

VOL. XLVII NO.1

BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE, AURIESVILLE, NEW YORK 12016

SPRING, 1997

RESTORATION AND REDEDICATION OF BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA'S STATUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

December 15, 1996

When the Chicago fire occurred in 1871, a windshift blew the fire westward toward the canal, thereby, bypassing Old Saint Patrick Church. The only original churches to remain from that disaster were Old Saint Patrick and Holy Family churches. In 1996, Old Saint Patrick Church, located at 700 West Adams Street in Chicago, Illinois, celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha's statue at Old Saint Patrick Church was restored completely with the financial support of Elaine and Helen Dillon. On December 15, 1996, Kateri's statue was rededicated.

Bishop Lyne, who substituted for the recently deceased Cardinal Bernardin, presided over the Mass. Bishop Lyne wore a crucifix that Cardinal Bernardin had given him around his neck. The Mayor of Chicago and his wife, and other dignitaries attended. The congregation sang many songs which included the Litany of the Saints. This song was rewritten with an invocation to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha to pray for us. The ceremony touched everyone.

The life-size statue of Kateri depicts her in traditional attire. She is holding a wooden cross, a symbol of how she endured her many crosses in her earthly life and how she helps us carry our crosses. Surrounding her head is a glow to signify her holiness.

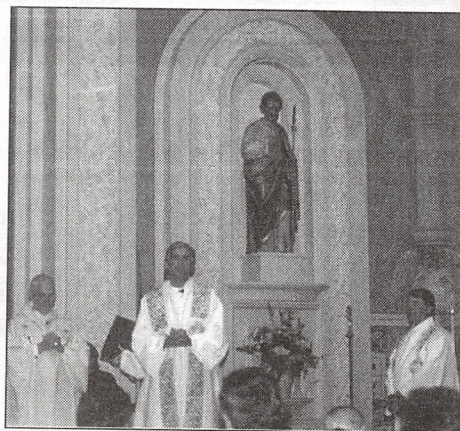
Should you be in the Chicago area, stop and say a prayer at the Kateri Tekakwitha statue of Old Saint Patrick's Church. She awaits your visit!



The life-size statue of Blessed Kateri.



Helen and Leo Dillon of Chicago in front of the newly dedicated statue of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha at Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago.



Bishop Timothy Lyne presided over the rededication Mass.



Helen and Elaine Dillon financially supported the restoration of Kateri's statue.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

by Marlene McCauley

On December 27, 1996, fifty pilgrims, including a Jesuit priest, Father Mitch Pacwa, a Biblical scholar, were whisked away on a magic carpet from JFK to the Holy Land for an eleven-day pilgrimage, despite initial protests from family and friends that it was not the time to go; the weather cold, the place unsafe, and besides that, Christmas was no time for traveling! Families want to stay home! These admonitions resounded everywhere!

A driving hunger to learn more fully the word of God as well as a desire to renew our 40th anniversary wedding vows at Cana, as well as the fact that Pope John Paul II proclaimed 1997 as the "Year of Jesus," profoundly motivated us to spade the groundwork for the pilgrimage. I must confess that in addition to these reasonable reasons, I entertained a whimsical desire to ride a camel, a carryover of my career with Ringling Brothers, after graduating from Emmanuel College in 1956 when I rode an elephant and again a second time at our 25th anniversary in Nahant, MA, in 1982. Never once did I feel this venture would go awry. With prayer and work I proceeded, full steam ahead. With our pilgrim family assembled, including three of our sons, Francis Xavier, Thomas More and Peter as well as our oldest grandson, Patrick, 16, and Elizabeth, 11, our oldest granddaughter, we were off and running with Kateri Tekakwitha as Patroness of our Pilgrimage.

With Spring-like weather, the air was bursting with

Christmas joy everywhere! There was not a stir of the dull thunder of artillery but "Shalom" (peace in Hebrew) echoed throughout the Holy Land.

We did renew our 40th wedding anniversary vows at Cana and also our baptismal vows in the Jordan

River with our pilgrim family. I even got to ride a camel in the Jordan desert!

Allan asked Father Mitch if he could put a baby camel in his suitcase to which he replied, "Sure, but you'll only get as far as customs in New York." As it was, we did go home with a camel in our suitcase, however, it was a handcarved camel of olive wood which Father Mitch gave us as a gift for our anniversary.

