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COMPLIMENTS

of the

Kahnawake

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CLUB



# KATERI

NO. 151

THE GARAGONTIÉ ROLL

LITTLE SISTER WANTS TO KNOW ...

KATERIGRAM

THE FIRST EASTER

EACH NEW MOON

KATERI ON SCRATCHBOARD

THREE DAYS FOR KATERI AT NOTRE-DAME-DU-NORD

VATICAN II—CHALLENGING AS GLOBAL COMMUNITY

BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA

THE LARGEST CRUCIFIX IN THE WORLD

A MAN OF PEACE

CORRESPONDENCE

LILY OF  
THE MOHAWKS

Kahnawake, P.Q., Canada

March • 1987





# Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

*Kateriana obtainable from the  
Office of the Vice-Postulation  
(The Kateri Center)*

**Box 70, Kahnawake, P.Q., Canada  
J0L 1B0**

ISSN 0315-8020



WHEN ORDERING, PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

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In English — *Kateri Tekakwitha*. With a Prefatory Note of John Cardinal Wright, by Francis X. Weiser, S.J., hardcover: \$8.00; paperback \$6.00  
In English — *Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha* by Bishop André-M. Cimichella, O.S.M., Revised Edition, 46 pp.: \$1.00  
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In English — *The Original Caughnawaga Indians* by Henri Béchard, S.J., hardcover: \$14.00  
In French — *L'Héroïque Indienne Kateri Tekakwitha* by Henri Béchard, S.J.: \$10.00  
In French — *L'Astre dans la nuit, Kateri Tekakwitha*, by Rachel Jodoin: \$14.50  
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## Subscription to "Kateri"

1. Two dollars a year. Please renew your subscription yearly.



KATERI, No. 151 Vol. 39, No. 2

## 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 Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. It is hoped her Canonization 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 Canonization.
3. It also seeks 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 native peoples of America, with special reference to the people of Kahnawake and their friends.

## BENEFITS

Your contribution (\$2.00 a year, or more, if possible) enrolls you among "Kateri's Friends" for whom:

1. A weekly Mass is offered;
2. A weekly Mass for deceased friends is offered;
3. The Vice-Postulator prays at his daily Mass;
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 canonization.

## MARCH 1987

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## THE GARAKONTIÉ ROLL

An Onondage chief of considerable prestige, profoundly imbued with the traditions of his people, Daniel Garakontié, favored the Jesuit missionaries before and after his baptism by Bishop de Laval. He distinguished himself by his ability and patience as well as by his political know-how.

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## ONE HUNDRED ENVELOPES

First Day Issue of

Kateri Stamp

\$1.50



## Little Sister wants to know...

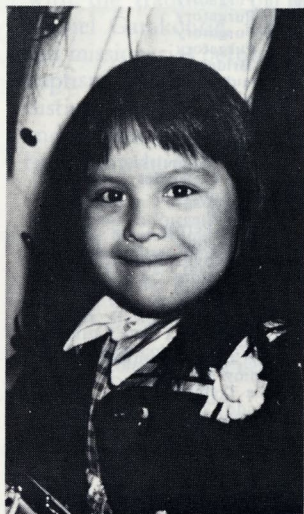


PHOTO ARMOUR LANDRY

...if you won't help us get at least 50,000 promises of a daily Our Father and Hail Mary!

We need them to obtain from the loving Heart of Jesus the speedy canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

Already 19,987 have come in.

Please send yours to:  
The Kateri Center  
Box 70  
Kahnawake, P.Q.  
Canada J0L 1B0

MY PLEDGE TO KATERI

Date .....

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

Name .....  
Street or Box .....  
City or Town .....  
Province or State ..... Code .....  
Country ..... Telephone .....

## The Kateri Sympathy Cards !

5

good reasons  
for having a  
box on hand  
all the time :

On the occasion of the death of a relative or friend, all you have to do is to sign a card and send it to the bereaved family.

We confirm your sympathy offering with a personal letter, and enroll the departed one in the Kateri Guild, for whom,

1. A Weekly High Mass is offered at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier;
2. An Intention is included daily in the Memento of the Vice-Postulator's Mass;
3. The Treasury of the many Masses read each month for the benefactors of the Society of Jesus is opened;
4. A Share in the good works of the Jesuits throughout the world is assured;
5. Participation in the merits gained in helping the Cause of the Lily of Mohawk's is guaranteed.

Write to the Kateri Center, Box 70, Kahnawake, P.Q., Canada J0L 1B0 for a free sample card.

One dozen cards  
boxed: \$2.50.

Each yearly enrollment in the Kateri Tekakwitha Guide: two dollars.

## SEND IN YOUR INTENTIONS NOW

### Spiritual

- ☐ Love of God
- ☐ Conversions
- ☐ Peace of Soul
- ☐ Resignation in Trials
- ☐ Vocations
- ☐ Faithful Departed
- ☐ Happy Death
- ☐ Obedience to the Holy Father

### Temporal

- ☐ Positions
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Lodgings
- ☐ Financial Aid
- ☐ Happy Marriages
- ☐ Happy Deliveries
- ☐ Good Friends
- ☐ Success in Studies
- ☐ Peace in World

Other Requests .....

YOUR INTENTIONS SHALL BE FORWARDED TO FATHER ANTHONY ROUSSOS, S.J., ON JUNE 1, AT BEYROUT, LEBANON. HE WILL CELEBRATE NINE MASSES FOR YOU IN THE AGONY OF CONTINUED WAR. (NO OFFERING REQUIRED.)



## KATERIGRAM

**B**LESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA was able to enjoy Easter only four times: on the day of her Baptism, April 5, 1676, on April 18, 1677, on April 10, 1678, and on April 2, 1679.

This year, for Holy Week and Easter, let us go back to 1678, let us go to the Christian Indian village on the St. Lawrence, opposite Montreal. Following their good custom, the hunters who were not too far away returned for the holy days. Kateri Tekakwitha was among them. It was the first time she took part with the rest of the village.

She faithfully attended all the ceremonies of Holy Week and took a great liking for them. She felt so much consolation that she shed many tears, especially on Good Friday as she listened to the sermon on the Passion of her beloved Jesus. She was deeply moved to tears at the sight of the suffering He had endured for her and thanked Him a thousand times. She adored and kissed the Cross, thereby manifesting her most tender gratitude. It may be said she then attached herself to the gibbet of Jesus Christ forever.

On Easter Sunday, she received Communion for the second time with the same fervor as on the previous Christmas Day. She came out of this furnace of sacred love so glowing with its divine fire that only Our Lord knew what passed between Himself and His dear Spouse.

At this time, Bishop de Laval had established the Association of the Holy Family at Quebec, where it was doing much good. This devotion spread to the other parishes and even to the native missions. It was a success, for according to the same Jesuit, the Native People, once they had given themselves to God, were capable of the greatest and the most whole-hearted devotion. These members of the elite upheld its new character by so exemplary a piety, that the rest of the population looked upon them with veneration, and to call a person a saint or a member of the Holy Family was to say one and the same thing. On Easter, after only seven or eight months at the Mission, Kateri was admitted to the Holy Family, though the majority were received only at an advanced age and after many years of trial. Kateri Tekakwitha was the only one to think herself unworthy of this privilege.

HENRI BÉCHARD, S.J.,  
Vice-Postulator

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

Enclosed please find a check for five dollars in thanksgiving to Blessed Kateri. I invoked her last week when my daughter A. was very ill with a bleeding ulcer. She had only half of her blood left and had to have 8 units of blood. Thank God she did not die with all this loss of blood. Blessed Kateri answered my prayers for my daughter and I wish to acknowledge this fact. May God bless you and your work in honor of Blessed Kateri.

(Armstrong, B.C.)

### ✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. T.N.!

. . . I have enclosed a check for twenty-five dollars. D. has been having trouble with her eyes, and her eye doctor sent her to an eye surgeon. I promised Kateri if D. could come out of his office with minor problems and no surgery that I would send you a check for Kateri's Cause. Well, things seem to be O.K. for now; she has to go back to him in six months. He feels she may be following in her father's footsteps. They have caught the trouble at a very early stage if it exists, so, hopefully, they may be able to treat it. Will have to wait and see . . .

(Brockton, MA)

### ✿ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. L.T.!

I'm sending a check for five dollars to thank Kateri for finding a check that was lost and also for helping me in many ways.

(Northampton, MA)

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

Last March, after I had surgery in my left eye (the other one is useless), I became almost totally blind. I could not read, write or go out alone; you can imagine how I worried! My dear sister, A., who has great faith in Kateri, spoke to me about her and said Kateri had never refused her anything; so I asked A. to write to you for me and send a contribution toward her cause. I promised that if my sight was restored just enough to be able to read and write and do my own shopping, I would send another contribution. Well my prayer has been answered; I don't see as I did at 20 years but I manage very well. Today I reread all the literature you sent me on Kateri and I wish to thank you so much for your personal note telling me you were joining me daily in asking Blessed Kateri to recommend my sight to our Blessed Lord. I believe your prayers along with those of my good friends and family are what caused me to regain some of my sight. Enclosed is my check for twenty-five dollars. I recite the prayer to Kateri daily . . .

(Winnipeg, Man.)

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



## THE FIRST WITNESS...

The first witness

Christians must bear  
to the world  
is Love.

The second  
resembles it:  
Joy.

Gilbert Cesbron



Sr. Mercedes, O.D.C. pinxit.

Russian Church of the Presentation of Mary  
44 Guizot St. W., Montreal

"HE IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!"



## EACH NEW MOON



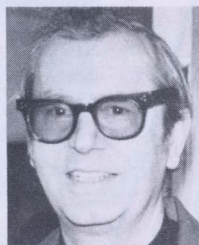
### KATERI'S SMILE...

Favors registered at the Kateri Center from October 23, 1986 to January 5, 1987:

Abortions Averted	1
Alcoholic Problem Solved	1
Articles Found	6
Better Health	35
Cures	14
Employment Found or Kept	30
Financial Aid	3
Happy Death	1
Lodgings	5
Peace in Family	1
Peace at Work	1
Properties Bought or Sold	10
Return to the Faith	1
Safe Trips	8
Saved from Fire	1
Spiritual Favor	1
Successful Studies	4
Successful or Averted Operations	16
Temporal Favors	14

### OBITUARY: REV. ROBERT L. FLEIG, S.J.

Rev. Robert L. Fleig, S.J., parochial vicar of St. John Francis Regis Church on the St. Regis-Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation, suffered a fatal attack at the parish rectory on October 15, 1986. Efforts by the rescue squad to revive him were in vain.



Born in Albany, New York on August 30, 1931, Father Fleig was the son of the late Henry Fleig and Rose Sullivan Fleig. His early education was in Glens Falls, New York, where he graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1949. After a year at Lemoyne College, Syracuse, New York, he entered the Jesuit novitiate of St. Andrew-on-Hudson, Poughkeepsie, New York in 1951 and continued his studies at Loyola Seminary, Shrub Oak, New York.

A year of teaching at McQuaid High School, Rochester, New York, and two more at Canisius High School, Buffalo, New York were followed by theology at Weston College, Weston, Massachusetts, where he was ordained in 1963. In 1965 he rejoined the faculty of Canisius High School and during his teaching years there earned a master's degree in sociology at the University of Buffalo.

In 1972 Father Fleig was named treasurer and assistant director of the National Shrine of the North

American Martyrs, Auriesville, New York. It was during his years at Auriesville that he became increasingly involved in the cause of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, serving on the committee formed in 1974 to mark the tricentennial of Blessed Kateri's death, speaking to parish and school groups about her saintly life, assisting with the exhibit in her honor at the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1976, dedicating the book he authored, "The Christian Indians's Prayer," to her memory, and accompanying the group which attended the beatification ceremonies in Rome in 1980.

After two years at the Manresa Retreat House, Staten Island, New York, Father Fleig was assigned along with Rev. Thomas F. Egan, S.J. to St. Regis Mission in 1982 where they served together until this past fall.

Shocked by his sudden passing, over 1,200 of the residents of St. Regis-Akwesasne Reservation filed past the coffin of Father Fleig at the Kateri Hall, the parish activity center. Many who came to express their sympathy were adherents of other faiths including a large number who follow the traditional Indian beliefs. One of the latter wrote in the November 25 issue of *Indian Times* "The Jesuit priest, Father Fleig, was one of those rare individuals who left in his passing a spirit of commitment, cooperation, and compassion . . . He made an immediate, highly favorable impression here. Our people found it hard not to respond to the warmth and

genuine interest he showed for our community."

The author of the above-mentioned editorial observed that Father Fleig took a risk when he joined the protest last spring against the illegal speakeasies on the reserve, a step which resulted in his picture appearing in the *New York Times*.

Father Fleig is survived by a brother, Edward J. Fleig of Gloversville, New York, six nephews, three nieces, and several aunts and uncles. (See p. 28, "A Man of Peace").

Thomas F. Egan, S.J.

### FR. FRANZ XAVIER WEISER, S.J. MAY HE REST IN PEACE!

At the age of 85, Rev. Francis X. Weiser, S.J., died on October 22 at Campion Hall in Weston, Massachusetts. He was the author of 22 books in German and English on Christian life and culture, and a former professor at Emmanuel and Boston Colleges.



The Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated on October 22 in Holy Spirit Chapel at the Center. He is survived by two sisters and two brothers, all of his native Austria.

A Vienna native, Fr. Weiser entered the Society of Jesus in 1916, and studied in Munich and Inns-



bruck before his ordination in 1930 and did a year of special studies in the United States. He had earned doctorates in educational psychology and theology, respectively, at Innsbruck and the Gregorian University in Rome.

A few years later, he was back in Vienna where he took charge of a youth magazine and of the Catholic Sodalities of the country until the invasion of Austria by the Nazis. He managed to escape to the United States in 1938.

In this new land, he first served in Buffalo, N.Y., before being appointed to the Holy Trinity German church in the South End, Boston. He was pastor of that parish from 1943 until 1950. During World War II, he ministered to German prisoners of war in the Greater Boston area.

Fr. Weiser soon acquired a fine reputation as lecturer and writer. Among his most popular books were *The Easter Book*, *The Christmas Book*, and *The Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs*. He wrote a very successful life of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha in German, and another in English, now in its fifth edition. He also contributed articles to many periodicals, among them the *Kateri* quarterly.

Fr. Francis X. Weiser was a talented, hard-working religious seeking the glory of God in all things. He shall, I am sure, rest in the peace of Christ he served so well.

## KATERI WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS ME!

A photo of a new statue of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha appeared in the Christmas issue of the *Kateri* quarterly. The summer, autumn, and winter *Kateris* all spoke of Blessed Kateri's life and baptism at what is today Fonda, N.Y., but the caption pertaining to the statue did not.

I was present on July 12, when Bishop Donald E. Pelotte blessed it at Fonda, but was not informed until it was too late that the Reverend Nicholas Weiss, O.F.M., Conv., had commissioned it, that the Nosek Family had paid for it, and that the Very Reverend Conall McHugh, Provincial of the Conventual Franciscans, had declared it the official Fonda statue.

I now wish to apologize wholeheartedly for my error, which may be explained by the fact that an identical statue was blessed by Bishop Pelotte on July 13, the following day, at the Auriesville Shrine of the North American Martyrs, where Blessed Kateri was born. That is why I really feel Blessed Kateri will not accuse me of injustice or deception and will continue to bless me in my work. This beautiful statue will continue to inspire devotion to many old and new friends of the Lily of the Mohawks. Father Weiss is to be congratulated.

## AN INTERESTING ARTICLE ON TEKAKWITHA

In *Ancient Man, Information Exchange*, Vol. 3, 1986, Stephen E.

Porcelli, founder, and editor of this review, wrote a three-page article, "Tekakwitha: The Lily of the Mohawks." It is an excellent summary of the life of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. "The chronology above . . . is sketchy by design," he noted, "nonetheless the astute reader will notice an abundance of topics deserving further study.

Cultural interaction, the care provided the handicapped and orphaned, and Christianity's role in clarifying and strengthening the Indian's ancient belief in one Supreme Being are just a few areas which require more research . . ." (Tekakwitha Institute of Ancient Man, Woodbridge, Virginia).

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

Enclosed please find an offering of one hundred dollars, as promised, in thanksgiving for a favor received, to aid in the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Kateri. I had asked Blessed Kateri's help in the sale of my home and within one week it was sold . . . (Bonita Springs, FL)

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

My memory is so poor I can't be sure of the spelling of your name. But you wrote me the kindest letter I had ever received, on the occasion of my sister's death. You promised to remember her as long as you lived and told me you were 75. May the Good Lord keep you well and happy for at least another twenty years. You also said you would recommend my eyes to Kateri and I am happy to say they are a lot better than they were. Not nearly as painful, though sometimes I forget to bathe them as ordered. I'll be 75 in December. Its no fun to get old is it? Now I have a new favor to report. I was away and told my retarded son not to forget to water my plants especially one of A.'s. I'd brought from her home. Well, he watered them all right! The water poured under the glass on the lovely bureau and I didn't see it for days after. Indeed I put some water on the plant myself! But the bureau top had all turned white. I sandpapered it and put vinegar but to no avail. I told Blessed Kateri I'd give her ten dollars if I could restore it. And would you believe it, Father, my sister came and applied gobs of salad dressing! Now the bureau is reasonably restored and with my sincere thanks to Blessed Kateri. I'm sending twenty-five dollars. I said I'd give ten but find myself writing twenty-five. It is worth it to me for it was a good dresser and it would cost a fortune to have it done. So Kateri is really listening. (Kingston, Ont.)

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



❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Sr. M.R.!**

I owe a debt to Kateri and I wish to pay it before Christmas. About two months ago, two ladies and a little girl of about six years came into the gift shop at the Mission. I wanted to find out if it was their first visit—I usually speak to the children so that attracts their parents' attention, too—so, I asked her her name. She was French speaking and didn't want to talk to me. I said, "Oh! le chat a mangé ta langue!" (The cat ate your tongue!) She laughed and showed me her tongue and at that moment, I saw her medal of Kateri about her neck, so I said: "Oh! une belle petite fille comme toi, t'appelles-tu Kateri?" (Oh! a sweet little girl like you, is your name Kateri?) The mother came to me and said, "I have other children. When I became pregnant of this one, the other one before her was six and a half years old and I had always said that was enough and that was to be the end of my family! So, I went to see a Doctor for an abortion. The time and place was determined and a few weeks after, he called me to tell me that a bed was reserved for me and I was to have my abortion the next day. I said 'That's fine, I'll be there.'" The mother continued, "As I hung up, I had a vision of Kateri and something inside of me kept saying, 'Place yourself in Kateri's hands, give your child to Kateri! Trust her!'" She said she knew of Kateri but never had any devotion to her. As she went about doing her housework, the thought of Kateri was constantly with her until a few hours later when she called up the Doctor to cancel the abortion and to tell him that she would keep the little one. All went well and she called the baby, "Katherine." The mother lovingly hugged the girl to her side and with a joyful expression said, "She is a treasure! I was never sorry I kept her."

Our Blessed Kateri is a girl for four seasons, don't you think? I surely will encourage future mothers to look up to Kateri.

So far I have known two alcoholics going to Kateri and they came through with flying colors.

Also, two people with eye trouble, a pregnancy, a case of leukemia. Those favored came to say thanks to Kateri. The girl was seventeen years old and the mother wanted to show her Kateri's tomb and the place dear to Kateri's heart. A gentleman in a wheelchair for two years came dancing into the gift shop to say thank you, and as witness of his testimony he had his wife and mother with him. These are a few favors received from Kateri. I wanted to tell you about this pregnancy. Our dear Kateri is so timely.

Nineteen hundred and eighty seven is the year of the homeless: she knew that feeling, too! (Kahnawake, P.Q.)

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



The artwork of Sister M. Jean Dorcy, O.P., depicted above, was used fifty years ago to teach Indian children how Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha kept the Ten Commandments.

COURTESY OF THE BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS

2021 H Street, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20006





1-2-3 August 1986  
Notre-Dame-du-Nord

## THREE DAYS FOR KATERI

by Vincent Cadieux, O.M.I.

Blessed Kateri interpreted by Barbie Wabi during the three-day festivities

ON AUGUST 1, 2, AND 3, 1986, once again the Algonquins gathered together at Notre-Dame-du-Nord to celebrate for the fifth consecutive year "Three Days for Kateri Tekakwitha." On Friday afternoon and during the entire evening, people arrived from Maniwaki, Winneway, Pikogan, Lake Simon and Grand Lake Victoria and set up their tents.

The inhabitants of Notre-Dame-du-Nord had done their best to welcome their visitors. A magnificent outdoor podium well decorated with saplings and tents served as meeting-place and temporary chapel.

As Friday was drawing to a close, the group rejoined together for the opening of the weekend. After a word of welcome in English, French, and Algonquin, Chief Randy Polson welcomed us to his community. Barbie Wabi, a young Algonquin, was also introduced to us. She will take the part of Kateri and will accompany us during all the activities of these days. An audiovisual montage recalled to mind the important stages of Kateri's life to get us into the atmosphere of the weekend.

On Saturday, Father Brouillard led the morning prayer on the camping grounds. After this, all took the direction of Fort Temis-



The platform of Notre-Dame-du-Nord, the main meeting place during the celebrations



From left to right: Fr. Réal Paiement, O.M.I., Fr. Rémi Cadieux, O.M.I., Barbie Wabi, Fr. Donat Martineau, O.M.I., and Fr. Edmond Brouillard, O.M.I.



The Corpus Christi procession on the Notre-Dame-du-Nord reservation



camingue, in the vicinity of Ville Marie, to visit it and especially to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the missionaries at Temiscamingue.

At the Old Fort, we began by visiting it with the official guides and after eating in picnic fashion, we came together to listen to Father Donat Martineau speak. He recalled that Father de Bellefeuille came from Oka in 1836 to establish a mission among the Algonquins at Temiscamingue. He also rapidly told how the missions started in the region. He spoke to us of the devotedness and of the difficult life of the first missionaries. Then, he said a few words about the mission itself. He recalled the history of the different chapels until the people moved to Notre-Dame-du-Nord. He then summarized the beginning of the actual reserve of Notre-Dame-du-Nord, starting with the family of Angcs McBride.

After that, the visit ended with "Kateri Tekakwitha's Little Way." It consisted in a walk broken up by six halts, which recalled the stages of Kateri's life. At each halt, a text was read in Algonquin, French, and English followed by a period of prayer. From one halt to the other, an Algonquin hymn composed by a Native North American woman help to keep us in a prayerful mood.

Back again at Notre-Dame-du-Nord, we celebrated the Eucharist in honor of Kateri Tekakwitha. Bishop Jean-Guy Hamelin, of Rouyn Noranda was the main celebrant. Following the mass, because of bad weather, we were obliged to shorten the period of those who wanted to bear witness in favor of Blessed Kateri.

On Sunday morning, we began the day with the procession of the Blessed Sacrament on the reserve, a traditional activity always followed by all the participants. Many banners had been prepared, one of which carried the picture of Kateri wrought on leather. Each one carried a little pennant carrying Blessed Kateri's logo. Then came the closing Mass with Father Brouillard as main celebrant. In his homily, Father Paiement invited all to a life of renouncement and prayer in the wake of Blessed Kateri.

These beautiful days ended with the traditional feast during which beaver, moose, hare, and fish were the gourmet items.

Our heartfelt thanks to the people of Notre-Dame-du-Nord and to Father Rémi Cadieux for having prepared these celebrations with so much devotedness and love. Many thanks also to the Kateri Committee, whose numbers always faithfully attend the preparatory reunions in preparation for the Kateri Days.

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you Mrs. C.S.!**

Enclosed find a check for ten dollars. I prayed to Blessed Kateri, asking her to intercede for a young lady I barely know, who is suffering with terminal cancer. She had a bad seizure and was near death. My prayers were answered right away: she is better and wants to go back to work and leave the hospital. She is up and around. We know that this is temporary but it gives her a little while longer and she is not suffering so much. I pray for her peace with God and a happy death . . .

(Manchester, NH)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. J.T.!**

Enclosed is a check for five dollars. At this time it is not much, but I wanted to do something for Kateri's canonization. I had been out of work for nine months, and I made a Novena to Kateri that I would get a good job. I had a small job for a few weeks, than the opportunity came for me to work for a contracting firm. In this day and time I am ever grateful for this job. I now feel my self-respect coming back after so long a time. I have my responsibilities to fulfill for I was behind in several of those commitments. Thank you again, Kateri. I will continue praying for those less fortunate than myself that this world will once again see that people have jobs and means to support their families. I saw this at the Texas Employment Commission each time I went there. Unemployment, hunger, and lack of self-respect is not easy to cope with. With the help of our dear Lord, we will all make it. Love you Kateri.

(Houston, TX)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. J.N.!**

A couple of weeks ago I received the Kateri magazine and I started praying to Kateri for my daughter-in-law that she would find a job to suit her . . . She had many interviews but nothing for her. I had been praying about a week. Suddenly she called (from Baltimore.) saying she got a beautiful job with hours she could have to be home when the children came back from school. She is a receptionist for an unemployment agency. She has had two bouts with cancer and had chemo and radiation and now she is in remission. She is 33 years old. Also my sister-in-law called and asked me to pray for her son. He just got laid off and had an application in a steel mill since April. I told him to pray to Kateri and the very next day he was called for the job at the steel mill. They would both like to receive the Kateri magazine . . .

(Butler, PA)

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

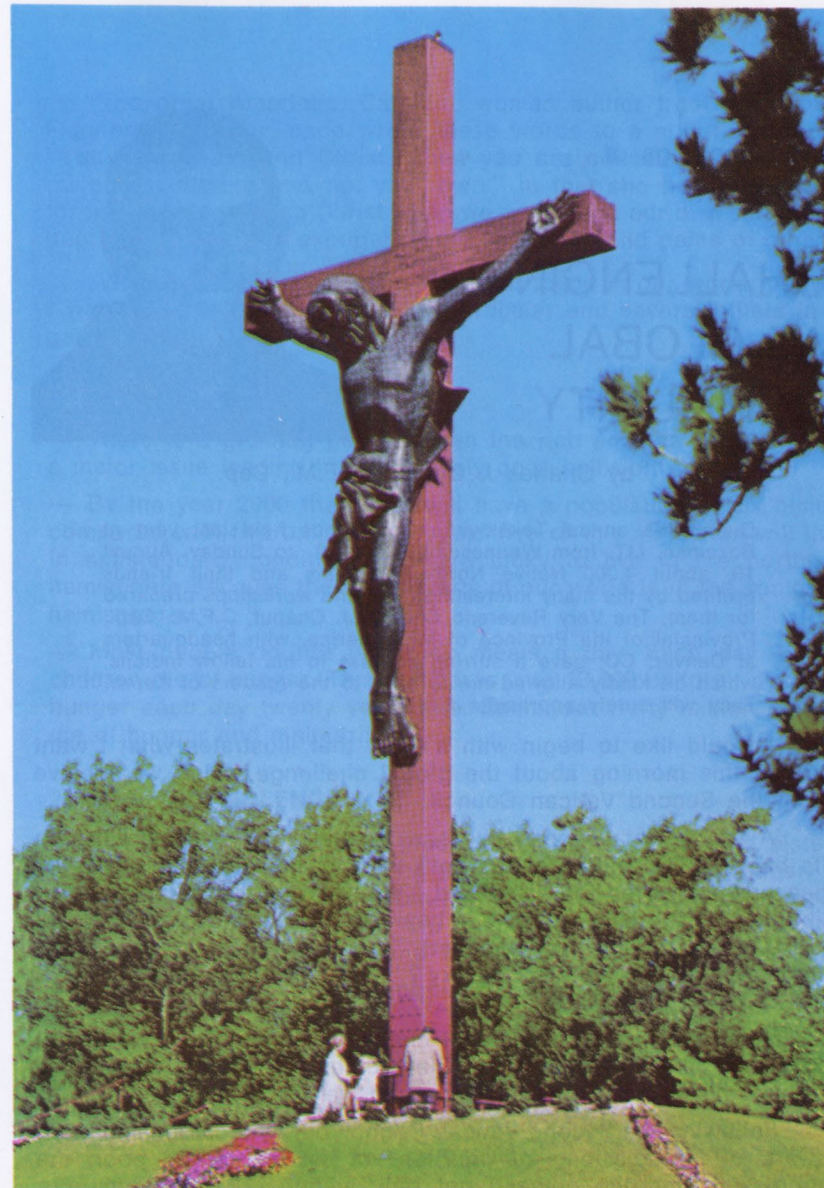




Sr. Lucile Sperry, S.S.J., pinxit.

**KATERI TEKAKWITHA**  
 "Lily of the Mohawks"

For the Indian River Shrine in Michigan, Sister Lucile Sperry, S.S.J., of Flint, Michigan, painted the above portrait of Blessed Kateri. The artist represented her during the winter hunt of 1678, with a red blanket, which she gave up for a blue one after a few core months at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier.



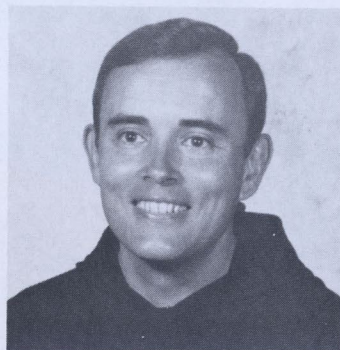
**"THE CROSS IN THE WOODS"**

On August 5, 1954, at the Indian River Shrine in Michigan, was erected "The Cross in the Woods," 55 feet high, 22 feet wide, and weighing 14 tons. It was hewn out of one California redwood tree. On August 16, 1959, the bronze corpus cast in Norway, the work of sculptor Marshall Fredericks, 31 feet high and weighing 7 tons, was blessed by Bishop Babcock. It is the largest crucifix in the world.



The teachings of  
Vatican II

## CHALLENGING AS GLOBAL COMMUNITY



by Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap.

During the annual Tekakwitha Conference held last year at Bozeman, MT, from Wednesday, August 6 to Sunday, August 10, about 4,000 Native North Americans and their friends profited by the many interesting talks and workshops prepared for them. The Very Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap., Provincial of the Province of Mid-America, with headquarters at Denver, CO, gave a stirring address to his fellow Indians, which he kindly allowed me to offer to the readers of *Kateri*. They will surely appreciate it.

I would like to begin with a story that illustrates what I want to say this morning about the global challenge which we receive from the Second Vatican Council.

A young Potawatomie boy saw a small, tiny sparrow lying on its back in the middle of the path with its little feet raised to the heavens. He asked the small bird, "Why are you lying upside down like that?" The bird replied!, "I heard the heavens are going to fall today." The young boy laughed, "Do you think those skinny, scrawny legs can hold up the sky?" The little bird replied!, "ONE DOES WHAT ONE CAN."

When we look at the global challenge of Vatican II we sometimes feel like that small bird. The problems and opportunities we face in this world are **so** immense and we are **so** small.

Following the Second Vatican Council our Church became more aware of her mission—our mission—of service to the poor, the oppressed, and the outcast; not only among ourselves but in a worldwide sense. Our native people are suffering much from poverty, racism, unemployment, alcohol, and drug abuse and other problems. Yet the Second Vatican Council calls us to also **look beyond ourselves** to all our brothers and sisters in the world.

The great American, Catholic, woman author from the south, Flannery O'Connor, once wrote these words to a suffering friend. "You will have found Christ, when you are concerned with other peoples' suffering and not your own." In that she has a message for us: that **we will find Christ** when we go beyond our own sufferings and pain to see and experience the sufferings and pains of others.

What are the issues that we should notice in our world today? I would like to talk about two in particular and several others in a general way.

### 1. POVERTY AND HUNGER.

— There is a growing gap between the rich and the poor. This is a major issue leading human society on a collision course.

— By the year 2000 the world will have a population of six billion compared with five billion today. And five of this six billion will live in substandard conditions. We are lucky to live in the northern hemisphere because the real poverty of our world is in the southern hemisphere.

— Most people do not eat three meals a day. **Each day** 40,000 children die of hunger. This compares with 13,000 children dying of hunger each day twenty years ago. **Each year** thirty million people die of hunger and malnutrition.

### 2. WAR AND VIOLENCE.

— Ten million, six hundred thousand of our brothers and sisters have been killed in war during the twenty years since Vatican II. Most of these have died in countries far from our eyes. For example, in Nigeria during the Biafran war over one million were killed, and most of these were women and children.

— Two thirds of all the weapons produced in the First World are sold to Third World nations.

— 1.4 million dollars are spent on weapons **daily**. Five hundred billion dollars are spent on armaments each year. And this is done while so many people starve.

The above are just two examples, but there are many more issues that should concern us:

— Our world is still full of disease and illiteracy.

— In many places women are still treated like objects and humiliated.



— Racism, unemployment, slum living causes scars in the lives of so many.

— Governments of poor countries have huge, unpayable debts to wealthy nations like our own.

— There are increasing numbers of people who are lonely, mentally ill, and victims of alcohol and other drugs.

— There is an overwhelming lack of respect for life which shows itself in abortion and a neglect of old people.

— And we are all aware of the possibility of nuclear destruction.

IN THIS WORLD JESUS AND HIS CHURCH ASK US TO RAISE OUR TINY, LITTLE HANDS AND KEEP THE SKY FROM FALLING. WHAT CAN WE DO ?

1. **Pray and fast** — to be aware and to bring change as we rid our lives of personal violence and hatred.

2. **Be knowledgeable** — The great contemporary theologian, Paul Tillich, said that there are two great sources of revelation for us today: the Bible and the newspaper. For us there are three: the Bible, the newspaper, and our Native traditions.

3. **Be attentive to the Church** — The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, continually calls us to commit ourselves to the poor. We have the witness of our American Bishops in the pastoral letters on nuclear arms and the economy.

4. We can refuse to buy or possess unnecessary goods as a **witness against consumerism**.

5. We can **be a voice for the unborn** and also for **those who are elderly and poor**.

6. We can join with those who **loudly and clearly condemn the arms race** and nuclear weapons.

7. We can have a **special solidarity with and interest in other Native Peoples** who are suffering because of racism in South Africa, Australia, Cambodia, Nicaragua and many other places.

8. To make sure that our efforts for justice are not just an abstraction we should **do something at home for people who are poorer or more oppressed than we are**. And all of us can find them if we look. Mother Theresa was quoted in the July 7 issues of **Omni Magazine**, "Jesus said Love one another. He did not say Love the whole world."

Pope John Paul II called a special meeting of bishops last December to reflect on the 20th anniversary of Vatican II. In their Final Report the bishops gathered with the Pope said that Vatican II was "the greatest gift that God had given the Church in this century."

We make that gift of God more real when we stretch our hearts—to be like the Heart of our Creator—to include the joys and hopes, the anguish and sorrows of all the peoples of our world.

August 7, 1986

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

Find enclosed forty dollars as my offering in thanksgiving to Blessed Kateri for several favors received, namely finally being able to sell a very expensive new car and replacing it with another more practical vehicle and also being able to lose thirty pounds which seemed hopeless for several years. I couldn't have done it without Kateri. She has never failed, in the need she always smiles on us!

(Kersey, PA)

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

Inclosed is a thirty-seven dollar check. Ten dollars for five gift subscriptions, two dollars for a sympathy enrollment, and twenty-five dollars to further the Cause of Kateri. I give thanks to her for helping my daughter with a shorter stay in the hospital than what it usually takes. I continue my prayers for Blessed Kateri for her Canonization. I would like ten of her prayer cards and also some touch relics so that I may pass them on to people in need of her help.

(High Level, Alta.)

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

Please accept this donation of one hundred dollars for the Indian children at the Mission in thanksgiving for Blessed Kateri's intercession in the healing of my mother's leg ulcers and in the miraculous success of a skin graft in that area. In your March 12, 1986 letter, you told us to pester her with our prayers and love. Indeed we did and of her kindness we have been blessed and of God's healing touch we have felt.

(Troy, NY)

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



# "A MAN OF PEACE"

by Thomas F. Egan, S.J.



Fr. Robert L. Fleig, S.J.

