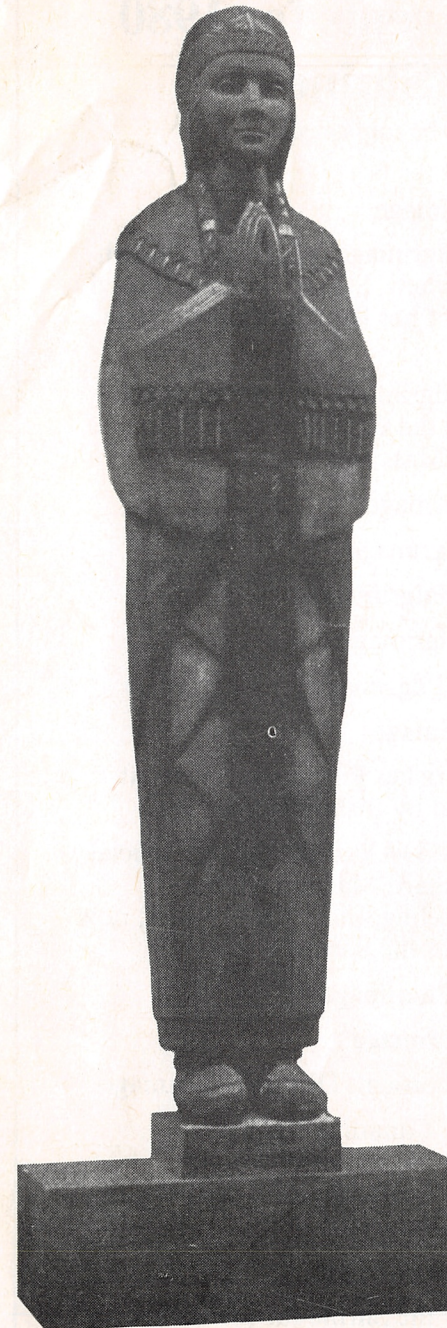


# MARTYRS' SHRINE MESSAGE

Summer 1980  
VOLUME 44, NUMBER 2



## Three Canadians Beatified By The Pope

Kateri Tekakwitha  
Bishop Laval  
Marie of the Incarnation

The Martyrs' Shrine Message, Midland, Ontario  
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## Martyrs' Shrine — 1980

(May to October)



### MASS SCHEDULE

#### Sunday Masses

Saturday 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
12:00 noon  
7:30 p.m.

#### Weekday Masses

10:30 a.m.  
12:00 noon  
7:30 p.m.



# Kateri Tekakwitha



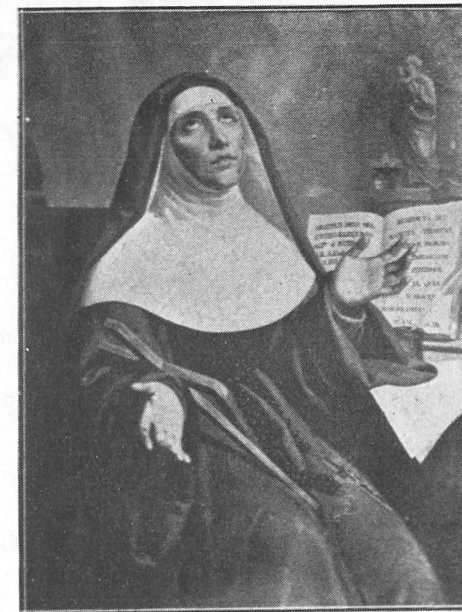
acrylic on paper 106 x 81 cm.

