



## The Kateri Statue

Let's Not Take Twenty Years :

The future bronze statue of Tekakwitha to be erected in her parish, will cost about \$4,000.00. The Rev. Fr. V.-Postulator gratefully acknowledges the following donations :

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Prior Donations.....	<b>307.00</b>
	<b>\$423.50</b>

(Please notify us of any error)

# KATERI



Vol. 4

December 1951

No 1

CAUGHNAWAGA, Que.



Photo: J. G. Martin

# THE RELICS OF TEKAKWITHA

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### THE KATERI TEKAKWITHA GUILD

The sodalists of the Blessed Virgin of Caughnawaga, Quebec, who are descendants of the earliest Christian Indians in Canada and New York State, have formed themselves into a Guild to spread devotion to the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.

Our quarterly bulletin, KATERI, intends, above all, to tell her tale, to foster devotion to her and to record the favors both spiritual and temporal you receive through her intercession. As a result, it is hoped the cause of her Beatification will progress more rapidly.

A one year subscription to KATERI (\$1.00) or any other offering, no matter how modest, will enroll you as a member of the Kateri Tekakwitha Guild for one year, to share in a special Mass offered each week for your intentions in the old Mission Church of St-François-Xavier.

Published quarterly to spread devotion to the Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha by Rev. George Brodeur, S.J., at Mission Saint-François-Xavier, Caughnawaga, Que., Canada.  
 Editor: Rev. Henri Béchard, S.J., V.-Postulator for the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha;  
 Art Editor: Rev. Camille Drolet, S.J.; Associate Editor: Rev. Albert Burns, S.J.  
 Subscription Rate: \$1.00 a year. Copyrighted 1949 by Mission Saint-François-Xavier.  
 All subscriptions, remittances and correspondence should be addressed to KATERI, Mission Saint-François-Xavier, Caughnawaga, Que., Canada.  
 Published With Approval of the Ordinary and Permission of Superiors.

DECEMBER, 1951

Authorized as second-class mail. Post Office Department, Ottawa



# 1956 ?

The Vice-Postulator

FOUR years hence will be the tricentennial of Kateri Tekakwitha's birthday. Four years may seem a long time, but it is barely enough if Kateri's friends and clients are to obtain their hearts' desire: the Beatification of the Lily of the Mohawks!

Two first class cures must be obtained. These cures must then be examined under the most rigid scientific standards. They must be explainable through no natural agent. The Sacred Congregation of Rites will then re-examine the cures to determine if they have taken place through divine intervention due to the intercession of the Venerable Tekakwitha. If the cures are accepted as such, the Holy Father, following the established procedure, will declare Kateri BLESSED!

Let us make no mistake about it. Proving a miracle is an extremely complicated process. During the Holy Year some 60 important cures were reported at Lourdes. These cures were carefully sifted, and only two or three of them were admitted as irrefutably miraculous. No medical board anywhere in the world could rationally explain them otherwise than by the intervention of Providence. This does not imply that the other cures were not miraculous; it simply means that they cannot be rigorously proved as such.

Here is my suggestion. Beginning at the foot of the Manager, from now on, let our watchword be — PRAYER! As many as possible united in PRAYER!...

"The Venerable's clients", wrote the Postulator General from Rome, "must multiply their prayers and organize under the direction of the worthy editors of this review, a holy offensive to obtain the desired Beatification. From this Beatification would result great joy and edification not only for Canada and the United States and for all the Indians, but for the entire world..."

# LOVE AND ZEAL

**B**RONZE, or at least its components are being used to prepare future wars. Why not use some of it instead, to erect a monument to the "Miracle-Worker of the New World", the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha ?

● At Auriesville where she was born and where St. Isaac Jogues died for the Faith, at Midland, Ontario, where St. John de Brébeuf was martyred, statues of Tekakwitha smile down upon the throngs of pilgrims.

● At Mission Saint-François-Xavier, the Mission where she lived the last four years of her life and where she died and where her relics are carefully conserved today, there is none.

● Here are our plans. Our Catholic Indian School, locally known as "Tekakwitha" could serve as a back-drop for the monument. The hundred-foot entry to the spot in front of the school where it is to stand, would lend it perspective. Through no fault of ours, the frontispiece of this Catholic edifice neither boasts of a cross nor of a religious emblem. Kateri Tekakwitha with a cross in one hand and her rosary<sup>1</sup> in the other, would correct this default.

