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Caughnawaga  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CLUB



# KATERI

NO. 92

THE ÉTIENNE ROLL

MORE PLEDGES

HEART OF JESUS, HEART OF LOVE!

EACH NEW MOON

AN IROQUOIS JESUIT JUBILARIAN

CORRESPONDENCE

A QUESTION AND AN ANSWER

LILY OF  
THE MOHAWKS

Summer • 1972

Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada





# The Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha

*Kateriana obtainable from the*

**Office of the Vice Postulation  
(The Kateri Center)**

**Box 70, Caughnawaga, P. Q., Canada**

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2. Colored picture by Sister M. Fides Glass, with the prayer in Spanish only. 5¢ for two.
3. Mother Nealis' colored picture of Kateri (9¼" x 13¾") for framing. 75¢.

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- In Italian — *Il Giglio degli Iroquesi*, by Dr. Fernando Bea, 62 pp. \$1.50.

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## Recordings

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Kateri film-strip in color; four reels with captions in French. \$25.00.

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You will find the Kateri Sympathy Cards in perfect taste, beautifully printed and very convenient to have at hand. Try them and see. To the family of the bereaved, the Vice-Postulator will be happy to send a personal note of sympathy.

One box of twelve cards: \$1.00. Each yearly enrollment in the Kateri Guild: \$1.00.

## Subscription to "Kateri"

One dollar a year. Please renew your subscription each year.

## THE ÉTIENNE ROLL

Etienne Tegananokoa was the first martyr from Caughnawaga. His martyrdom had been foretold by the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.

He was about thirty-five years old when, in 1677, he came to live at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier. During August 1690, he was captured by non-Christian Cayugas, and burnt at the stake for his faith.

"Don't spare me," he cried out, "my sins deserve more than anything you can inflict on me. The more you torture me, the more the reward prepared for me in heaven will be great!"

How do you have someone inscribed on the Etienne Roll? Send in five subscriptions (names and addresses of the subscribers with five dollars — one dollar each) to the Kateri Center, Box 70, Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada. With these five subscriptions, it is your privilege to have the name of one of your beloved dead listed, free of charge, on the Etienne Roll. Please note that a gift of five dollars without the five subscriptions is not sufficient. When the roll is filled with two hundred names, in gratitude for the thousand new subscribers, one hundred Masses will be offered for the two hundred persons inscribed. Meanwhile, they are not forgotten as the Vice-Postulator remembers them daily during Holy Mass at the Memento of the Departed.

## THE ETIENNE ROLL

1. Mr. Walter Parker
2. Mr. Aurele Mantha
3. Mrs. Concetta Shepp
4. Miss Laurette Morency
5. Mr. Joseph Dill
6. Mr. Aurele Caron
7. Mrs. Edward S. Meyers
8. Mrs. Theodore S. James
9. Mr. Almas Prive
10. Rev. Michael J. Kuisle
11. Mr. William O'Brien
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13. Mr. Tancrede Desjardins
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18. Mr. Ernest A. Fournier
19. Mr. John R. F. Osborne
20. Miss Frances Pfister
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22. Mr. J. A. Joly
23. Mr. Lionel Poirier
24. Mr. F. X. Panneton
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26. Mr. Edouard J. Desruisseaux
27. Mrs. Edouard J. Desruisseaux
28. Mr. M. Chouinard
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43. Mrs. Sophia Bizga
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45. Mr. Elphege Lefebvre
46. Mrs. Berengere Laray
47. Mr. Honore Leroux
48. Mr. Honore Tremblay





KATERI, No. 92

Vol. 23, No. 3

#### AIM

1. Our quarterly bulletin, *Kateri*, published by the Kateri Center, intends to help you obtain favors both temporal and spiritual through the intercession of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. It is hoped her Beatification will thereby be hastened.
2. It aims to increase the number of Kateri's friends and to procure from them at least one daily Hail Mary for her Beatification.
3. It seeks also your donations, for without them practically nothing can be done to make Kateri known and to have the important favors attributed to her intercession examined and approved.

#### CONTENTS

Each issue of "Kateri" contains :

1. One or several pages on Kateri's life and virtues;
2. News from Kateri's friends everywhere;
3. The account of favors due to her intercession;
4. News concerning the Indians of America, with special reference to the Caughnawagas and their friends.

#### BENEFITS

Your contribution (\$1.00 a year, or more, if possible) enrolls you among "Kateri's Friends" for whom:

1. A weekly Mass is offered;
2. The Vice-Postulator prays at his daily Mass;
3. As benefactors of the Society of Jesus, 190,000 masses are offered annually;
4. The spiritual treasure of the good works of the Society of Jesus is opened;
5. Extra graces are merited by working for Kateri's Beatification.

JUNE 1972

Published with Approbation of the Ordinary and Permission of Superiors

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CAUGHNAWAGA, P.Q., CANADA



FROM ROME, the Reverend Father  
Paul Molinari, S.J.,  
Postulator General for the cause of the  
Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, writes:

"The idea of launching a Prayer Campaign to hasten Kateri's beatification seems to me truly excellent, and I hope with all my heart that these prayers will obtain for us the miracles that are needed for Kateri's beatification...  
...Naturally I shall take part in your Prayer Campaign..."

**How many written promises  
of one daily Our Father  
and or/one daily Hail Mary  
to hasten Kateri's Beatification  
has the Kateri Center received?  
Exactly 8152.  
At least one million are needed !**

Fill out the following form  
and rush it to:  
The Kateri Center  
Box 70  
Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada

MY PLEDGE TO KATERI Date .....

I, the undersigned, pledge to offer up each day one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary until the second duly verified miracle needed for Kateri's beatification is obtained.

Name .....

Street or Box .....

City or Town .....

Province or State ..... Zip or Zone Code .....

Country ..... Telephone .....



F. X. Weiser, s. j.

# Kateri Tekakwitha

*Just  
off  
the  
Press!*

To know and love the Lily of the Mohawks, I wish to receive an autographed copy of **Kateri Tekakwitha**, the exciting new biography by Rev. F. X. Weiser, S.J., of Boston College, with a Prefatory Note by John Cardinal Wright.

My check is enclosed: (Paperback) \$2.25  
(Hardcover) \$4.00

Name .....  
(In Block Letters, Please)

Address .....

**KATERI, Box 70, Caughnawaga, P. Q., Canada**

## The Laity Want to Help Too!

### STILL MORE PLEDGES

**WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, PROMISE TO OFFER DAILY ONE OUR FATHER AND/OR ONE HAIL MARY UNTIL THE SECOND DULY VERIFIED MIRACLE NEEDED FOR KATERI'S BEATIFICATION IS OBTAINED:**

The Daughters of Isabella (continued):

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IRWIN, PA.: Miss Laurie Laber, Miss Margaret Dahlstrom, Miss Janet Dahlstrom, Miss Donna Griffith, Miss Denise Griffith, Miss Nancy G. Hensler, Miss Laura A. Robles, Miss Cecilia Robles, Miss Mary Ocheltree, Miss Dawn Marie Kisner, Miss Mary Jo Hensler, Miss Rennae Zoscak, Miss Monica Taylor, Miss Donna Wolfhope, Miss Marlene Wolfhope, Miss Terri Dura, Miss Denise Ruhl, Miss Betsy Eichelberger, Miss Deborah Markwicz, Mrs. Jo Anne Hensler, Miss Mary Catherine Dugan and Mrs. Anne Dugan.