On Octobre 18, 1986, at St. Regis-Akwesasne, the Most Reverend Robert Lebel, Bishop of Valleyfield, Québec, was the principal celebrant at Father Robert L. Fleig's funeral Mass. Father Thomas Egan, S.J., gave the homily. With a few adaptations, he repeated it on October 20, in the Coliseum Church, Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, at Auriesville, N.Y., where Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha was born and where Sts. Isaac Jogues, René Goupil, and Jean de Lalande died for the faith. His Excellency, Stanislaus Brzana, Bishop of Ogdensburg, N.Y., was the principal celebrant, accompanied by His Excellency, Howard Hubbard, Bishop of Albany, N.Y.

Four years ago last month on a beautiful day such as this, Father Bob Fleig and I set out from Auriesville in a station wagon loaded with suitcases and packages and headed for the North Country. For years we had both spoken about Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha and her people and the missionaries and martyrs who had brought them the gospel. Blessed Kateri had left her native Mohawk Valley and travelled to the St. Lawrence Valley and we were following her path. Our trip was a much easier one than hers. By late afternoon we arrived at our home on the banks of the great river. Kateri lived in her new home for only two and a half years. Father Bob had only four.

As many of you know, Father Bob and I had been together for most of the past 14 years, but during the past four years at St. Regis we grew exceptionally close. We went to wakes and weddings, to lacrosse games, and just last July we had a wonderful day of fishing out on the river, thanks to one of our families who owns a large pontoon boat. But of all the things we did together, the one that seems most significant to me now was our being together at funerals.

Our Indian people take death very seriously. Very early in our time at St. Regis we both realized that we could work most effec-

tively among the Mohawk people on the occasion of a death—consoling, hearing confessions, preaching the word of Christ about the resurrection. And here we are called together by the funeral of Father Bob, gathered in a church which held great meaning for him. Even today you can see along the outer walls the displays he put together during his days at the Shrine to tell the story of Auriesville more completely.

At the funeral masses we both tried to choose those scripture readings which best related to the person who had died and which would be of greatest comfort to the grieving family. But naturally, because we are human and tend to fall into patterns, we both ended up using some texts more frequently than others. The three readings we have heard today were, as I recall, the ones Father Bob chose most frequently.

"There is a time to be born and a time to die." (Ecclesiastes 3,2) Father Bob's death came on us so suddenly that we were all tempted to think of it as a mistake, an accident. But the good Lord, our Creator, makes no mistakes. This was Bob's time to die.

And the second reading from St. Paul (Romans 14,7) seems to be an echo of that Old Testament passage; "None of us lives as his own master. And none of us dies as his own master." God didn't ask us when we wanted to be born. And He doesn't tell us when He is going to call us. We are told in another letter of St. Paul that God "chose us before the creation of the world," chose to create each one of us over the millions of others He could have created. To Him each one of us is special. And to each He gives an allotted time, the amount of time He sees as best for each one of us. He wants us to use the time He gives us. And we are at our best when we are trying our best to use the time well, to carry out His holy will.

And how do we do this? Jesus the Lord has some suggestions for us on this point. Over and above observing the commandments He proposes to us the beatitudes. They are His promises of happiness, blessedness, joy without any ending, if we put these eight counsels of His into practice.

Father Bob lived the beatitudes. I wish you could have met even a few of the hundreds of people up at St. Regis-Akwesasne who came to pay their respects late last week at his wake. One person after another characterized him as kind, sympathetic, gentle, understanding, concerned, supportive, a man of peace. Nor were they all our own parishioners. There were people from the other Christian congregations and many of the traditional Indian people who came to know and respect him and they learned to trust and love Him.



Just yesterday the Shrine observed the feast of the North American Martyrs. And last Saturday, the day we offered the mass at St. Regis parish church, was the actual anniversary of the death of St. Isaac Jogues, the first priest to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the Mohawk people here at ancient Ossernenon. There must be a meaning in this for us today, for Father Bob spent a decade of his life here at the Shrine in the shadow of Isaac Jogues.

I hope and pray that our Mohawk People may come to learn more and more about this saint who truly loved their ancestors and was ready to die for them. As Pope John Paul II said on his visit to the other Martyrs' Shrine at Midland two years ago, Father Jogues and his companions—the five other priests and René and Jean—were so on fire with the love of Christ that they were willing to die, either suddenly or worn out with labors, so as to share the Gospel message with the Indian people.

Father Jogues was but the first of many priests to be linked with the Mohawk people. There was Simon Lemoyne, the peace-maker, who came to this valley four times in the decade after Father Jogues' death; Fathers Frémin, Bruyas, and Pierron who came to start the first congregation of Mohawk Catholics at Fonda after still another decade had gone by; Father Francis Boniface, who used the Christmas crib to teach them about our Blessed Lady and then led the first families from the Mohawk Valley northward to the praying village of Kahnawake on the St. Lawrence. Then there was Father Jacques de Lamberville, who baptized Blessed Kateri, and Father Cholenec and Father Chauchetière, who were her spiritual guides and later wrote down everything they could remember about her life. In the 1750's there were Father Gordon and Father Huguet who came with the group of families who left Kahnawake to establish a new home at St. Regis-Akwesasne.

Then the last of the old Jesuits died and it was left to the diocesan priests to carry on the little mission parish: Father McDonnell, the energetic young priest from Scotland who built our St. Regis Church 195 years ago, Father Marcoux who served the people there for 51 years, Father Bourget, whom our elders still remember. And finally we come down to Father Michael Jacobs our first Indian priest and first Mohawk Jesuit, and Father George White, the Oblate, our first priestly vocation from the St. Regis parish. Now Father Bob will forever be a part of that long line of priests who have served the Mohawk people.

It was once said of another one of the Jesuit martyrs, St. Charles Garnier, that he would never join in criticism of the native people. When another missionary might complain about something

an Indian had done, he would usually make a comment like: "Maybe we don't fully understand," or "They have customs that are different from ours." But when he could not make his point, he would simply turn silent.

Father Bob Fleig was like that. Not only would he not speak critically of an Indian. He would not speak critically of anyone, no not even of someone who had misrepresented him. I was usually the explosive one. When I showed that I was annoyed by some remark that had been made, I can just hear his answer: "Well, maybe he didn't mean it in just that way."

Often at a funeral Father would tell the family of the deceased that the best way they could honor the memory of their departed loved one was to think of that person at his best, to take the very best qualities of that person and try to acquire them, to put into practice all the good the person had stood for. We who were privileged to know Father Bob and to live and work with him can best pay him tribute by trying it out ourselves and live by the beatitudes, by living up to the very best that God has placed in us.

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✠ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. R.G.!**

Enclosed, find a check for twenty-five dollars, I promised to Beata Kateri when my son got a good job with the U.S. Government. Thank you, dear Kateri. Now I am also asking, please advise him to keep the government job, or if it's best for him, to go to the private concern. This private office is trying to win him over. Also, I am thankful for the help Bl. Kateri extended to my granddaughter, aged 17, in finding a summer job. Bl. Kateri has helped me a lot in my daily life. I pray for her help daily. I have also pledged prayers for her canonization, though I must admit, sometimes I am remiss, I'll try to do better. I am 70 years old and am sometimes forgetful. Please pray for me to keep my concentration and my mind active.

(Reading, MA)

✠ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. M.T.!**

Enclosed, please find a Money Order for fifty dollars as promised for recovery from a bad case of influenza. I will always pray for Blessed Kateri's Canonization, as long as I am able to. I am 80 years old and going strong. I ask for her intercession each day and she sure listens. God bless you all.

(Fredericton, N.B.)

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



❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss A.B.!**

I am enclosing a check for twenty-five dollars to fulfill a promise I made to Kateri for her intercession for a nephew who was to have a very serious operation and for an operation for myself—both to be done on the same day. Previously I had asked for many favors from Kateri—one especially for my eyesight. I would like to thank Kateri for her intercession. My nephew has had to go back to the hospital a few times since the operation but with God's help and Kateri's we pray he will be as well as he was. I am coming along well—am 76 years old so it takes much longer for a return to good health. Thank you.

(Dover, NH)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss K.G.!**

Enclosed you will find a small donation which I promised to send if Sweet Kateri continued to look upon me. So many "little" but important prayers have been answered for me. The most recent one meant very much to me and I prayed to Kateri for strength and hoped that everything would be O.K. and as always she came through. I would like to thank my dear friend for subscribing to Kateri for me. It has helped me deeply. I will continue to pray for and to Kateri and I know she will continue to smile upon me.

(Memphis, MI)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mr. R.D.!**

During the late summer, I requested petitions of prayers for two favors of you and our Kateri. Gratefully, I thank you and the Lily for the favors received. Enclosed is a check for fifty dollars. I wish you to use it to further the cause of Kateri. The favors were: 1) Employment and 2) the sale of property. All is well with these petitions. However, there are other matters of great concern: 1) A cancer patient and 2) Two special intentions. Again, I ask for her intercession to His face, with these pleas for assistance.

(Marion, MI)

❖ **Kateri smile upon you, Miss M.H.!**

I want to say thank you to Blessed Kateri for all the favors received through her intercession. I suffered a bad dose of indigestion which caused the non-functioning of other organs and prayed to Kateri for relief and also promised a donation, I am happy to say that I can now send you the donation. Thanks to Kateri.

(San Juan, Trinidad)

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

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

Enclosed find five dollars for favors received. My daughter graduated from college and found a summer position. Now I would like Kateri to find her permanent employment. I pray to Kateri daily for her canonization.

(Guelph, Ont.)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. L.W.!**

Enclosed is a donation of twenty-five dollars which we promised to make when our request to the Lily of the Mohawks was answered. This is the second request we have had answered within the past two years. Our first lake home sold two weeks after we started praying to Kateri and now after a real short time, our request to her to help sell our second home was granted. Kateri is our friend and we will keep spreading her name and the wonders she has done for us. Since my last letter to you, my husband has been baptized in our Church. I feel the Lily of the Mohawks had her hands in this. We have so much to be thankful for.

(Hachita, NM)

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

Enclosed is a check for ten dollars as promised to Kateri. My husband was looking to change to a better job and with prayers to Kateri, he got the job! Thank you Kateri! I will continue to pray for Blessed Kateri's canonization.

(Far Hills, NJ)

❖ **Kateri's smile upon you, Miss J.O.!**

Enclosed is an offering of twenty dollars for Kateri in thanksgiving for helping me successfully pass my nursing state board exams. And thank you, Father, for all your prayers.

(Milton, MA)

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

I had arthritis in my arms and hands real bad. I promised to send ten dollars to Kateri's Cause if I recovered and I did.

(Piqua, OH)

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

Enclosed is one hundred dollars in thanksgiving to Kateri for favors received, namely, a safe journey, good results from a chest X-Ray, business and many others.

(Saco, ME)

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





PHOTO ARMOUR LANDRY

Blessed Kateri at the age of 20 years  
(In porcelain bisque 8¼": \$15.00 plus  
handling and mailing charge)

## PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION; SEND GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO:

- (1) NAME M .....  
STREET .....  
CITY OR TOWN .....  
PROVINCE OR STATE .....
- (2) NAME M .....  
STREET .....  
CITY OR TOWN .....  
PROVINCE OR STATE .....
- (3) NAME M .....  
STREET .....  
CITY OR TOWN .....  
PROVINCE OR STATE .....
- (4) NAME M .....  
STREET .....  
CITY OR TOWN .....  
PROVINCE OR STATE .....
- (5) NAME M .....  
STREET .....  
CITY OR TOWN .....  
PROVINCE OR STATE .....

(GIFT NOTE SENT UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUESTED)

FROM: NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....

As I am sending the names of FIVE new subscribers and their addresses to the Kateri Center (\$10.00), I now inscribe, free of charge, the name of one deceased person dear to me on the Pierre Assendassé Roll.

- Mr. ☐, Mrs. ☐, Miss ☐.....
- When the Roll is complete with the names of 200 deceased, 100 Masses shall be offered for the repose of their souls.
  - If no name is submitted for the Roll, "A Suffering Soul of Purgatory" shall be inscribed instead.

PLEASE INDICATE MR., MRS. OR MISS & CODE