Beginning in the old, walled city of Jerusalem, we journeyed South to the Dead Sea, North to Galilee and West to the Mediterranean, praying, singing and studying Scripture at all the holy sites from Christ's crib to His cross. Elizabeth filled the air with violin music at daily Mass and pilgrim gatherings, the songs ranging from Christmas carols and sacred music to Irish

fiddling for parties.

From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., we pilgrims followed an intensive itinerary, demanding great physical prowess for climbing, crawling, advancing, stooping, bending, trudging, exploring and walking endless steps as we trod the path of Christ. We went up and down mountains and stone steps leading to subterranean passages, tunnels, ruins, excavations, crypts,

Continued on next page



Marlene and Allan after renewing their 40th Anniversary vows at Cana, January 4, 1997.

Continued from page 2

caves, vaults, tombs and dungeons of ancient palaces, Basilicas, Churches and Synagogues. These structures reveal the remains of earlier fortifications and influences of a variety of civilizations such as Roman, Greek, Persian, Byzantine and Crusades.

Our Arab bus driver, Owni, meaning HELP, helped us reach faraway places as Qumran, home of the Essene cult who wrote and hid the Dead Sea Scrolls which were discovered in jars in 1947. Owni took us to Massada, a fortress rising 2,000 feet above the Dead Sea, built by Herod, 40 B.C. and used by the Jewish zealots in their last stand against Romans in 73 A.D., choosing death rather than succumbing to the yoke of the Romans. Taking an airlift to the summit, we were awe-struck to find an 18 foot wall surrounding towers, storehouses, barracks, arsenals, cisterns and baths, still standing amidst excavations from Herod's palace.

A highlight for all of us was a boat ride on the enchanting, harp shaped, azure blue, peaceful waters of the twelve-mile long Sea of Galilee, so conducive to contemplation. We could just imagine Jesus rebuking the tempestuous winds and walking on the waters. The strains of our son Tom's pennywhistle echoed throughout the mountains as he stretched himself on the bow of the Jesus boat.

As Owni drove us from church to church, we were overwhelmed by the magnificent mosaics which carpeted the floors like woven rugs, exquisite stained glass, frescoes, murals and paintings depicting the lives of Jesus and His mother Mary; brilliant facades, cupolas, columns, porticoes, and domes, not to mention the graceful arches of the Crusade period, which spanned ceilings and walls as seen in the Upper Room and St. Anne's Church.

As we traversed the trail of the crib and cross, we found ourselves bending low to enter the cave of Jesus in Bethlehem at the Church of the Nativity. Allan and I were so moved to see Elizabeth kissing the spot where Jesus was born, indicated by a big silver star with the words, "The Word was made flesh!" for only several days prior, on Christmas morn, she was kneeling in front of our manger in Arizona with her sisters and brothers thanking God for sending His Son on earth.

It is interesting to note that during the Persian attack in 614 A.D.. all the churches were destroyed but one, the Church of the Nativity, only because the Persians thought it was theirs when they observed a mosaic of the Three Kings dressed in Persian costumes!

Later the same day, we enjoyed a Mass in a cave at Shepherd's Field in Bethlehem. Hung on the limestone wall was a mural illustrating the angels an-

nouncing, to the shepherds tending their flock, the birth of the Savior. In the picture was a sheep dog barking at the angels! Elizabeth's rendition of "Angels We Have Heard On High" filled us with joy. Interestingly, Bethlehem means "House of Bread" named so because of the surrounding wheat fields. Christ declared to his disciples that He was the Bread of Life. The Bread of Life was born in Bethlehem, the House of Bread.

We all agreed that the ancient olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane was one of the most impressive sites, an oasis of peace, situated at the foot of the Mount of Olives. The shimmering light from the purple alabaster windows of the Church of Gethsemane cast a glow of sadness on the garden below conveying the suffering of Christ as He sweat drops of blood, betrayed and abandoned realizing that His hour had come. The immense gnarled trunks of the olive trees of over 2,500 years old, stand as a testimony of Christ's enduring merciful love for mankind, in His Passion and death and finally His ultimate victory in His Resurrection. The olive trees never die. They live forever!

When we left Gethsemane, Owni took us to the Via Dolorosa, where we trudged wearily, in the teeming marketplace, up the narrow cobblestone streets, taking turns carrying a 12 foot, heavy wooden cross to Golgotha, the site of Christ's crucifixion, now the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Below the chapel was the Tomb of Christ, where we bent low to enter, kissing part of the original slab which was removed on Easter Sunday. We were so deeply moved at the overpowering feeling of reverence there.

