flesh and appeared before human eyes in the fullness of time. His Mother, Mary, from eternity had been prepared for the fullness of time. She came into existence, through the love of Anne and Joachim, at a precious time and in a precise place.

——Mother Mary's time in sacred history is so important that Pope John Paul II calls us to spend 14 months in celebrating a Marian Year to honor and to venerate Mary in the mystery of Christ and the mystery of the Church.

On this July 14 we come here to Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine to honor and venerate another human person who had her own God-given time and place.

We are celebrating her time while acknowledging that ours is 3 centuries later. Are we engaged in ceremonial antiquarianism, savoring a way of life we never knew and can never understand? Or are we speaking in prayer to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha now?

We celebrate in her place — the Mohawk Valley — however altered it may be 3 centuries after her earthly presence. Twenty of her 24 years were spent here at Ossernenon and in present-day Fonda. We are praying to her from her place.

——Mary had been chosen from eternity and prepared immaculately. When Gabriel spoke, all that Mary knew was that God was calling, and that was sufficient. "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." Through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, Mary conceived God. The woman — the mother of faith. It was "faith in pilgrimage." From Bethlehem to Golgotha, Mary answered God's unfolding call in faith.

We reflect on the choice and the preparation of Kateri. From the earliest dawning of her reason she sensed a call from the Divine. It was vague, unclear, but she answered in faith. Drawn to a way of life directly opposed to the Mohawk tradition for a young woman, Kateri prayed and hoped against hope that the Divine Will would be clarified for her. Here was certainly a "pilgrimage of faith"

Here was certainly a "pilgrimage of faith."

For 15 years Kateri's faith was tested. Then came the apparently "chance" entrance into the longhouse — under circumstances never planned by humans — of the blackrobe, Father Jacques de Lamberville. This was the divinely inspired call to baptism. In her 20th year Kateri was united in the mystery of Christ and the mystery of the Church.

Through deepening, maturing awareness of God's call, Kateri's pilgrimage of faith continued. As for Mother Mary, Kateri's pilgrimage of faith came under the shadow of the cross.

There were persecutions, all the more painful as they were constant and petty within her family group: persecutions through well-intentioned but unwarranted advice; persecutions, even the dark whispers of scandal, because of her desire for prayer. But the pilgrimage of true faith is a journey with meaning towards a goal to be achieved.

——Kateri's faith on pilgrimage has been rewarded with the full, clearsighted vision of the Divine. No longer must Kateri "push with her hands"—except for us.

On her Feast Day, we turn to her and — risking a metaphor for her intercession on our behalf — we ask her "to push with her hands."

Blessed Kateri, we ask you with your hands to push from us: the timidities and petty fears that keep us from generous response to the call of Christ the Lord; push for us our prayers that we may soon be giving public veneration to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us!

## Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha League

(MARTYR'S SHRINE)

Rev. Joseph S. McBride, S.J. Office of Vice Postulator Auriesville, N.Y. 12016 Phone 1-518-853-3153

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

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