**JOSHIM KAKEGAMIC 1952—  
Red Lake, Ontario  
Swampy Cree**

# Marie Of The Incarnation

The first woman missionary to the New World; born Tours, France, October 28, 1599; died Quebec, Canada, April 30, 1672. The daughter of middle-class parents, Florent and Jeanne (Michelet) Guyard. Marie acceded to her father's wishes and in 1617 married Claude Martin, despite her own attraction to religious life. When her husband died less than 3 years later, she became housekeeper for her sister, Madame Paul Buisson. Shortly after, Marie received revelations concerning the Incarnation, the Sacred Heart, and the Blessed Trinity. Influenced by the unusual caliber of Marie's interior life, her spiritual director, Dom Raymond of St. Bernard, agreed to her desire for religious consecration. On January 25, 1632, she entered the Ursuline monastery at Tours, leaving her 12-year-old son to the care of her sister. During her novitiate Marie wrote a full account of her spiritual life in obedience to her Jesuit director. Known as the *Relation of 1633*, this account, along with that written later from Canada as the *Relation of 1654*, provide the most important documents for a study of her mystical life.

In 1635, Marie received in a dream the first hint of her missionary vocation. Four years later she finally set sail, accompanied by two other Ursulines and Mme Madeleine de la Peltrie (1603-71), their lay foundress and chief financial support. Arriving in Quebec on August 1, 1639, the missionaries immediately opened their first school in the Lower City. Despite sickness, poverty, and Indian persecution, the

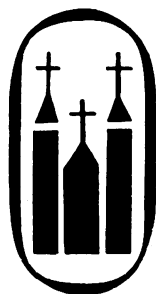


**La Vénérable MARIE DE L'INCARNATION**  
Première supérieure des Ursulines.

school grew, and in 1642 the Ursulines moved to a larger monastery. In 1648, when Iroquois hostilities endangered Quebec, Marie was advised to return to Europe, but she and her nuns chose to remain in New France. Her letters to her son Claude, a Benedictine monk, were collected, and published by him in 1681 (2d ed. 2 v. Paris 1876; 3d ed. by Albert Jamet, 4 v. Paris 1929-39) and provide a valuable source for 17th-century Canadian history. She also composed catechisms in Huron and Algonquin and a dictionary of French and Algonquin. In 1893 her cause was introduced, and on July 19, 1911, Pius X granted her the title of Venerable.

resigned and was replaced by Bp. J. B. de Saint-Vallier. The "old bishop" retired to his seminary, spending his time in prayer, works of mercy, and, frequently, at pontifical functions during his successor's long absences. Their differences over policy was a hard trial for the older man. After Laval's death his reputation for sanctity kindled piety, and extraordinary favors were granted

through his intercession. His cause of canonization was begun in 1878, introduced in Rome in 1890, and reached a decisive stage in the 1960 decree proclaiming the heroic nature of his virtues. His remains lie in a rich funeral chapel in the Seminary of Quebec. Numerous favors have been obtained through his intercession and by pilgrimages to his tomb.



This is the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Canonization of our Canadian Martyrs. They were canonized on June 29th, 1930 by His Holiness Pope Pius XI.

It is rather coincidental that in this Anniversary year we will now have the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha.

## Director's Letter:

*Dear friends of Martyrs' Shrine,*

*The peace of Christ,*

### **Fiftieth Anniversary of The Canonization of The Martyrs**

This season marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Canonization of our Canadian Martyrs. They were canonized on June 29, 1930, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul by Pius XI. We will mark the occasion at the Shrine with a number of events. The first will be the Pilgrimage from Québec, under the direction of Father Adrien Pouliot, S.J. They will be at the Shrine on the 28th of June, and have a special mass on June 29, 1980, Sunday, at 2:30 p.m.

On June 22, 1980, Father Bernard Mayhew will be coming with a group of Native People from the Toronto area, to mark the day of the Beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha being celebrated in Rome at that time. We hope to have an outdoor mass and a special celebration to honour Kateri and the other Native People who gave their lives for the faith.

On August 24, 1980, we will have the second annual Pilgrimage of the Huronia Parishes. Bishop Clune will again be with us to celebrate the Mass in the afternoon.

On September 20, 1980, we will celebrate our annual Feast Day of the Martyrs at the Shrine. At the same time we will honour a number of Canadian Jesuits who were ordained here in June 1955 as they celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary.

We hope that as many of you as possible, and especially groups of pilgrims from the various parishes which have the Canadian Martyrs as their patrons will take the opportunity of this 50th Year to come to Shrine for any of the special events mentioned, or at any other time during this summer season. We will be very glad to welcome you.

### **Jesuit Staff at the Shrine for 1980**

We welcome back this summer our regular Jesuit Staff: Brother Gerry Forest (the Assistant Director), Father Peter Ambrosie, Father H. P. Phelan and Father James McGivern. A special welcome to Father Richard Macdonald who joins the Shrine staff this year as Associate Director. During the months of May and June



we have had the pleasure of the company and the assistance of two Jesuit Novices from Guelph, Chris Llanos and Pat Doyle. Three young Jesuits have been ordained this year (June 7th) and will each join the ministry at the Shrine for about a month each: Father Art Menu, Father Greg Carruthers, and Father Steve LeBlanc. For August, Father Tom Czajer ordained last year will be with us for a couple of weeks. In July, Father Frank O'Brien from Montreal will again help us out.

### Projects at The Shrine

I wish to express a very sincere thanks to all the Benefactors of the Shrine, and the Members of the Shrine Association. You help us tremendously with your generous support. In return we offer special masses and prayers for you, and ask that God reward you for your generosity. In the last issue of the MESSAGE I gave a brief account of how some of your donations and gifts have been used to maintain and improve the Shrine. I would like to add at this time that the work to replace the joists under the floor of the Church and reinforce the support timbers was completed during the winter months – one advantage of the much milder climate this year. The cost has been \$18,700.00. This was slightly under estimate, so we thank God for that.

Consequently we appeal to you again, and all the friends of the Shrine to continue to support us so that we don't fall too deeply in debt. In the next year it is time to seriously consider recarpeting the Church and refinishing the pews. We hope to get started on this project in the Fall. For these jobs, and to keep up with the constant need for maintenance and improvements now that the Church and property is 54 years old, I have added to our lay staff a full time Maintenance Supervisor, and given him full responsibility for the upkeep.

### Ministry Report

As you know, each year there is the traditional Novena to the Martyrs, preceding the annual Feast Day. This year it will be from September 11, 1980 to September 19th, with the Feast Day on the 20th. In the last few years, my predecessor Father Rye instituted as well a March Novena, concluding with the Feast of St. Joseph. In September the Masses of the Novena are offered at the Shrine, but in March, since the Shrine is closed for the winter months, we usually offer the special intention Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Toronto. You might be interested in some statistics of the number of people or families that participated recently in our Novenas: March 1978: 883; September 1978: 1564; March 1979: 974, September 1979: 1397; and in March 1980: 433. With the very low figure of the envelopes returned in March we have seriously concluded that perhaps half of the envelopes didn't make it through the mails!

As for the Martyrs' Shrine Association, we have a mailing list of about 2000 copies of the MESSAGE that are sent out four times a year. If you are interested in statistics here is the breakdown for September 1979: Toronto and Metro: 467; Ontario: 1394; Québec: 59; other Provinces: 53; U.S.A. 241; other countries: 34; this is a total of 2248.



Le vénérable MONSEIGNEUR DE LAVAL

Premier évêque du Canada

(d'après une gravure conservée à l'archevêché de Québec).



# Three Canadians Beatified By The Pope

A Mohawk Indian girl, the first Catholic bishop of Canada and the first woman missionary to Canada have been selected by Pope John Paul II to be beatified on June 22nd in Rome.

The Pope sent word of the beatifications of Kateri Tekakwitha, Bishop Laval and Marie of the Incarnation to Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and Cardinal Maurice Roy, the Archbishop of Quebec. The CCCC had requested the Pope personally to look at these three cases which have been under study for several decades.

Kateri Tekakwitha is the first North American Indian to be so honoured. The announcement of her beatification came on the 300th anniversary of her death. She died on April 17th, 1680 at the age of 24, at the Christian Indian Village of Caughnawaga near Montreal.

Kateri's life story reflects the suffering experienced by many Indians in the 17th century. Her mother was a Christian Algonquin who was raised among the French settlers at Three Rivers. Taken captive by the Iroquois, her mother became the wife of a Mohawk chief. They had two children, Kateri and a younger brother. A smallpox epidemic in 1660 killed the other members of her family and left Kateri disfigured and her eyesight impaired. An uncle took her into his family.

At 19, she began to take instructions in the Catholic faith, and was baptized on Easter 1676. Her conversion stirred up opposition so she fled to the St. Louis (Lachine) rapids, 200 miles away from her village.

One biographer says, "The strength of Kateri's spirituality lay in an extraordinary purity of body and soul and an efficacious charity towards all". He also describes her as living "in full the life of the Indians, in the village and on the great winter hunts".

She has been called the "Lily of the Mohawks" and devotion to her has spread throughout Canada, the United States and other countries. Biographies have appeared in ten languages.

Bishop François de Montmorency Laval was the son of a French noble family who left the comforts of France to become the first bishop of New France. He landed at Quebec in 1659 and faced the task of organizing the beginnings of the Catholic Church in Canada. He founded the Seminary of Quebec in 1663. In 1674, the diocese of Quebec was established and he was named its bishop. The diocese covered most of North America with the exception of the British colonies on the Atlantic coast and the Spanish colonies on the Western coast. In addition to seminary training, he founded the School of Arts, Trades and Agriculture of St. Joachim, eight leagues from Quebec.

His concern for the spiritual well-being of the colonists led him to travel throughout his huge diocese working with the colonists and Indians, often energetically fighting with the governors and the traders because of their abuses of the Indian people. He died May 6, 1708 and is buried in the chapel of the Seminary of Quebec.

Marie of the Incarnation was a French widow who entered the Ursuline monastery at Tours at 33 years of

age. She arrived in Quebec in August 1639 along with two other Ursuline sisters and their foundress. They opened their first school in the Lower City and Sister Marie was appointed first Superior of the Ursulines of Quebec.

Despite sickness, poverty and Indian wars, their work in education continued to grow. She composed a dictionary of French and Algonquin and catechisms in the Huron and Algonquin languages. Marie of the Incarnation remained in Canada until her death on April 30, 1672.

Beatification is the second phase in the Church's procedures for Canonization of Saints. The first step is to de-

clare that the person may be referred to by the title "Venerable". This means that in the eyes of the Church, the person has led a heroically virtuous life.

After years of careful investigation into the life of the person, the Church, through Papal Decree, can permit a specific diocese, region, country or religious institute to publicly honour as "Blessed" a person who has died with a reputation for extraordinary holiness.

The third step, Canonization, takes place only when it is proved after careful examination that God has granted miracles through the intercession of the person who was beatified.

## Francois de Montmorency Laval

First bishop of Quebec, Canada; born Montigny-sur-Avre, France, April 30, 1623; died Quebec, May 6, 1708.

### Early Training

He was the third son of Hughes de Laval, knight and Lord of Montigny, and of Michelle de Péricard. As a younger branch of the Montmorency, his family bore its arms as well as those of the Laval on its blazon. The coat of arms, engraved on a stone in the old church of Montigny-sur-Avre, is still extant, as is the lordly manor of the family. At 9, Laval entered the royal college of La Flèche, the most famous of Jesuit institutions, where he began preliminary studies for the priesthood. Ten years later he transferred to the Jesuit Collège de Clermont in Paris for theological courses. While there he also frequented the Caen Hermitage, a house for closed retreats founded by

Jean de Bernières-Louvigny, famous mystic and spiritual director who influenced his spiritual development. During Laval's prolonged studies, his father and two older brothers in turn were killed while pursuing their military careers. Despite these trials and the material responsibility for his family, he was ordained in 1647 before renouncing his patrimonial rights. Already canon in the cathedral of Evreux, he became its archdeacon soon after his ordination and diligently performed the functions of these offices.

### Bishop

His candidacy for the office of first bishop of New France was supported by the Jesuits and the French court, and on June 3, 1658, Rome named him vicar apostolic with the title of bishop of Petrea, *in partibus infidelium*. Despite the intrigues of some French



bishops he finally received episcopal consecration Dec. 8, 1658, feast of the Immaculate Conception, to whom he later consecrated his cathedral. The young bishop departed from La Rochelle April 13, 1659, and after a brief stop at Percé, landed June 16 at Quebec, where the small colony received him with great joy. He immediately set about organizing the Canadian Church, until then without a real leader. Leaving the apostolate of the Indians to the Jesuits, he entrusted the care of the French colonists to the few secular priests. To guarantee a supply of diocesan priests, both from the colony and from his mother-country, he founded the Seminary of Quebec (1663), a community designed not only to form priests but to provide lodgings for those worn out by their ministry. He soon associated this seminary to that of the Paris Foreign Mission Society and in 1668, added a minor seminary. Laval undertook pastoral visits in his huge diocese, traveling great distances on snowshoes in winter and by canoe when the rivers were free of ice. Despite obstacles and infringements of the civil authority on the ecclesiastical domain, the Canadian Church grew rapidly and became firmly united. In 1674, after prolonged negotiations, made difficult by the Gallicanism of the French episcopacy, Laval secured the erection of the Diocese of Quebec. It was immediately subject to Rome and had jurisdiction over all the lands discovered by the French in North America.

From the beginning the bishop was aware of the disorders caused by the traffic in alcohol in the colony, particularly of its tragic consequences among the Indians. He energetically fought the abuses of the traders, who were

often protected by the governor and his counselors, and even by the French court, and on three different occasions he went directly to the King to plead for the spiritual and temporal interests of the colony. He supported existing religious communities, helped in new foundations in the cities and countryside, and tried to manage the Recollect Franciscans, who returned to Canada through the intervention of the civil authorities. His great concern for education led him to consolidate the Seminary of Quebec, which was already providing several Canadian priests. After securing for it a beautiful plot of land, he generously contributed to the construction of its buildings, one of which, dating from 1678, still exists. To ensure its future he acquired vast *seigneuries* and ceded to it all their goods. He also founded the School of Arts, Trades and Agriculture of St. Joachim, eight leagues from Quebec, and helped to open primary schools. On orders from the court he even tried instructing savages in his minor seminary.

By visits and ordinances he stimulated individual and community piety. Devotions to the Virgin and Ste. Anne de Beaupré (the well known pilgrimage spot dates from his time) flourished, as well as to the Holy Angels and the Holy Family, whose confraternity and feast were instituted by his mandate. New France was the first country in the world to have an Office of the Holy Family. The fervor of the French establishments was remarkable and was imitated by some of the natives, among whom high mysticism was discovered, as with the young Iroquois maid Kateri Tekakwitha. Laval himself solemnly baptized Daniel Garakonthie, Onondaga Indian Chief. In 1688, weakened by cares, labors and infirmities, Laval

Besides the annual Pilgrimages that you see listed elsewhere in this issue, we host a great number of other groups and pilgrims. This is especially true in the last two weeks of May and through June, until school is out. In collaboration with Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons (where our bookings are coordinated for larger groups) we welcome many students from various schools in the Province. Again for statisticians here are the figures for 1979, for May and June: Catholic Schools 101, Public Schools 83, totaling 9046 students, and 44 other groups with 1640 people, for a total for that period of 10,686.

#### Thank you again

This issue includes an insert for those who wish to renew a membership in the Shrine Association, and perhaps interest someone else, or send a guest membership. Thank you all for your generous support in the past of this ministry of prayer in honour of the Canadian Martyrs. Do come by sometime during the summer and say hello. Have a good summer everyone. May God bless you with his peace and joy, and answer all your prayers through the intercession of the blessed Martyrs.

Sincerely,

(Rev) Edwin Merchant, S.J.,  
Director.