We were greatly inspired by the meeting of a Jewish designer of the famous model of Jerusalem during Christ's time. As we gazed at this architectural wonder which took Jaim Perez, a man of slight stature, fifty-three years to create from tiny white limestone blocks on a quarter of an acre, we praised his genius, to which he responded, looking to the heavens, "God is the genius." He was happy to tell us that while he worked, he prayed for the unity and peace of the Jews, Moslems and Christians.

Toward the end of our journey, Father Mitch spilled mustard seed on each pilgrim's palms. Elizabeth asked, "What shall I do with it, Nana?" I answered, "Swallow it. Let it plant in your heart the seed of faith so that it will grow and grow to bear great fruit for God's kingdom on earth." Elizabeth swallowed the mustard seed!

Home now recuperating from our exciting pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we all concur that it far surpassed our wildest expectations for which we thank God. SHALOM!

KATERI'S INTERCESSIONS

SOME ANSWERS

A PICTURE

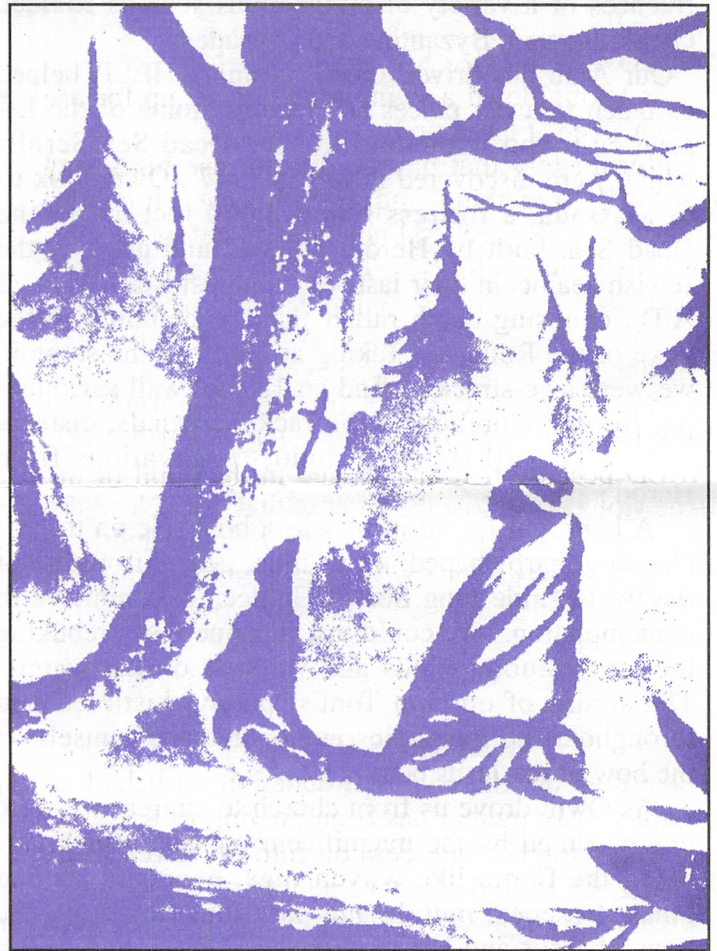
The story behind the picture....

Approximately two years ago, my husband and I were at a local antique market when I spotted a picture hanging discretely among many other objects in a dim corner. What made me stop and look at this picture is still an oddity as it is not colorful or eye-catching. I actually approached the picture thinking it to be a nun praying at a cross and it turned out to be an Indian girl (her hair looked like the habit of a nun) wearing an Indian skirt, praying at the cross. The name of this girl was below her, along with another name - "Lily of the Mohawks." Being that my step-father is a Mohawk Indian, I became even more intrigued with it and then noticed a price of \$40.00. I wondered if I should buy this picture and hemmed and hawed about it, even pulling my husband across the room to show him and ask his advice. The building was closing and even as much as I wanted this picture, I really didn't want to spend the money and wasn't quite sure if my step-father would appreciate it as much as I would want him to.

That was then.....

On October 6, 1996, the Buffalo News had a story telling me all I needed to know. "Lily of the Mohawks," I said, "that's the name that was under the picture that I was so mesmerized with two years ago!" Needless to say, we went back to the same antique market the next weekend in hopes of finding the picture. I really thought it would be hopeless, especially after the news article, but was determined to try. Maybe no one paid any attention to the article and certainly the picture was not very noticeable, so maybe it's still there. Then again, I thought, maybe it was noticed or what if the dealer left the area or cleaned up his stall, then there is no chance of ever finding it!