● A monument to Tekakwitha would recall to Caughnawaga and to all the world the splendor of Caughnawaga's Catholic past. Helping to erect it would not only be an act of love but also of zeal.

● Mr. Emile Brunet, the well-known sculptor, despite his heavy contract with the Basilica of St. Ann de Beaupré, has consented to do the work. His first sketch, reproduced on the back cover, is merely tentative.

● A last word at the beginning of the New Year. Since 1949, we have been begging right and left for this purpose. So far, the sum of \$423.50 has been collected. Please send in your offering now. Every donor of at least \$2.00 becomes a member of the Tekakwitha Guild and will enjoy its privileges for two years. Let's not take twenty years to honor as we should, the Lily of the Mohawks !

THE EDITORS.

✉ Now is the time to write in to your deputy or representative in Ottawa and Washington concerning the nomination of an Ambassador to the Vatican. What have you done about it so far ? ✉

# BETWEEN GOOD FRIENDS...

Union City, N.J.

Thursday, October 30th, 1951.

Dear Father Henri,

Thought it about time I started to "yap" at the Jesuits of Caughnawaga again, so here is me!

First of all! That beautiful piece of Jesuit artistic work in this last issue of "Kateri" was really something! Poor Kateri! And if I understand correctly, you had a few improvements made before printing. (1)

If the Holy Father ever gets one look at that masterpiece, He will raise his eyes to heaven and advise the good Jesuits to be satisfied with the saints they already have.

No kidding, Father, if my Dominican Aunt ever got one look at that picture, that convent would let out one squeal of terror and go running to the protection of St. Catherine of Sienna!

You know, Father, I have always been a great admirer of one of the homeliest men in all history, greatest of all American presidents in my opinion — Abe Lincoln.

Well, as I wrote my Uncle (the priest), "I picked Kateri for better or worse and in spite of that work of art, I'm sure beautiful Mohawk Kateri stole some of Her beautiful Queen Mary's radiant looks!"

One thign, Father, you certainly picked the right time of year to print it. Hallowe'en, season of Ghosts, Goblins and Jesuit Art!

Really think the "Jebbies" need spiritual help, so inclosed find one dollar. Please say one mass in honor of the Holy Ghost for the Jesuits stationed at your Mission. Of all the Three Divine Persons, I like the Holy Ghost best.

Well, Father, I'm working nights... Regards to Fr. Drolet and a big "Hello" to yourself.

Always,

W.B.

P.S. ...Father, please make sure this stencil is corrected. I live in the state of New Jersey, not New York. My Kateri mail will get lost sure in New York.

(1) Corrections made in early sixth Century.



# Happy New Year with Kateri !

By ALBERT BURNS, S.J.



As the clocks of the world strike midnight on December 31st, despite war in Korea, despite that dizzy toy, the atom bomb,

now in the hands of the little child called man, from his heart will spring the seasonal wish: "Happy New Year !"

It will, indeed, be a Happy New Year, if it is lived out in a truly Christian spirit. A Christian year, however, is made up of Christian weeks and Christian days.

Thus it was in Kateri's time. Long before she was born, the missionaries had already coined for the days of the week an Iroquois terminology rich with a truly Christian spirit.

## NIIOHNE and ENTA

When Kateri spoke of Sunday, she had the choice of two names for it. The first, NIIOHNE, is derived from the French "Dieu" (God). The manuscripts of the missionaries among the Five Nations, give "Diio" or "Dio". Since

the Mohawks have no letter "D" in their alphabet, the letter "N" was substituted in lieu thereof and "Diio" became "Niio". The suffix "ne" means "On-the-day-of". NIIOHNE therefore signifies: "On-the-day-of-God", or "The Lord's Day".

The expression ENTA, also in use to designate Sunday, may be literally translated as "the Great Day, the Feast Day". The attention of the neophytes of yore was centered on the one important day of the week for a Christian: Sunday. Both NIIOHNE and ENTA recall the obligation of assistance at Sunday Mass and, in general of keeping holy the Lord's Day.