BIDDEFORD, ME.: Miss Lucille Fecteau, Mr. Armand Fecteau, Mrs. Imelda Bisson, Mr. Joseph Bisson, Miss Lucia Fecteau, Mrs. Jeanne d'Arc Veilleux, Miss Germaine Genest, Miss Anita Fecteau, Miss Claire Fecteau, Miss Jeanne Fecteau, and Mr. Lionel Fecteau.

DETROIT, MICH.: Mr. Keith Leclaire, Miss Lucy Key, Mrs. Gloria Lopez, Mrs. Eleanor Jacco.

CAUGHNAWAGA, P.Q.: Mrs. Josephine Lafleur, Mrs. Margaret Williams, Mrs. Cecilia Ouimet, Miss Laura Jacco, Mrs. Eileen Lefebvre, Mrs. Mary Jacobs, Miss Donnalee Paige.

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LIMERICK, ME.: Mrs. Louise G. Provencher, Miss Marie A. Paradis, Mrs. Alice L. Staples, and Mrs. Lily Roux.



Paul Legault, S.J.

## Heart of Jesus, Heart of Love!

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Heart of Jesus, bless the efforts of the friends of Kateri to hasten her beatification !

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**D**URING RECENT YEARS, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has become one of the most spectacular victims of the zeal of our so-called "intellectuals". Why have they been successful? Undoubtedly certain adjuncts linked with this devotion such as flag-waving, warlike or saccharine hymns, and insignificant statuary were partially responsible for the present disfavor. Some of the faithful thought that the Twelve Promises automatically guaranteed results. Occasionally the Nine First Fridays might even take on the aspect of infantile bargaining.

All this taken together or separately did not constitute the cult of the Heart of our Savior, but the ways and means, in particular the approaches and the organized groups apt to make its significance a little better understood. Under such conditions, sincerity blended happily with the simplicity of the people's faith. At any rate, how could such pious demonstrations, for instance, a Holy Hour ceremony undermine religion? On the contrary, they certainly contributed considerably to the support of religious fervor and practice. Obviously, if they are now forced to yield to other manifestations of piety, this situation must not spring from the depths of our scorn. The sincerity of former times has a right to as much respect as the new sincerity. Moreover, scorn and contempt are never constructive. In examining this problem, one will come to the conclusion that the cult of the Heart of Jesus, far from being done away with, should always grow stronger, since it specially meets our present-day needs.

Modern selfishness will find a cure not so much in psychological speculation as in the genuine understanding of reparation. Nothing is more altruistic than to compensate for others as Christ did. Because He was human, he willingly accepted consolation: "*Could you not then, watch one hour with me?*" (Mat. 26:40). He thereby called upon his disciples and upon us all to share in his sufferings and in those of our fellow men. Often sorrow needs no more than a sympathetic ear and heart. Such is the stuff of which is made true sharing for which there is no substitute. Devotion to the Heart of Jesus teaches us to rejoice as the elect, but also to take place at the foot of the

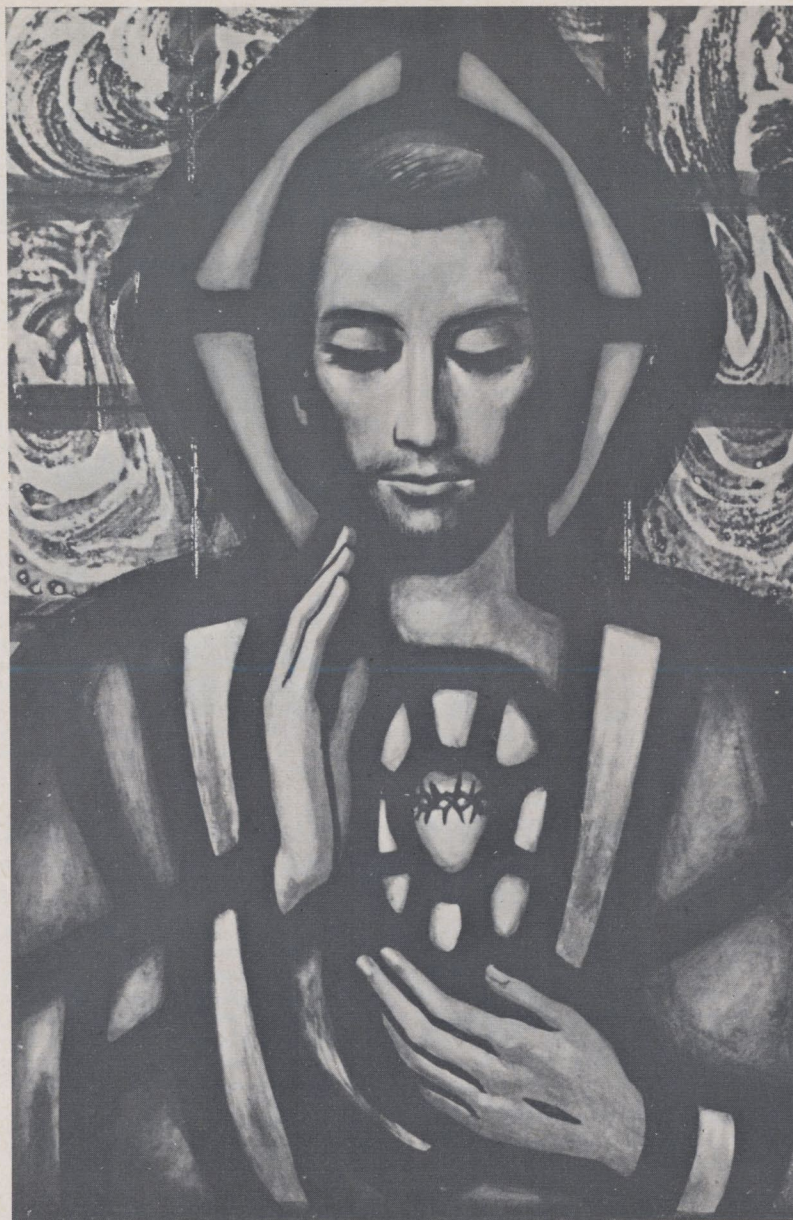


PHOTO ARMOUR LANDRY.

Heart of Jesus,  
Heart of Love!

*Presented by Joseph O'Brien, Jr.*



Cross, and to weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15).

In contrast to our self-centeredness, consider the overwhelming wealth of information, which practically compels us to be constantly aware of whatever is happening on our planet. We should be able to sympathize with our fellow human beings better than simple spectators at a fire. Christ teaches us to love the whole world. How? First of all by loving our neighbor. An overflow of information does not necessarily imply charity; far from it, for we often become increasingly exacting and critical, demanding sincerity of others, perhaps because we are lacking it ourselves. In Christ we have Him "who did all things well" (Mark 7:37), and who spoke and acted without contradicting Himself or without fearing censure on the part of others. He alone could say: *The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life*" (John 6:63).

Since people are more than ever knowledgeable about the aches and pains of mankind, many are honestly trying to relieve them. Some, it is true, revolt against a God whom they see as distant, indifferent and foreign to their problems. They think he launched all men into distressing and unmanageable circumstances. Christ who was Innocence personified, suffered, thereby compensating for the guilty, and rendering them capable of salvation. Indeed, His life should help us to grasp something of the value and of the meaning and motivations of the "unexplainable" and "unjust" trials that we must sometimes face: *"Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground, and dies; it remains alone. . . But if it dies, it brings forth much fruit"* (Jo. 12:24). The productiveness of trials is thus illuminated with a new light, and the example of the Cross leads on those who *"look upon Him whom they have pierced"* (Jo. 19:37).

So, to those who suffer at the sight of innocent people weighed down by illness, injustice, famine, and war, from the Last Supper to Calvary, the Heart of Jesus serves as a model. Jesus teaches that to be converted, the wicked need the good: *"It is through His Cross that we have been saved."*

To those who might be led astray by a would-be sociology, convincing enough to stir up jealousy and to incite to revolt, Jesus offers *"hope that does not deceive"* (Rom. 5:5), faith in Divine Providence whose children we are, and profound love devoid of ambition and selfishness.

To those who fear that the world will be in need of essentials, Jesus recalls that it is useless to worry, *"and to be anxious and troubled about many things"* (Luke 10:41) beyond our scope and ken. After having spoken about such affairs, which concern only "our heavenly Father, who knows what we need," in the desert, He fed thousands of followers who had taken Him at His word.

To those who fancy that God is faraway and indifferent to them, Jesus answers with His Heart, offering the evidence of His life on earth, including all His human actions, and sufferings, dedicated to the service of mankind. He still speaks to us with the utmost persuasiveness, utterly simple and understandable for any man of good will.

To those who suffer from today's literature of the absurd, with its negative and suicidal approaches, Jesus shows Himself more human than anyone else. He voluntarily endured hunger, poverty, social insecurity, and oppression even unto the death of the Cross — the death reserved to slaves. He deeply sympathized with His fellow men in their sorrows, their bereavements, and their weaknesses, thereby proving to us that so many things "which are folly to the world are wisdom in the eyes of God."

To those who long for a new order in the chaotic conditions of our times, Jesus, through His Heart of Love, recommends that they begin at the beginning — mainly by establishing order tempered by tenderness in their own families, and, above all, peace of mind within themselves. Through Him alone will the kingdom we are expecting definitely be established — the kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace, as the Preface for the Mass of Christ the King proclaims.

To those who, more than anything else, desire peace, Jesus gives that peace which the world cannot give, by laying on His friends *"a yoke that is sweet, a burden that is light"* (Mat. 11:30).

To those who are disturbed by the extravagant ideas that are sometimes flaunted in the Church today, Jesus offers His heart as a secure haven, dispensing to the human as well as to the divine in us, their proper places in prayer and in day to day activity.

To those who hesitate at the thought of the difficulties inherent to the apostolic life, He recalls that He sent His Apostles like lambs among wolves, but also that he gave them the assurance of victory because He had already overcome the world whose prince is Satan.

To all, finally, so that they may advance from an imperfect to a more complete love, the former existing only with regard to the latter, Jesus gives His Heart. Devotion to the Heart of Jesus is "spirit and life", love and reparation. Without it, there is no sincerity, and sincerity Christ demands from the faithful, and He demands it unconditionally: it is the guarantee of progress in faith, hope, and charity, and in all the other virtues; it is the only way to come to Him who is the way, truth, and life."



## EACH NEW MOON



**BISHOP** André Cimichella, Auxiliary of Montreal and Bishop Ponent to the hierarchy for the Committee of the Founders of the Canadian Church, has naturally shown great interest in the six causes for the beatification or canonization of these saintly men and women: Blessed Margaret Bourgeoys, Blessed Margaret d'Youville, the Venerable Mary of the Incarnation, the Venerable Francis de Laval (Kateri's Bishop), Sister Catherine of St. Augustine, and Jeanne Mance, North America's first lay nurse. But the Bishop is open-minded; he understands the bond that united the Founders (with the exception of Blessed Margaret d'Youville who was born after Kateri's death) with the Lily of the Mohawks.

So Bishop Cimichella thought that ACTION was indicated in favor of Kateri. He visited the Center in Montreal, and suggested that we drive over to the Mission of St. Francis Xavier. We did this a few days later, after which, the Bishop revisited the mission church several other times.

On Sunday, April 9, at St. Francis Xavier's, Miss Claire Déry, the

Provincial Regent of the Daughters of Isabella, several Deputy Regents, and members of the organization from the dioceses of St. Jean de Quebec, Valleyfield, and Montreal, attended High Mass. It was celebrated by Bishop Cimichella, who also preached the homily, touching on the life and virtues of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, much to the satisfaction of the Indian parishioners and also of the Daughters of Isabella. After the Eucharistic Celebration, ways and means were discussed to escalate prayer to Kateri, thereby hastening her beatification. In the next issue of *Kateri*, you will be informed of the practical solution that was chosen.

Meanwhile as Vice-Postulator for the beatification of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, I sincerely wish to thank Bishop Cimichella, Miss Déry, the Indian Daughters of Isabella, and all the other members of this association who met in Caughnawaga on the first Sunday after Easter.

The Mission of St. Francis Regis dates back to 1752; it was made up of Indians from the Mission of St. Francis Xavier at Caughnawaga — Kateri's mission. Today, St. Francis Regis' with its mission church in the Province of Quebec, extends into Ontario and the State of New York.

On the eve of the anniversary of Kateri's death on April 17, 1680, Father Joseph McBride, S.J., my fellow Vice-Postulator, went into ACTION at the St. Regis Mission. Seconded by Iroquois Fr. Michael K. Jacobs, S.J., by the pastor, Fr. Francis Arseneault, S.J., Fr. Alphonse Lévesque, S.J., and Fr. Robert Burns,

S.J., of Auriesville, he organized a National Day of Prayer.

At ten o'clock in the morning, a concelebrated High Mass was sung in thanksgiving to the Blessed Trinity for the glory that is Kateri's in heaven, with Fr. McBride as the principal celebrant.

Bishop Guy Bélanger of Valleyfield, P.Q., offered the Eucharistic Celebration at noon, and at three o'clock confirmed some sixty of the Indian children all in white albs. A chartered bus carried the Indian Choir members from Caughnawaga to St. Regis. Under the experienced direction of Father Henri Lalonde, S.J., they sang hymns in Iroquois, set to music by Mozart, Perosi, Haendel, and Noyon (*Sirisarem Kenthare: Jérusalem acclame !*), including also, the late Dr. Bernier's beautiful *Hymn to Kateri Tekakwitha*.

At four o'clock, practically all the faithful removed to the St. Regis Parish Center, on the American side of the Mission in Hogansburg, N.Y. Although Bishop Bélanger was expected at Ottawa that evening, he took time out with his chancellor, Msgr. Robert Tremblay, to take part in the public homage to the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. In a brief speech to the people, the Bishop revealed that his Irish grandmother had taught him devotion to Kateri at the very early age of four years.

Dr. Solomon Cook, Ph. D., a member of Fr. McBride's *Tekakwitha League Board*, and Fr. Jacobs' brother-in-law, summarized the life and virtues of the Lily of the Mohawks. Two Indian religious of St. Ann, born in St. Regis', Sister KATERI, and Sister Dorothy Ann

then read Pope Pius XII's decree proclaiming Kateri "venerable". Fr. McBride spoke about his work in favor of Kateri, and honored Fr. Jacobs and Dr. Cook with a special Kateri awards, the Mrs. Annie Lahache and Agatha Taylor-Foote (who were written up in the last *Kateri*), with honorary certificates.

Before serving the guests a delightful dinner, prepared by Mrs. Solomon Cook and other devoted women of the mission, I also said a few words about the widespread devotion to Kateri, as evinced by letters from all over the world, and stressed the need for an escalation of the Kateri Prayer Campaign.

Mr. John A. Greaves of London, England, in a N.C. release, publicized the conduct of the Honorable Norman St. John Stevas, M.P., who brought to the attention of the Honorable Richard Crossman, Minister of Social Services, a recent scandal to be added to the list of scandals that has been part and parcel of Britain's Abortion Act since it came into operation several years ago. Abortion clinics sold LIVE fetuses for study.

A consultant clinical physiologist decided to open a new field of research in fetuses. A worker in the medical field became aware of his plans and stated:

"He will obtain these from a source in the East End of London and plans to keep these in a state of suspended animation on heart-lung machines until they reach term — 40 weeks gestation — and then to use his own words, 'slaughter them.'"

"This research on human embryology is being conducted for the



heart tissue. The physiologist's intention is to do a vein-artery shunt and to link the fetus up with the circulation of a dog for purposes of immunology."

The unnamed worker in the medical field, and Mr. St. John Stevas are men of ACTION: they succeeded in having the government put a stop to this abominable fetus traffic.

For over a year, *Kateri* has called to the attention of its readers the 'heinous crime' of abortion. During the last twelve months, some 40,000 unborn children were murdered in Canada alone — 500 per cent more than during the previous year. Hitler might have gloried in such statistics, but what about supposedly civilized people? Some of these eternally unborn children were perhaps the geniuses and saints-to-be, whom the world may need a few decades from now. They won't be there.

Like the anonymous medical worker, and Norman St. John Stevas, you can do your part, humble though it may be, to stop abortion. You can surely spare an 8c or 10c stamp to address a strong, brief letter of protest against the present abortion law, demanding its unconditional repeal of the Prime Minister or the President, and of the members of both houses of your government. This is precisely how the pro-abortionists, would-be murderers of the unborn, act: they do not hesitate to write letters to anyone who might help their cause. Strangely enough they are the kind of individuals who would go all out to save the lives — of baby seals. Truly they are people of ACTION, a negative ghoulish ACTION.

The Venerable Kateri Tekakwi-

tha, "new star of the New World," will certainly brighten up every hour of your day if you too are men and women of ACTION, of positive ACTION. Listen then to this appeal, which I feel helpless to word as strongly as I ought.

As Vice-Postulator for Tekakwita, I heartily thank all our friends who have signed the Kateri pledge in order to hasten the much desired Beatification. It is imperative that, all together, we seek and find about *one million* prayer pledges. Thanks to your efforts, shall the Kateri pledges snowball even during the summer months? Such cooperation would certainly be positive ACTION on your part!

As Vice-Postulator, it is my duty and my pleasure to say "thank you" for renewing your subscriptions without any special pressure on my part, and for often having added more than the regular one dollar. This also is positive ACTION on your part. (The Kateri Center, which operates from a humble basement, must meet its debts: rent, taxes, postal stamps, stationery, and maintenance.)

As Vice-Postulator, allow me to express my appreciation to all Kateri's friends who found new subscribers to *Kateri*. Her new acquaintances will know her much better, they will pray to her more earnestly, and will thereby speed up her Beatification.

May Kateri's smile rest upon all her friends both old and new wherever they may be! May it make their summer and holidays more pleasant!

As *Kateri* is about to go to press, Fr. Joseph McBride, S.J., my fellow Vice-Postulator, has notified me of the recent death of Fr. Thomas Coffey, S.J., former Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Beatification of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwita. A

write-up on Father Coffey's priestly ACTION in favor of the Lily of the Mohawks will appear in the September issue of *Kateri*. Meanwhile, Kateri's many friends, I am sure, will remember him in their prayers.

## RE YOUR PRAYER PLEDGES

On the Vice-Postulator's part, a heartfelt 'thank you' to all persons who have signed and returned their prayer pledge! He is not indirectly looking for donations when he asks for your prayer pledge. True, because of the high postal rates, he does not generally acknowledge them. They are, however, deeply appreciated.

The Secretary,



Miss F. MacDee

### ✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. R. G. !

For Kateri's cause here is a fifty dollar offering in acknowledgment of a rapid cure of a serious illness. I promised publication of this favor.

(Boucherville, P.Q.)

### ✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M. L. J. !

Please find herein a five dollar check for having obtained a job.

(Montreal, P. Q.)

### ✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. A. D. !

I am keeping my promise to Kateri to give her a modest offering at each pay-day. My husband is getting better; the doctor found nothing abnormal in his heart check-up. I am grateful to Kateri. Right after I prayed to her, the recovery began. I shall be back as I promised. Many thanks!

(Val Senneville, P. Q.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)





## THE GREAT DECISION

Tekakwitha was now eighteen. Gathering firewood one day, she had caught her foot in the root of a tree and fallen so unhappily that she suffered a serious injury on her left leg. For many days she had to recline in her little chamber, unable to walk, her damaged leg covered with thick bandages of bast and deer skin.

It was a beautiful summer day. Her uncle had gone hunting. Both aunts were down in the cornfields and gardens; it had not rained for two weeks, and all the people, including the children, carried water in buckets from the river to the thirsty plants. The village was deserted except for the sick and the feeble old.

This quiet scene offered Father de Lamberville a welcome occasion to speak to the old and sick without interruption or disturbance. He went from cabin to cabin, gave medicine and refreshments to the ailing, cheered them up with friendly words and poured fresh, cool water into their drinking bowls.

At noon he came to the wigwam of Iowerano. This

house would not admit him. The door stood open, the place seemed empty. With a prayer in his heart for the unfriendly chief and his family he was about to pass by, when Tekakwitha suddenly sat up on her bed and called: "Rakeni!" (Father). She knew that the Christians used this term for their priests. A great decision had flamed up in her soul like a blinding flash of light. How often had she wanted, but never dared, to speak to a blackrobe and tell him of her burning desire to know and serve the true God! Now the moment had come. All fear and shyness left her, she felt a wave of strength and courage surge through her whole being. Disregarding the pain of her wound she rose, stumbled a few paces to the entrance and repeated her anxious cry: "Father!"

Trembling with excitement she saw the priest turn around and come to the door. His eyes showed a faint glimmer of surprise, but he remained his calm, friendly self. "Yes, my child?" he asked. At the same time he noticed her bandaged leg. "Are you suffering? Shall I call one of the women to help you?"

"It's not my leg," she answered with a short, grateful smile. Then she looked at him with shining dark eyes that revealed her intense and utter seriousness. "Rakeni, I want to know and love Ra-



Father Francis Xavier Weiser, S.J.

wannio, the true God. I want to become a Christian!" It was a desperate cry for spiritual help, rising from the depth of her soul.

The priest was greatly astonished and moved. No doubt, this girl was in deadly earnest; she really meant what she said. A few moments he remained silent and thoughtful. Then he said: "I know, my child, that your intention is honest and serious. Are you sure you will have the strength to carry it out? How did you come to this decision?"

With glowing words she told him of her mother who had been a fervent Christian, of her motherly friend, Anastasia. She described the de-

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*To Kateri's friends, I am happy to offer an abridged version of a chapter of the new biography, Kateri Tekakwitha by Fr. F. X. Weiser, S.J., of Boston College. In 1970, Father Weiser was awarded the Citation of Honor and the Jubilee Medal of the University of Innsbruck. His works are recommended reading in the high schools of Austria.*

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**T**HE NEW missionary, Father James de Lamberville, came in the spring of 1675. He was a man of solid piety and great, friendly zeal.

A silver sterling Cross dating back to the Iroquois era, found in the vicinity of Auriesville, N.Y., where the Venerable Kateri was born.





Ring found in Onondaga country, at Indian Hill (Manlius, N.Y.), where the first Mass is believed to have been offered in New York State.

Medal of St. Peter Alcantara, found at the same site.

Another ring from the same site.

sire she had felt from childhood on, to know the true God and to be a Christian.

The missionary stroked his beard. "If your father should forbid you to become a Christian, would you still go ahead against his will and stand firm by your decision?"

The trace of a smile lit her face. She thought of the painful battles she had already fought against the will of her relatives. "Rakeni," she answered simply, "my father knows that I was never disobedient to him; but as to religion, I have to go my own way. I am eighteen years old and must make my own decision. He will surely try to hinder me, he might even punish me; but Rawanniio will help me to be firm."

All doubts in the mind of the Jesuit disappeared. He knew that God's grace would give her the necessary courage in the bitter struggle that awaited her. "Tekakwitha", he said gently, "as soon as your leg is healed you may come to the instructions of the catechumens. I shall pray to God to give you strength and draw you to himself, so you may know and love him and belong to him forever." With a smile and a friendly greeting he turned to continue on his way.

"Nyawen!" (Thank you), was all she could say. Her heart brimful with gratitude, her eyes radiating pure happiness, she staggered back to the bed, covered her face

with both hands and cried for joy.

She kept the secret of her decision until she would be able to take off her bandages and walk again. Meanwhile, Lowerano and the aunts puzzled over the change in her behavior; she seemed to be more gay than she had been for a long time.

Now the great moment had arrived. While the family was sitting around the fireplace after the evening meal, she calmly looked at Lowerano and told him she had decided to become a Christian and to ask for baptism.

Hardly had she announced her decision when Karitha and Arosen broke out in violent shrieks of protest and threats. Lowerano, however, sat in stony silence, as if the news had paralyzed him.

The next day, when Tekakwitha left for the mission to receive her first instruction in the faith, they let her go without any protest or comment. During the following days, too, nobody mentioned her decision to become a Christian, nobody seemed to care or mind. The only demand her aunts made was, that she must not neglect any of her duties in the household.

In the "wigwam of prayer" (mission house) Father de Lamberville and the members of the instruction class greeted her with great joy. From now on she attended instruction and prayer hours every morning and evening.

Father de Lamberville, on his part, was astonished at the clarity and depth of her insights. The obligation to lead a life of virtue, holiness and purity laid the hardest and most difficult demand upon the people who asked for instruction; but Tekakwitha found no difficulty in this. Due to the prayers and example of her mother she had carried the light of moral goodness in her heart from childhood on. In this respect she had followed the natural law of morality without being aware that this very law was also a keystone of the Catholic religion. The Christians of Ganawage assured the priest in all sincerity that never had they seen Tekakwitha give a bad example or take part in the sinful habits of her non-Christian surroundings.

Thus Father de Lamberville decided she could be baptised after eight months, on the following Easter Sunday. She received the news with deep joy and prepared herself with daily fervent prayer for that great day.

On Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676, a small procession moved through the lanes of Ganawage towards the little mission chapel at the rim of the forest. Tekakwitha, with two other girls who were to receive baptism, walked at the head of group who accompanied them...

Accompanied by four acolytes — Mohawk boys in red gowns and white surplices —





A beautiful silver crucifix discovered near Jamesville, N.Y. at the mission site of St. John the Baptist.

Father de Lamberville awaited the catechumens at the entrance. Tekakwitha had chosen "Katherine" as her Christian name.

The Priest asked her those questions which precede the conferring of the sacrament. Then the procession moved into the chapel, followed by the faithful of the village who quickly filled the pews. The others remained outside but were able to watch every detail of the solemn ceremonies through the door and the big, open windows.

Finally arrived the great moment for which Tekakwitha had longed in burning desire. She bent her head over the font and the priest poured the water of salvation upon her forehead: "Katherine, I baptize you in the

name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Carrying a lighted candle, and covered with the white baptismal veil, she went to her seat in the front row.

The Father came to the altar, and suddenly there burst forth from the lips of twenty children the opening song of the Mass liturgy on Easter Sunday: "I have risen, and I am with you, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. How wonderful it is to know you, O God, alleluia!"

After baptism Tekakwitha savored the happiness of her faith in the grace and love of God. Twice daily she attended the prayers and instructions at the mission house. At work she hummed the hymns and holy songs she had learned; the Christian Mohawks often sang their daily prayers instead of merely reciting them, also the Creed, the Commandments and the Rosary.

One Sunday, when Kateri returned from Mass, Karitha exclaimed: "You are late for work. Arosen is already down in the corn fields. Eat your breakfast, then hurry after us. Our plants need watering."

Tekakwitha was shocked. "But mother," she said, "it is Sunday. You know that I am not allowed to work in the fields today. It would be against the commandment of God."

"Ha, ha," screamed Karitha, "this is a nice and handy

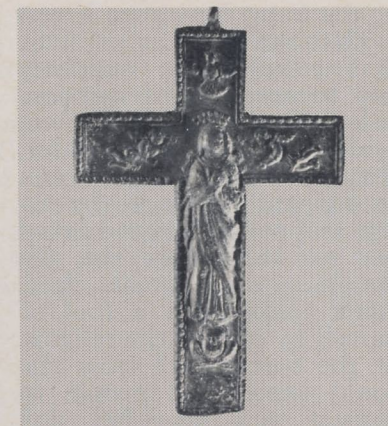
excuse for the lazy Christians. If you refuse to work — all right. But neither shall you eat." She poured the hot sagamité from the kettle into a bowl and put it in her basket. "After you have fasted the whole day you'll be willing to work next Sunday, I am sure."

Kateri remained firm. For the next few months she had to spend Sundays without a meal. She did not waver, though, but remained steadfast, friendly and obedient, although every Sunday brought a renewal of the torture.

When the aunts became convinced that their punishment did not break Kateri's determination, they began adding new pains and persecutions, scolding her all the time and finding fault with everything. Although she did practically the whole work of the household, it suddenly was not enough for Karitha and Arosen. They pursued her with orders and commands from morning to night, criticized and insulted her, drove her relentlessly, so that she was hardly able to rest for a minute.

Tekakwitha kept silent. She never told the priest what she had to suffer at home. It was only much later that he heard about it from people to whom Karitha had described her efforts to "tame the stubborn girl".

Iowerano became frightened one day when he realized



Another crucifix from the same site.

the extreme weakness of his daughter. "We have to stop ruining her health," he told the two women. "You have done a terrible job on her. There will be no more pressure from us!"

"Are we going to give up and let her laugh at us?" Arosen asked angrily. "No", he replied, "but we must change our tactics. Maybe we can shame her and frighten her away from the Christian religion with the help of our friends in the village." What he had in mind was the fact that the Mohawks — even strong and courageous warriors — feared nothing as much as reproaches and ridicule from their own people. The Jesuits had found this out from bitter experience; that's why they encouraged the converts to leave their home towns and settle two hundred miles away in the village of prayer on the banks



of the Saint Lawrence River.

Thus the aunts ended their persecution quite suddenly and became friendly, reasonable and almost affectionate again. A few days later, though, strange things began to happen. People in the village stopped Kateri and asked her scornfully how she, the daughter of a great chief, could make such a fool of herself by joining the religion of the foreigners? How she could expect the people to respect and love her any longer if she followed the crazy ways of the French? Wasn't she ashamed of going to the meetings of the pale-face blackrobes?

Soon even the children be-

gan to mock her. They would spit out in front of her and hiss with utter contempt: "You dirty Christian!"

She was greatly upset by these attacks. However, she soon realized their meaning and purpose, and bravely bore these humiliations. Sometimes she was frightened indeed when one or the other man, acting like a drunkard, threatened her or tried to pull her from the path. She tore herself away and ran to the chapel where she arrived, trembling and breathless, to join the congregation. Neither to the priest nor to her parents did she mention these happenings.



Two medals from the site of the old St. John the Baptist Mission among the Onondaga

The cross comes from the site of the Mission of St. Stephen, at Thiohero, among the Cayugas, two miles north of Cayuga, N.Y.

The photos of these religious articles of another age were taken by Professor E. A. Bates of Cornell University

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. W. D. !**

I am glad to tell you that I have been cured by Kateri. Last January, I stumbled and fell. On January 21, I had a stroke which kept me in the hospital for thirteen days during two or three of which I was almost unconscious. I was soon normal again, but afterwards, my blood pressure was either too low or too high. Now, everything seems to have settled down. So I am sending five dollars as promised for my recovery, declaring myself Kateri's humble and devout servant. (Rouyn, P.Q.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. L. P. !**

You will find enclosed a five dollar check for many favors obtained through the intercession of good Kateri. Pray for me and help me for I have again lost someone who was very dear to me. He died very quietly at the hospital with a picture of Kateri close to his heart. He received the Last Rites and died as a true Christian. I'm nearly blind now and my health is only fair to middling. Please pray so that I can take up my work again. I've not stopped asking Kateri to help me continue to live and also to help those who live with me. Thank you, Kateri. (Montreal, P. Q.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss T. F. !**

Herein is a small offering to Kateri in order to thank her for the help she is giving me. I am suffering much from arthritis, as a consequence of a fractured spine. Last winter I could not go out, but since I am praying Kateri, I have improved. Every evening I recite one Our Father and one Hail Mary to hasten her beatification, and this I promise to do for a few years. (Montreal, P.Q.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. S. S. !**

For Kateri's cause, here is a fifty dollar offering in acknowledgement of the cure of my illness. I promised publication of this favor. (W. Seneca, N.Y.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. A. M. !**

In your last letter to me you asked me to keep you informed about the sick girl for whom I asked you to pray to Kateri. I gave her mother a picture of Kateri and told her to recite the prayer morning and night for nine days. She came home, then had to be taken back to the hospital, and her condition was worrying both parents and doctors. Then I received your letter and the medal of Kateri and I gave it to her aunt and they attached it to her clothes and continued reciting the prayer: then the change came. The operation was successful to the joy of both doctors and parents. M. M. is up and walks around and is feeling great. So thank God and Kateri! God bless you all. (Pierrefonds, P.Q.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)



✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M. M. !**

Enclosed is a donation in thanksgiving for my daughter's health. She is very much better. I know our prayers to Kateri were answered. Our daughter had a damaged nerve to her bladder, an aftereffect of chicken pox. She is twenty-one and is training for a nurse. A week after your letter came, Father, she called to tell us about her last examination, that it showed much improvement. We always felt very close to Kateri after reading her life story. I also had visited her shrine in 1964. We are very happy and grateful. God love you. (Johnstown, Pa.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. !**

Enclosed you will find a donation to Kateri for a favor granted. I hope you will print this, she really helped us out of a bad situation. We will always be grateful to Kateri and continue to pray to her for help and guidance. Thank you. (North Babylon, N.Y.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. J. Q. !**

Enclosed is ten dollars. Four of it is for the book **The Visions of Bernard de Hoyos, S.J.**, and one for my subscription renewal.

The other five I promised Kateri for her help in a safe and speedy recovery from an operation. I've asked her intercession maybe ten times a day for help with problems raising my seven children. She answers me instantly and always where it will bring the most honor to God.

Enclosed is my pledge. I've been saying the prayers, but forgot to send it. I hope she is canonized soon. She is one of God's chosen. (Pittsburgh, Pa.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M. L. !**

I'm enclosing a pledge I signed although I've been praying for Kateri's sainthood for years — ever since they had an office on 16th Street, in New York City. I'm not sure whether my subscription is over, but at any rate, I'm enclosing a dollar for her Cause. She has, through her prayers, been a big help to me over the years. . .

(Syracuse, N. Y.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. P. K. !**

... My second daughter was in a car accident. The car was demolished but she came out of it unhurt with her Kateri relic in her purse she says. I am sure Kateri was with them. Find enclosed five dollars. . . (Kelowna, B.C.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)

## Father Michael K. Jacobs, S.J., Jubilarian

FATHER Michael Karhaienton Jacobs, S.J., the only Mohawk Jesuit priest in the world, celebrates his Golden Jubilee in the Society of Jesus, August 15, 1972.

I first met Father Michael Karhaienton Jacobs, S.J., in 1934. I was about to complete my two years' novitiate at Sault-au-Récollet in Montreal. Father Jacobs had just been ordained a priest and I was much impressed by his air of recollection. I enjoy teasing about his saintly appearance at the time.

He has worked very faithfully with every Vice-Postulator since Fr. John Wynne's time to foster the cause of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, Mohawk Indian Maiden.

Karhaienton was born in the St. Francis Xavier Mission, at the town of Caughnawaga, P.Q., May 11, 1902. His parents, Joseph and Ann Jacobs, both lived in the Reservation all their lives. Michael is able to trace his ancestry in direct line to 1715 in the church records of the Mission.

Until the age of sixteen Michael attended the Indian Reservation School where he learned both Indian and English, an asset later on in dealing with the Indians now the main focus of his priestly ministry.

In September 1918, Father Gras, S.J., sent Michael along with another Indian boy to Sacred Heart College, Sudbury, Ontario, a distance of 555 miles from Caughnawaga. Knowing how Indians get lonesome, the missionary priest made sure that the



two students would not play truant, and make their long way back on foot. A note to this effect was found later on by Father Jacobs in the memoirs on Father Gras.

Before going home for the summer vacation in 1922, Michael made a retreat of decision. He decided to join the Jesuits and entered the novitiate in Montreal, August 15, 1922. That day the Blessed Virgin cured his Mother who had been sick for a year, having gained no relief from doctors of medicine.

It was the Feast of the Assumption. A procession through the village of Caughnawaga was in progress when a thunder storm broke out followed by a torrential downpour. The priest and the altar boys, — Michael was one of them — entered the nearest home with the statue of the Blessed Mother which



they were carrying. It was his mother's house. Mrs. Jacobs was able to venerate the statue and pray to the Blessed Mother for her cure. Father Samuel Granger blessed her and prayed: from that day on she got better. On this occasion, too, the Blessed Mother told Mrs. Jacobs that her son would be a priest, a secret kept from Michael until he was a Jesuit priest. This wonderful Christian died at the age of ninety-five on December 24, 1969.

Following his novitiate at Sault-au-Recollet, Montreal, Michael pursued the regular Jesuit course of that day: two years of juniorate (1925-1926), and three years of philosophy (1926-1929) at the



Fr. Michael Jacobs, S.J., and Fr. Francis Arsenault, S.J., his Pastor

Immaculate Conception Scholasticate; in Montreal he then taught at the Seminary of Gaspé, P.Q. (1928-1930), and began his theology at the Immaculate Conception in Montreal in 1931.

Archbishop William Forbes of Ottawa ordained Michael Jacobs a Jesuit priest, July 1, 1934, in the St. Francis Xavier Mission Church, Caughnawaga, where the archbishop as a missionary priest had baptized him in 1902. Because Michael was the first Iroquois ever ordained to the priesthood, the ordination was a day of days in Caughnawaga.

Both parents of Father Jacobs lived to see their son become a priest of God. His brothers, Angus, Frank, and Tom were present at the ceremonies. They have all died since. Three of his sisters, Cecilia, Lottie and Mary were also at his ordination. Last summer, in August 1971, his sister Lottie, wife of Michael Snow, died in Caughnawaga.

Tertianship in Chicoutimi, P.Q., under the guidance of Father Samuel Bellavance, S.J., followed the completion of theology. From 1936-1938, Father worked among his own people in Caughnawaga, teaching Religion, preaching in Mohawk, and visiting families.

From 1938-1965, Father Jacobs was pastor of St. Regis', serving the Iroquois Indians in their own language. Today he is assistant to Father Francis Arsenault, S.J.

The total population of the St. Regis Reserve is 5,298, the majority of which are Catholics. The Mission was founded in 1752 and includes 2,298 Indians in the Valleyfield Diocese, 800 on Cornwall Island in the Alexandria Diocese, and 2,200 more across the border in the Dio-

cese of Ogdensburg in New York State. Father Jacobs, therefore, is under three bishops and works for three dioceses.

Our Jubilarian has given and still gives his "heart and soul" to the strengthening of the Faith of his ancestors among the Indians of the St. Regis Reservation.

Each year, Father Jacobs generally attends the Indian Day at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Martyrs in Auriesville, N.Y., where the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha was born; several times yearly he also comes to the Mission of St. Francis Xavier in Caughnawaga, where the Lily of the Mohawks achieved union with God here below and where she died. Father prays to her with all his heart; he begs Our Lord to elevate her as soon as possible to the glory of the altars: by direct and constant

ACTION, he intends to devote the rest of his life to this important apostolate.

In the name of all *Kateri's* readers, and in my own name, I now extend to Father Michael Karhaienton Jacobs my fraternal congratulations on this, his jubilee.

He plans to make a pilgrimage to the Auriesville Shrine to thank St. Isaac Jogues, Apostle of the Iroquois, for his vocation, and to thank the Venerable Kateri at her birthplace for the protection she gives to the Indians of St. Regis and of Caughnawaga. He prays fervently through Kateri's intercession for the miracle needed for her beatification.

*Ad multos et faustissimos annos!*  
To Father Michael, many more happy and glorious years in the service of Christ!

#### ✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Miss V. L.!

It is with great gratitude, and sorrow that I write this letter. I will explain as best I possibly can. Besides my dear Mother, there was one brother left in her family of seven. She received word shortly before Christmas that he was critically ill, and not expected to recover. I asked God that he at least let her have her Christmas, which brought her great joy. We had a quiet but pleasant Christmas. Then just the day before New Year's, she received news that her brother had passed away at a quarter past eleven o'clock in the evening, on December 30. Before we told her this sad news, I asked our own Kateri to let her bear the news well and not become ill, as she does have a heart condition. Father, there my Mother was giving courage and strength to my two oldest brothers who were very close to our Uncle. And so far, she is bearing up pretty well. Of course she could look and feel much better. On my visit to the doctor for myself this afternoon, I'm going to consult him about her. She was seventy-two on April 1. I thank God each day for having my dear parents whom I love dearly...

(Cornwall, Ont.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)



✧ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. R. D. !**

I am sending this check for five dollars in thanksgiving. When my grand-daughter was about eleven years of age, she started skipping school, etc., and as the years went on, she went from bad to worse; she was even in a detention home for a while. When she was sixteen, she became pregnant and gave birth to a baby boy; she was taken care of by the clinic. I brought her and the baby home for six weeks, after which she moved back into an apartment in the city on welfare. When her baby was about two months old, she met this young man who soon asked her to marry him. He is very good to her and loves her baby so very much, and now they are expecting a baby soon. They were married in the Catholic Church. I started asking Kateri to help... way back when she was about eleven years old and have been asking for her help ever since... I can't thank Kateri enough. (Liverpool, N.Y.)

✧ **Kateri's smile upon you, Brother L. F. !**

Please find enclosed a twenty-two dollar check for Kateri's glorification in order to acknowledge the favors already received, and to obtain from her the graces I need, so as to sanctify the time which is left to me and to profit by the trials which accompany old age (I am 78 and have Parkinson's disease). My feet, hands eyes and ears have served me well all along those 78 years for which I am thankful to God. No wonder that it is more difficult to use them now! I ask Kateri to help me profit as much as possible from my infirmity for God's glory and the salvation of souls... (Val Morin, P.Q.)

✧ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss C. M. !**

...If you recall, I told you my brother was critically ill with little hope and his condition got worse. A day or two after his condition dropped, your relic and picture arrived. I touched him with the relic and taped it and Kateri's picture to his bed in the intensive care section. He started to show improvement the next day. After twelve days in intensive care, he became well enough to leave there. He has been in the hospital two and a half months now and is not strong enough for the major brain surgery he needs, but he is alive and seems to improve each day and I know it's Kateri who is protecting and helping him. When I have a little more time I will write to you a detailed letter. (Pittsburgh, Pa.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)

✧ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M. F. S. !**

I am enclosing five dollars to help the cause of Kateri and to thank her for many favors received. We ask for the grace or resignation in trials and to accept all with humility and patience. I pray daily one Our Father and one Hail Mary for her beatification and signed the pledge. I trust soon she will be raised to Blessed. We place our trust in Kateri and the Sacred Heart. (Hamilton, Ont.)

✧ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss A. F. !**

Enclosed is a check for five dollars, for our friend Kateri. My friend P. R., reports that her nephew, T. R., is doing wonderfully well. The doctors said it would be good for T. to take a little trip for Christmas. So he went back to Illinois to visit a friend over the holidays. He is also getting all "A" grades in his school work. So Kateri surely helped this young boy, who was given up by the doctors... (River Forest, Ill.)

✧ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. R. C. !**

Thanks a lot to Kateri who has reduced my work hours, thus allowing me not to work on Sundays. Kateri also helped me when I succeeded in a C.E.G.E.P. (course), and she obtained me a time-table well in harmony with my job. A thousand thanks to Kateri! (Montreal, P.Q.)

✧ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. S. H. !**

Enclosed please find a check for ten dollars. Nine dollars for Kateri and one dollar for my subscription to Kateri. I visited the mission in 1967, on a pilgrimage. I started on some new medicine for my rheumatism and promised Kateri I would send some money if it helped me. I am much better thanks to her. I wish it were more but my husband is 70 years old and retired. Thanks again. (Jackson, Mich.)

✧ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. R. W. !**

Enclosed is a check of twenty dollars which I promised for a favor granted. My husband has diabetes, and, last summer, spent ten weeks in bed with an ulcer on his ankle that would not heal. In October he underwent surgery, bypassing an artery in his leg. The ulcer healed without any medication, and he made a wonderful recovery. I feel that our prayers to Kateri Tekakwitha were answered. (New Orleans, La.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)



## A QUESTION AND AN ANSWER

From one of Kateri's friends comes the following question:

*"Father I have a question I hope you won't mind answering. It's about confession. All my life I have gone to confession at least once a month. Now our priests say it is a waste of their time unless there is mortal sin. Thank God! I have no mortal sin, but now I feel strange about going to confession, and as a result do not go as before. Please tell me if I am doing wrong by not confessing as before.*

I shall be happy to give you a clear-cut answer to your question concerning confession. The Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, who never seriously offended God in her life, used to receive the Sacrament of penance weekly. The missionaries, who were busy men, found the time to hear the confessions of their little flock at least once a week. Any priest who tells the faithful to come to confession only when they have committed mortal sin, is, to my way of thinking, revealing the secret of confession, for the public will certainly think that those who do go to confession are guilty of having seriously offended God. Catholics who do not commit mortal sins will often keep away from the Holy Tribunal precisely because they do not want to be labelled as serious offenders of God.

The Church has always taught that a single venial sin (even previously accused) is sufficient for

absolution. By what authority, have these priests decided to change the official teaching and practice of the Church?

As of old, besides the forgiveness of sins, the Sacrament of Penance procures sacramental grace for the penitent — a special aid to help him avoid the sins he has accused. Another aspect of this sacrament is too often overlooked: in every sacrament, there is a special meeting with Christ, and in the Sacrament of Penance, He comes to the penitent as a merciful Father. Furthermore, since the last Council, we know that the sinner, in the Sacrament of Penance, not only is reconciled with God, but also with the Church, and this holds true for any kind of sin or sinner.

Priests who advocate confession only for serious sin perhaps think this will place them in the up-to-date category of the relevant clergy; perhaps, some are too lazy or shiftless to hear confessions. In such cases, I am of the opinion that they should be directly contacted and the problem openly discussed; if they will not listen to reason, the only other solution that I see, is to report them to their pastor, and, if needs be to their bishop. In such cases, the laity should make itself heard.

Of course, by not going to confession under the conditions you stressed, you are not doing wrong. Do bear in mind, however, that it is your right to be heard in confession no matter what your sins may or may not be. H. B.

### ❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. A. J. M. !

Enclosed please find my pledge and a check for five dollars for Kateri's cause. I don't really need to sign this as I have been praying to the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha daily for the past fifteen years. You may be interested in hearing how it started.

When our four children were small, we wanted them to have a Catholic education and therefore the only way to do it was to drive a distance of ten miles twice daily to transport them myself as there was no bus available. Finances were limited and it was necessary to purchase a second car. I never knew whether or not the old car would keep up and we almost felt we might have to give up. The sister directress at the convent (a nun of the Presentation of Mary) told me about Kateri and enrolled me as a member of your Guild. She told me to keep on praying and that she would kindly help me.

Within a few weeks, I was offered a position as an automobile saleswoman from the dealer from whom we had purchased our car! This was on a part-time basis with an automobile furnished me to drive! I have been working in this profession since. It has been lucrative and, I know, thanks to Kateri's intercession, my children all received their Catholic education. They are all married and away from home now, but I still pray for Kateri's canonization. I feel she has helped me in many ways since I've known about her and prayed for her canonization. . . By the way, I leave Kateri booklets in the showroom for our customers to read. . . (Easthampton, Mass.)

### ❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. !

I am writing to thank you for the sale of our house, Kateri has great powers and I pray to her always. . . (Calgary, Alta.)

### ❖ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. A. S. !

Enclosed you will find an offering of five dollars to Kateri for a favor received. We asked her to pray that my Mother's eyes would not get worse. Her last eye examination showed that they did not get worse. Please pray for a friend of mine who is suffering from cancer.

(Dickson City, Pa.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)



✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. G. M. !**

Enclosed please find attached a check in the amount of one hundred dollars, for which I request the following arrangements. . . I prayed to the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha daily, requesting a favor from her, which involved her helping me sell a certain stock at a reasonable profit. The results are now history as you will note from the above. I now pray that the Lily of the Mohawks will be given permission to perform her second miracle in my lifetime.  
(Burlington, Ont.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. A. D. !**

I must write and tell you how our group of fifteen Junior Girl Scouts received the Kateri Tekakwitha Award this year. It was on Girl Scout Sunday March 12 during the 9:00 A.M. Mass. We had planned on the girls receiving the certificates immediately following the Mass, but our Pastor suggested receiving the certificates after the Offertory. We were overjoyed!

The girls' certificates and the Kateri Pins, Lily of the Mohawks (which you previously sent to me), were carried in the offertory procession and placed on the altar. As the girls' names were called each went up into the sanctuary and received her certificate and pin from the celebrant, Father H. J. M.

Later all of the girls received Holy Communion! It was beautiful and a first for our locality.

Father can you imagine our joy? There was an overflow of parishioners at this Mass and Father was overwhelmed at the number. So we feel there were many who heard of Kateri for the first time. After Mass the girls were photographed in front of the altar (another first) and then proceeded to the cafeteria for a light breakfast.

I hope that I have conveyed in mere words the joy that was ours on Sunday and remains with us.

We know our Kateri was indeed with us in our endeavors, and we had to share our memorable day with you.

(Larimer, Pa.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. C. G. S. !**

Early in the summer, I asked Kateri's intercession in the matter of my husband's employment. He has been recalled, for which we are most grateful, and we hope this will be permanent. As usual, there is always one more item! I ask her prayers for my daughter — good health, guidance at a critical time. Please accept this small offering in thanksgiving. . .  
(Audubon, N. J.)

*(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)*

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss M. V. !**

I have been writing to you for years, asking for your prayers and advice on many occasions when I felt there was no hope. I still keep your advice or, shall I say, that of the letters I receive telling me to have faith and pray. I pray to Kateri often, and I will say that she has helped me many times. I wrote to you last November and I asked for Kateri's prayers to help me after my cancer operation. I am happy to say that she has been very good to me. I wore her relic through the whole ordeal and I still wear it. I am back to work and the doctors say that I am very lucky. I owe my luck and recovery to Kateri. . .  
(Clintondale, N. Y.)

✿ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss C. D. !**

Many thanks to Kateri for having received an important document for which I had been waiting and which I had just about given up hope of receiving! I began a novena to her and in the middle of the novena, the much needed document arrived. Enclosed you will find one dollar for the cause of her Beatification.  
(Montreal, Quebec.)

*(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)*

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