There are four or five buildings filled with antiques at the market. Now the trick is finding the right building. Every building I walked into I thought, "This is it!" followed by a "No." The last building left to walk through was entered through a side entrance. We usually always enter the far entrance and walk the long way through each building, but this building, as I said, was entered through the side. We both noticed it immediately upon entering the building—there it was—THE PICTURE! It was no longer in the drab little corner hanging among the other items, but displayed proudly with five other pictures at eye level and in a bright room, destined to be found! The price was now \$100 and even though I did not want to spend that much, I felt there was no other choice. I asked noth-



ing of the history of the picture and the dealer offered only to say that the picture is an original. The picture is mine and going home with me, but first it will spend one week with my step-father and mother. I do believe....

BUFFALO, NY

A RETURN TO GOOD HEALTH

I have been following the story of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha ever since I visited the site at Auriesville when I lived in New York quite a while ago. Shortly after that I wasn't feeling well and I asked Blessed Kateri to help me pray to God for the return of good health. At the same time, my neighbor, who was pregnant with her second child, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. I asked the dear Lord to help her instead. She had a beautiful baby. Sad to say she didn't live to see her two children grow up. She died shortly after giving birth. I got well shortly after and I thank God and Blessed Kateri.

REDONDO BEACH, CA

SIGHT SPARED

KATERI'S INTERCESSIONS

SOME ANSWERS

The following is testimony of a healing through the intercession of Blessed Kateri: In October, 1996, my son was taking down a swing set to be set up for use of the children at his church.

Unfortunately that day he did not use his safety glasses and "something" lodged in his eye. It continued to irritate him (several hours later) before he consulted his ophthalmologist. The "certain something" turned out to be a piece of concrete. We found out later that this is composed of a highly toxic chemical.

The doctor put a patch on the eye and two days later removed it and discovered that the concrete had lodged in the cornea of his eye. **HIS SIGHT WAS SPARED** because if it had lodged in the pupil of the eye, he would have lost the sight in that eye. Needless to say, we in the family were greatly relieved and I am grateful to Blessed Kateri for her intercession. I am praying one Our Father and one Hail Mary daily for her canonization.

UTICA, NY

KATERI'S HELP

Please accept the enclosed donation on behalf of our family. My mother has been praying to Katie for many years for her intercession into our lives. This past fall I had to find someone new to watch my children while I went to work. Mom would tell me every day... "Katie will come through." After some time I was fortunate enough to find a woman who is taking wonderful care of my children. One day a friend asked me "Where did you ever find Joyce..do you have a connection upstairs?" I was surprised to hear myself tell her that Katie sent her to us. Then I, of course, had to explain to her exactly who Katie was.

My mom has just recently had some surgery. Hours after the surgery, Mom was rushed back in for more surgery. She was alone at the time and she told me she prayed to Katie the whole time. I believe that Katie looks after us all and am thankful for her intercession in our lives.

NEW YORK, NY

MANY THANKS

I want to thank Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha for helping my granddaughter with her school work. She received all good marks and was able to keep her scholarship.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Please use the enclosed offering for the promotion-

al advancement for Kateri's sainthood. I have received many favors and this is my way of thanking Kateri.

PITTSFIELD, MA

An offering of thanksgiving to Kateri Tekakwitha and the Infant of Prague for a favor received.

HERKIMER, NY

Enclosed is a membership donation. I really enjoy being a member. Hope to hear from you sometime.

OMAHA, NE

Here is my donation for 1997 with grateful thanks.

BURNT HILLS, NY

Enclosed is a check sent in thanksgiving for a special favor requested of Blessed Kateri. Please continue to pray for our family.

BUFFALO, NY

The enclosed offering is for my son who is improving his job for which we are thankful.

CAMBRIDGE, MA

Enclosed please find a check in appreciation for Tekakwitha's intercession. Thanks again, Kateri!

SACRAMENTO, CA

Enclosed is my donation for membership and Novena. Kateri continues to bless me with health, safety, and employment! May she soon be canonized!

BALTIMORE, MD

The enclosed is for many favors answered and blessings too. Please accept this offering for God's blessings to my family and grandchildren. Hopefully, I will live to see her sainthood!