## AWENTENTAHONKE

Here again we find the black-robos spotlighting Sunday. Today as in 1680, the year of Tekakwitha's death, for an Iroquois, AWENTENTAHONKE is our Monday and it is rendered into English by "When-the-Feast-is-finished". It comes from "Enta" (Feast) and "Wententas" (to finish). When the Lily of the Mohawks murmured AWENTENTAHONKE it recalled to her mind all the graces received on the Lord's Day !

## RATIRONHIAKEHRONONKE

Catholic liturgy consecrates Tuesday to the Holy Angels. RATIRONHIAKEHRONONKE still recalls this devotion to the Caughnawagas. If we break up the word into its constituents, we find the plural form "Rati" (they); "karonhiake" (in-heaven); "ronon" (inhabitants); "ke" (the-day-of). Hence, "The-day-of-the-heavenly-dwellers."

## SOSEHNE

Good St. Joseph ! Venerable Kateri as a member of the Holy Family Association, which still exists in Caughnawaga, loved and revered him. The Foster-Father of the Christ Child was not forgotten by the other Christian Iroquois. Wednesday, instead of being consecrated to some German god, was placed under the protection of "Sose". SOSEHNE signifies "On-the-day-of-St-Joseph."

## OKARISTIANE

Kateri's great love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is too well known to be developed here. Let it suffice to say that she heard at least two masses every morning and visited Our Savior hidden in the tabernacle five times daily. The Iroquois of Caughnawaga, whether they have remained faithful to the Faith that was hers or have been lured away from it by the world, the flesh or other false prophets, call Thursday OKARISTIAHNE (On - the - day - of - the - Eucharist).

## RONWAIATANENTAKTONNE

When Fr. de Lamberville spoke to Kateri about Friday, he called it RONWAIATANENTAKTONNE. Its English equivalent is: "On-the-day-they-attached-Him", understood "to-the-Cross." The etymological analysis gives: "Ronwa" (they-Him); "oiata" (the-body or -person); "aieranentakton" (attached), and "ne" (on-the-day-of). Anyone reading even a very short biography of Kateri Tekakwitha (See: Sketch of the Life of Tekakwitha in the Form of a Novena by Henri Béchard, S.J.), will be impressed by the penitential spirit of this holy maiden, the spirit of Jesus and of Jesus crucified !

## WARIHNE and ENTAKTA

Two words for Saturday. As AWENTENTAHONKE (When-the-Feast-is-finished) in the christianized Iroquois language, was an invitation to thanksgiving for the gift of the Lord's Day, so is Saturday an invitation to prepare for it: ENTAKTA (The - Eve - of - the - Feast or Next-to-the-Feast).

But Saturday is a day very dear to all lovers of Our Blessed Mother. On Saturdays, Kateri did penance in honor of her, said her rosary with singular devotion and, before going to confession, had one of her friends give her the discipline. WARIHNE beautifully ends the Catholic Iroquois week: it is Mary's Day !

❧ Don't forget a daily prayer for the prompt Beatification of the Lily of the Mohawks. ❧

❧ If your offering to Kateri has not been acknowledged within two weeks, please send us a word. ❧



## Page from an Old Missal

TEKARONIOKEN

*(The engraving on the preceding page is taken from a Missal printed in 1645, which belongs to Mission Saint-François-Xavier. Perhaps it was the very Missal used by the priest on Christmas Night, 1677, when Venerable Kateri made her First Communion...)*

**D**EAR Child of the Manger, you are **LIGHT** itself. Later on when you grew up, you said you were the **LIGHT** of the World. Just now, the radiance emanating from your tiny body illuminates your Mother Mary and is reflected on the lowly but adoring shepherds, on the dog lying at your feet and even on the straw-covered floor of the stable...

**D**ARKNESS encompasses the little group. The same darkness, Jesus, that you later referred to as the normal environment of the evil-doer. When Judas betrayed you thirty-three years later, when he went out of the Cenacle on Holy Thursday, St. John tells us that it was night.

**K**ATERI TEKAKWITHA, humble and pure Maid of the Mohawks, was spiritually of the same lineage as the shepherds of Bethlehem. No pride. No pretensions. No self-satisfaction. No varnished smugness. A humble and ardent seeker of **LIGHT**.

**T**HAT is why, beloved Christ-Child, you clothed her in white — the same white that characterized your robes on the glorious morning of the Transfiguration — whiter than snow!

**T**HAT is why, dear Blessed Mother, you enlightened in a special manner this maid of the forest... And thus was the Lily of the Mohawks attired in raiment far more splendid than that of Solomon in all his glory!...

**D**EAR Child enlighten me through Mary. Give me the strength to flee darkness. Enlighten me as your did Kateri, the shepherds, their dog, the floor of the Manger...

**“O** GOD, Who hast made this most sacred night to shine forth with the brightness of the true **LIGHT**, grant, we beseech Thee, that we, who have known the mysteries of His **LIGHT** on earth, may also enjoy His happiness in heaven...”

"HER CROWNING VIRTUE WAS CHASTITY"

## OUR HEROINE

### *The Life of Kateri Tekakwitha*

By LORRAINE FITZGERALD

#### CHAPTER VIII. — HER PRINCIPAL VIRTUES.

##### *Her Faith*

Although Kateri lived but four years after her conversion, her deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and her other pious practices are proof of a deep faith. She had a good and agile mind, learned her prayers quickly, and made her profession of faith without fear. Although she was the subject of much derision in the lodge where she was the only Christian, her faith never wavered.

##### *Her Love of God*

During her life, she often repeated the ejaculation: "Jesus, I love Thee!" This love fortified her in her many illnesses, her work and her harsh penances, finally giving her strength when she exemplified herself wholly, with only a few hours to live. It was said of her that she never lost sight of God, even in the forest, where the temptations were greater and spiritual aids not so accessible.

##### *Her Love of neighbor*

The vice of slander was never known to her nor did her companions ever have cause to reproach her. When slander twice assailed her and she had reason to complain of others, she never spoke ill of those who had unjustly accused her.

##### *Her Prudence.*

She shone gloriously in the various temptations she met. She kept from occasions of offending God and was always successful in this, even though she lived two years among the Iroquois in constant danger of

offending Him. As for a third Indian maid, who wished to join her and her companion, partly to serve God but also partly through vanity, Kateri discerned between the spirit of her companion and that of the third young girl, for she mistrusted hypocrisy and vanity. She showed her good sense in her little exhortations. She was prudent even in her excesses. These corresponded to the violent attacks made upon the savages by sin, of which she knew, or rather, from which she apprehended contamination. She went, therefore to excess, not in obstinate persistence, but to seek for the intermediate course she observed after the priest had advised her.

##### *Her Religion*

She had an opportunity to love religion which others for the most part never knew. As she had a well-balanced mind, she had never fallen prey to visions or dreams, even before her Baptism. The respect which she showed for all the ceremonies of the Church and for everything concerning Christianity was sufficient proof of the esteem in which she held her religion.

##### *Her Devotion*

Her devotion was never inconstant or affected. She knelt a very long time in church and rarely supported herself even

when she was very weak. She fulfilled all the practices of devotion established in the mission, and had her own private devotions besides. It was noteworthy that when the bell sounded for prayers Kateri was always the first to leave whatever she was doing.

##### *Her Penance*

Although always having been exempt from grave sin, Kateri was throughout her life a great penitent. Grievous sin into which she had not fallen, or perhaps into which she feared to fall, was the cause of all her penance. By her example, she helped many other young Indian girls who did not wish to succumb to temptations.

##### *Her Chastity*

This is her crowning virtue. It is a miracle that she should have escaped the deluge of impurity which flooded the land. Men, God and her conscience have testified to the fact that Kateri never committed a single sin of the flesh. When questioned in this connection at her Baptism and again at her death, she replied firmly that she did not fear to be damned for this sin. God made the first cure of the sick in confirmation of Kateri's chastity. After her death her spiritual director rejoiced because he had allowed her to make the vow of chastity. — (*To be continued.*)



# LETTERS TO KATERI

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

*Erie, Pa., Oct. 14 :* Over a year ago, the seventeen-year-old daughter of one of my working friends was rushed to the hospital suffering from some internal infection. She had a raging fever, and her stomach was swelled many times its normal size. The doctors were puzzled as to the cause, inserted a drain in her abdomen and waited. The girl was very ill for several weeks and no one knew what to do. I hesitated at first because these people were not Catholic, but, finally, out of pity, I offered them a Kateri medal. They accepted it eagerly. The young girl had the medal pinned on her nightgown and would not have it taken off. I also gave them a picture of Kateri with the piece of cloth which was touched to the relic of Kateri, and told them to touch this to the girl's stomach and make the Sign of the Cross with it every day. They did this, and also applied a few drops of Holy Water of St. Vincent de Paul on her stomach daily.

The girl developed such a strong faith in Kateri, that about two weeks after this — one night as the nurse changed her nightgown, the medal was lost. The girl would not rest or relax until it was found again. Nurses searched everywhere but could not find the medal. In desperation, the girl's mother phoned and asked if I could possibly obtain another. I went to the hospital immediately with another medal, the girl calmed down,

and, that night, after all those weeks, her fever broke, and her temperature went down to almost normal! After that, she began to improve steadily. All the pussy fluid that her system was filled with, drained off.

We continued our novenas to Kateri, and shortly after, the girl became entirely well. To this day the doctors do not know what caused that terrible thing, and continue to marvel at the complete recovery of their patient! Thanks to Kateri: enclosed is \$10.00 offering which I intended to send long ago. I was so glad that Kateri helped, because the girl wasn't Catholic, and to this day, a year after her terrible sickness, she still wears her Kateri medal on her sweater to work every day!... Miss T.Z.

*South Hadley Falls, Mass., Oct. 23 :* Enclosed, find offering of \$1.00. I had a sore wrist for six months and was unable to sleep for the last five weeks. I prayed to Kateri and the pain has completely disappeared... Mrs. A.P.

*Great Falls, Montana, Sept. 24 :* A lady on the maternity floor in our hospital suffered from a blood clot in one of her legs, after the delivery of her infant. A vein ligation was suggested after the removal of the blood clot, but as the patient was very ill the Doctors feared for fatal complications. The Sisters promised Tekakwitha to have the cure published if she recovered. On the same night the

patient slept her best all through the night, the first time since in the hospital. On the next day her temperature was normal and surgery was done successfully, in fact the patient walked to her bedroom with some assistance. Mrs. N. has had no re-occurrence and has been able to do her work ever since. Though not a Catholic, she feels certain that some one powerful has done something very wonderful toward her speedy recovery. This, we firmly believe, is a favor obtained through the intercession of our little Indian maiden Tekakwitha... Sr. J., F.C.S.R.

*Garnaville, Iowa, Oct. 26 :* Enclosed find \$1.00. Last year my little grandson was stricken with polio and I had sent in an offering of \$5.00 for the Kateri Statue and asked for prayers. Thank God, he got quite well again and was able to come home again in a short time and is getting along quite well. His right arm was paralyzed but he is beginning to use it a lot now. The doctor said he would outgrow it as he is only four years old. We are all very thankful... Mrs. H.S.

*Saskatoon, Sask., Nov. 2 :* I really don't know how to start this, I'm so happy. I arrived at the san about a week ago and today I got a report on my condition. The doctor said he could see nothing on the film as T.B. Some time ago I was called here saying I had to get treatment for an infection of T.B. I was very much afraid it had spread as I waited so long to come. I prayed to Kateri and asked her to help me and I promised her one dollar if she would. I could hardly speak when I heard the results, although the doctor said he'd keep me here

another six weeks and then, if I am still negative, I can go home. So again I'm asking her help... I really don't know how to thank her. I've told all my friends about her... Miss L.L.

*Montreal, Que., Oct. 7 :* ... Last June, my mother fell and broke her left arm. She was sent to the hospital and, after two weeks it was decided that she would be operated on, she went to the operation-room, received an anesthetic, but on regaining consciousness she was quite surprised to find out that there had been no operation. The doctors had come to the conclusion that an operation was unnecessary. Today, even though my mother is 70 years old, she can use this arm to knit, to wash the dishes and to do her work around the house... We now have unlimited confidence in Kateri Tekakwitha we made a novena for her beautification and we sincerely believe that it is thanks to her intercession that my mother was not obliged to be operated... For more information, see Dr. D. of Montreal who was to operate her... Miss C.B.

*London, Ont., Oct. 8 :* Enclosed you will find a small offering for the cause of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. She obtained many important favors for me, last summer I was sick and without money. Little Kateri remedied my financial situation in extraordinary manner; I am still sick, but am not asking to be cured; only the grace to always do the Will of God. I am also asking for a miracle in my family, a very difficult miracle to obtain! (I have great confidence.) Finally I am asking that a young girl be cured of goiter... Miss M.H.



(Christmas parcels)

## INTERVIEW WITH KATERI

KATERI (*In a voice full of silver undertones*): In a few days, under the gleam and sparkle of the family Christmas tree, parcels galore will be carefully laid in waiting. What, exactly, do they mean to you?

CLIENT (*thoughtfully*): Despite plenty of last-minute shopping and much hard-earned money gone over the counter, to me they imply, above all, the great joy of Christ.

KATERI (*striking home*): And what connection has a gift at this time of year and the joy of Christmas?

CLIENT (*more thoughtfully*): "There is more joy in giving than in receiving (Acts xx, 35)", especially at Christmas when God gave us the greatest gift He could give — His only begotten Son!...

KATERI (*stressing every word*): If you look long enough at the receiver of your gift, at your husband or wife, at your child or your friend, you will see in his or her eyes the smile of the Christ-Child, you will discover in his or her hand the clear outline of the tiny hand of the newborn Savior, you will preceive in his or her "Thank you!" the Heart beat of the Babe of the Manger...

CLIENT (*thoughtfully as before, then quite happily*): But that means, when I receive a gift, that I am taking the place of the Infant Jesus, that my feelings of appreciation, the words I choose to express them, are, in a way, sacerdotal! I am acting as an intermediary, a go-between with Jesus on one side and the giver on the other!

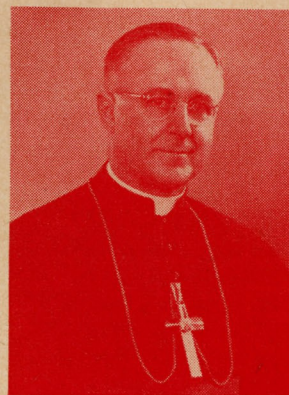
KATERI (*peacefully, joyfully*): Thanks to this deeper understanding of Christmas giving, greater joy will go into every Christmas package you prepare along with the sprig of holly and the bright ribbons, too...

H.B.

*Kateri terra cotta by Mrs B. Worthington,  
an alumna of Marymount College, Tarrytown, N. Y.*

THE KATERI NOVENA!  
20c postpaid

## CALENDAR TIBITS



(Photo Desautels)

THE MOST REVEREND  
GÉRARD-MARIE CODERRE.

Sept. 27, 1951.—The Most Reverend Gérard-Marie Coderre, recently consecrated coadjutor-bishop of St. John of Quebec, came to the Mission to confirm 125 Iroquois children and a few adults on the Feast of the Martyrs. During the afternoon, at Côte-Ste-Catherine, the ancient site of Mission Saint-François-Xavier, now occupied by a small French parish, he confirmed 30 white children.

Immediately after dinner and before the ceremony, Bishop Coderre asked to see the relics of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. "For years," he explained, "I have been reciting, each evening, a litany of my own composition, and in this litany I have included the name of Tekakwitha. I also pray daily for her beatification."

The solemn entrance into the church took place at 7.30 P.M. Each

candidate was accompanied by a godfather and a godmother. This encounter was the first between the new Bishop and the faithful of the Mission.

Nov. 15.—Mrs. C.M.F., a convert of two years' standing, wrote from Ohio: "I am a lady barber and this is my mailing list for Christmas greetings (57 names). These are all Catholic names. But I have some Protestant names if you would care to have them. I pray the names and addresses will help you!" (Editor's note: They most certainly shall! Two issues of *Kateri* will be sent free of charge to potential subscribers of any faith.)

FATHER BÉCHARD.

A GOOD PENANCE ANY TIME OF YEAR:  
SIT DOWN AND WRITE IN BLOCK LETTERS  
THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES  
OF 20 OR MORE OF YOUR FRIENDS  
THEN SEND THEM IN TO KATERI.

Help Kateri find 10,000 Subscribers this Year!

(OVER, PLEASE)

(Ignore request, if you have already cooperated.)