BRONXVILLE, NY

Enclosed is a donation in honor of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha for all the favors she's answered for me. I pray for peace, happiness, and good health in my family.

LAFAYETTE, LA

Please use the enclosed donation any way you see fit to further the Cause for Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. I wish it were more.

LEHIGH ACRES, FL

NOTES FROM THE BARK

On November 2, 1996, your Vice-Postulator, as well as Marie, our redoubtable secretary, took part in the "Fallen Leaves" Mass that the members of the Kateri Tekakwitha Committee of the Native Americans of St. Lucy's Parish in Syracuse celebrate every year in honor of their dear departed. Although the Mass did not begin until five-fifteen, the chanting of the names of the many deceased persons remembered at the Mass began at a quarter after four.

The Mass began with a solemn procession from the back of the church to the altar and then to a tree placed near the altar, each leaf of which bore the name of one of the departed persons. The opening hymn and the penitential rite, featuring the sweet grass blessing, were in the Mohawk language. The St. Lucy's singers also sang other hymns in their native tongue. Father Mathews, the pastor of St. Lucy's, was the celebrant of the Mass, and Father Paret was the homilist.

After the Mass, the Native American Community served a succulent dinner to 309 persons in the hall across the street. It was certainly a pleasure to be guests of this gracious group.

* * * *

A couple of weeks ago your Vice-Postulator was talking with a Sister in Westchester who had received a remarkable cure through the intercession of Blessed Kateri. Many, many years ago Sister contracted pleurisy, which soon turned to pneumonia, which in turn developed into tuberculosis, which in those days was much more likely to be lethal than it is today. All known remedies were applied, but Sister reached a stage at which the doctors said they would have to discontinue the treatment; not only was it not helping her towards recovery, but they judged it was hastening her death. So she was left on her own,



Drs. Tom and Rosita Rourke visit the League office on December 20, 1996. They fought the snow to get to the Tekakwitha Spring at the Fonda Shrine and then went on to visit Kateri's tomb in Kahnawake. Tom and Rosita are professors from Miami, Florida, so this was quite a challenge!

to recover if possible, but most likely to die.

Sister then asked that a "touch relic" of Blessed Kateri be sewn on the back of her gown, near the spot which caused the greatest pain. This was done and Sister continued to pray to Blessed Kateri, and shortly thereafter recovered her health.

Obviously a great blessing for Sister, in which we thought our readers might be interested. It will not, however, help towards the canonization of Blessed Kateri, not because it happened sixty years ago, before Kateri was even Venerable, but because Sister was in touch with Fr. John J. Wynne, S.J., the first Vice-Postulator. She says Fr. Wynne assured her that her case had been submitted to Rome, and might well be one of the miracles that brought about Kateri being declared Venerable. Sister is now in her congregation's infirmary, but she still manages to make Kateri known, as she has for the past sixty years.

* * * *

Nine pages of medical records
6-LILY OF THE MOHAWKS, Spring 1997

about the foregoing case from a hospital in northern Pennsylvania have been sent to the Postulator in Rome, to be examined by the "Consulta Medica" — the group of doctors who determine whether or not a remarkable cure can truly be declared a miracle. Let's all pray very earnestly that this recovery may be judged miraculous!

On November 12, 1996 I had surgery to remove a saliva gland. My doctor found two lymph nodes which were diagnosed as angio-sarcoma cancer. The following Monday a CAT Scan indicated a mass on my trachea which was of concern—it could mean that the cancer had metastasized. On Thursday, November 21, 1996, at the urging of some friends, my family accompanied me to Auriesville, where I was prayed over with the relic of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

The next day I went to the hospital for a second opinion. They confirmed the earlier diagnosis. On November 24, 1996, our pastor distributed prayer cards for Blessed Kateri to our whole parish and asked everyone to join in prayer for my healing.

On December 5, 1996, a thoracic surgeon did a biopsy on the mass on my trachea. It was a benign cyst—part one of the miracle. On December 11, 1996, my doctor did a radical neck dissection and sent 27 lymph nodes and other tissues from that area to the Pathology Lab. **THERE WAS NO SIGN OF CANCER IN ANY OF THE SAMPLES!** Furthermore, I do not need radiation therapy.

I consider it to be a miracle. I will visit my doctor once a month for the next year, and then decreasing frequency in following years. That is standard medical procedure, but I am confident that my cancer has been totally healed through the intercession of Blessed Kateri."

SAINTS' PARADE

ST. NICHOLAS SCHOOL, Brooklyn, NY

by Mrs. Kristina Tapper

Every year, St. Nicholas Elementary School in Brooklyn, NY, where I teach, holds a Saints' Parade. Basically, the parade's function is to raise needed financial assistance for our school from the neighboring stores in our area. However, long prior to this Parade, each class is assigned a Saint to research. The boys in each class are assigned a "boy saint" and the girls in each class are assigned a "girl saint".

Each homeroom teacher spends much time reading literature on her two class saints to her students. We later brainstorm the information we have learned, using various teaching strategies, and the children complete notes in their Religion notebooks. The end result of this process, not counting the Saints' Parade, is a written formal report, in third person, on the saints. Once this step has been completed, the children write a first-person report on their saint. They memorize this first-person narrative and present it to the class. This is done to determine an oral grade (as all the reports are graded). However, a greater function of this exercise is to choose a class representative "saint" who will be showcased during our October Assembly.

This year, Grade 7's representative during the October Assembly was Ms. Elise Kairys, who did a wonderful job in presenting herself as Blessed Kateri, in addition

to informing her listeners of how she is currently like Kateri and how she can become more like Kateri. My runner-up was Ms. Danielle DeMicco; this year, the judging was difficult!

It has been my honor to have Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha assigned to the girls in my 7th Grade class for the fourth year in a row! While I know the story of Blessed Kateri quite well by now, I never tire in telling her timeless story to each new 7th Grade class.



Ms. Danielle DeMicco is the first girl on the left side standing. Ms. Elise Kairys is the second from the left kneeling "Kateri".



QUILT RAFFLE

Our star-burst quilt for this season is made by Ms. Nora Brings Him Back from Pine Ridge, South Dakota. The "star" is done in shades of Yellow and Orange on a white background. Last year's winner is Mrs. JoAnn Mazierski of Amherst, New York. She was delighted!

I enclose my donation of \$_____ for _____ tickets.

\$5.00 donation - 5 tickets
\$10.00 donation - 10 tickets

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Drawing - Sunday, October 26, 1997



Mrs. JoAnn Mazierski of Amherst, NY, credits her granddaughters Brittany and baby "Katey" for bringing her good luck!

DECEASED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



Mr. David Paonessa
Mr. Richard O'Brien, Jr., Saratoga Springs, NY
Mr. Francis Honeyman, Denver, CO
Mrs. Sophia Harbit, Tipton, IN
Mrs. Elizabeth A. Wantuck, Schenectady, NY
Ms. Margaret T. Marusiak, Kansas City, KS
Mr. Joseph H. Reilly, Sr., Shrewsbury, MA
Mr. William F. Hotaling, Jr., Amsterdam, NY
Ms. Theresa J. Hopps, Buffalo, NY
Chief Sachem Broken Arrow George Hopkins,
Randolph, MA
Sister M. Loretta, New Britain, CT
Mr. Paul Zimmerman, Ellicott City, MD
Mr. Joseph Renyak, Haganan, NY

Almighty and loving Lord, have pity on my deceased friends and relatives. Through your infinite mercy and goodness raise them to everlasting joy and union with you. To them and all who have passed on, grant happiness, light and heavenly peace. AMEN



BETANIA, VENEZUELA For the Feast of the Annunciation

6-Day Journey for Inner Peace
with

Fr. John J. Paret, S.J.,
Vice-Postulator of the Kateri Cause
March 21-26, 1997

TOUR FEATURES

- * Round Trip Airfare
- * Accommodations in First Class Hotel
With Private Facilities
- * American Breakfast Daily
- * Lunches and Dinners as Indicated on Itinerary
- * Transfers between Airport and Lodging
With Portage
- * Comprehensive Sightseeing Tours
- * Multi-Lingual Tour Guide
- * ITS Travel Backpack
- * ITS Welcome Packet
- * All Spiritual Activities Coordinated

PATRONS: BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA
AND
ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

For information contact:
ALLAN AND MARLENE McCAULEY
(602) 265-9151 or (602) 266-5885

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha League

(MARTYRS' SHRINE)

Rev. John J. Paret, S.J.
Tekakwitha League
Auriesville, N.Y. 12016
Phone 1-518-853-3153

ADDRESS CHANGE? Please advise us immediately. Each returned Lily costs us thirty-two cents plus postage for third-class mailing.

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. Annual membership - \$5.00 (U.S.) \$7.00 (Foreign) **Reminders not sent.**

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1
Fultonville, New York

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED