

JULY 31, 1956

QUADRICENTENNIAL

of

ST. IGNATIUS' DEATH

KATERI

Vol. 8 No. 3

CAUGHNAWAGA, Que.

JUNE 1956





Photo: J. G. Martin

THE RELICS OF TEKAKWITHA

KATERI

Vol. 8

No. 3

Editor and V.-Postulator: The Rev. Henri Béchard, S.J.

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The Rev. Albert Burns, S.J.,

THE KATERI TEKAKWITHA GUILD

The sodalists of the Blessed Virgin of Caughnawagav 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 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 temporal and spiritual you receive through her intercession. As a result, it is hoped that the Cause of her Beatification will progress more rapidly.

A one year subscription to KATERI (\$1.00) will enroll you as a member of the Kateri Tekakwitha Guild for one year to share in the daily memento of the V.-Postulator's mass and 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 Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha by the Rev. Martial Caron, S.J., at the Mission of St-François-Xavier, Caughnawaga, Quebec, Canada.

All subscriptions, remittances and correspondence should be addressed to KATERI, The Mission of Saint-François-Xavier, Caughnawaga, Que., Canada.

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Calling Kateri's Friend's!

The Vice-Postulator

Jury of the University of Western Ontario, the fourth site of Caughnawaga, Kateri's Mission, (1696-1719) was discovered. There Father James de Lamberville, who instructed and baptized Kateri in 1676, at Fonda, N.Y., died and was buried. There, also, the following year, Father James Bruyas, one of the first three blackrobes seen by Kateri at the age of eleven, Superior of the Mission of St. Francis Xavier (1682-1684; 1688-1693; 1699-1704) followed his co-worker to the grave. In 1693, at the end of a novena to the Lily of the Mohawks he had been cured of paralysis through her intercession.

A letter (December 23, 1955) from the Honorable Lionel Chevrier, President of the St. Lawrence Seaway Administration, courteously informed me that he had no objections to the excavations on expropriated land — several hundred feet from the new Seaway canal. Another letter of February 23, 1956, from the Honorable Jean Lesage, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources advised me that it would be impossible to grant my request for the \$11,000. required to complete this work, since the law concerning historic sites and monuments, through no fault of his, contained no proviso for financial aid in such cases.

What are we to do? For the present, \$500. are needed to keep this project alive. Professor Jury will work a few weeks this autumn at the fourth site, KANATAKWENKE.

In a year or two, this site may be sold at a big profit to some large firm in the interests of better and bigger business for Canada.

Perhaps the better and bigger interests would be ready to supply the funds for this work. "This historic site," wrote Professor Jury, "must be preserved. It is in jeopardy from the development of the seaway. It is important that Canadians preserve these old sites." At least, if it cannot be preserved, the excavations should be completed and the artifacts removed and studied. To ignore this plea would be tearing unread pages from the history of North America, and throwing it into the river, never to find it again.



He Had Work for Her to Do

II

by Lawrence J. Riley

FTER the scourge of small-pox had so tragically carried away her parents and her brother, the orphan Kateri was adopted into the family of her uncle. Here the responsibility for all the domestic work was soon laid upon her shoulders. Undoubtedly others took advantage of her mild and gentle disposition, but never could it be said that a word of complaint escaped her lips. Meanwhile, however, being a very pensive child, she pondered deeply upon the mysteries which everywhere confronted her. A sense of wonderment grasped her mind, which remained until the end of her life - wonderment about the beauty and variety of nature, the twinkling stars on a cold, clear night, the riot of color in the Autumn forests, the order amid the constant changing of the seasons. But most of all, wonderment about the Power which brought all this about. Hers was a wonderment like that about which Alfred Tennyson would write two centuries later:

Flower in the crannied wall,

I pluck you out of the crannies;

Hold you here, root and all, in my hand,

Little flower — but if I could understand

What you are, root and all, and all in all

I should know what God and man is.

Her biographers tell us that Kateri was a deeply reflective person. And so, she could not but turn over in her mind the marked contrast between the cruelties wreaked on the prisoners of war and the kindliness of the Christian women — captives like her own mother had been, who treated her as if she were their own. Naturally her little heart was drawn to them, and she could not fail to realize that they were animated by a spirit wholly different from that of others in the village. From their communing with God she could understand that they possessed a peace of conscience and an inner tranquillity that literally were not of this world. All this did the little child see, and as her little mind reflected on it day after day, deep down in her soul she began to hear the gentle whispers of the voice of conscience, whispers which she soon recognized as the call of Him to Whom the Christians prayed.

Kateri was only ten when once again she witnessed the destruction of her village — this time not by plague, but by battle. Saddened though she was at the defeat of her people, it was to prove a blessing in disguise for the little Indian girl. Once peace was restored, missionaries came to preach the work of God. How eagerly she watched the black-robed priests as they labored tirelessly among her people. How deeply impressed upon her mind was the awful gulf between the superstition and idolatry and moral degredation of her pagan acquaintances on the one hand, and the profound faith, the fervent devotion and the exemplary conduct of those who had embraced the black-robes' way of life on the other.

A saint of our own times, St. Teresa of Lisieux, has written: "There is no living in love without some pain or sorrow. Whosoever is not ready to suffer all things, and to stand resigned to the will of his Beloved, is not worthy to be called a lover." And now, the love for God that was growing in the heart of Kateri was to be tested. As a result of her refusal to accept the decision of her guardians that she enter marriage, the household became embittered against her. She was subjected to every form of petty persecution because of her unwillingness to act in accord with a tribal custom that was considered sacred. Tasks far beyond her strength were assigned to her, and she was often berated with cutting words of criticism. Yet she bore these injustices with patience and resignation; perhaps she rejoiced in her suffering — for did it not make her in some way like unto



Original Portrait of Kateri by Father Chauchetière 1680

the missionaries who selflessly sacrificed rest and comfort and health in their avid quest for souls.

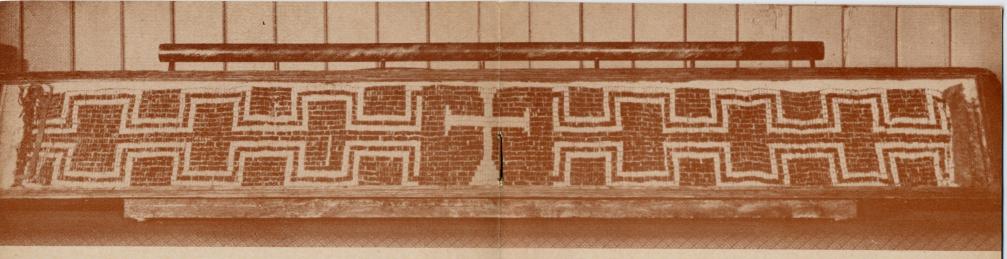
For many years Kateri had kept locked in her heart hee yearning to be a Christian. Then she had made known to thr missionary her secret desire to be baptized. Yet because of the opposition that would surely arise from her relatives, delay had been advised. But now came the day on which she was to be made a child of God and an heir of heaven — Easter Sunday in the year 1676. Over her head were poured the saving waters of Baptism by the young Jesuit missionary Father James de Lamberville. Let one of Kateri's modern biographers describe the unforgettable scene: "Easter Sunday, 1676, was a gala day at Gandaouaghe. De Lamberville regarded it as the most beautiful day in his apostolic career. The Christian Indians saw in it a triumph, that one whom all revered as exceptionally modest charitable, industrious and prayerful should now be admitted to dignify their own ranks. The pagans for once forgot their animosity to the Faith and attended the ceremony. The chapel was a revel of decoration. . . Catherine, as the missionary named her when pouring the sacred waters, was the ornament that riveted the attention of all by her modesty, peace, piety, and rapture. She had already won admiration and reverence. That day she won, as she walked to the chapel under the avenue of trees her tribesmen has planted purposely for the occasion, a veneration which has never ceased." (Rev. John J. Wynne, S.J.) Kateri Tekakwitha had been born again of water and the Holy Ghost; upon her soul was impressed the sacramental seal of Baptism that was never to be effaced. (To be continued.)

ORDER YOUR KATERI SYMPATHY AND BIRTHDAY CARDS NOW. THE KATERI NOVENA: 10 COPIES 15c POSTPAID.

Please:

The offering that will help us make her known! Her cause is as poor as she herself was here below!

Present subscribers are asked to renew their subscriptions at this time, to obtain new members, and to send in the addresses of possible friends of Kateri. Those who have already renewed their subscriptions are asked to ignore this request.



The Wampum Belt: 1677

THERE KATERI BELONGED: A.D. 1677 by Claude Chauchetière, S. J.

PEOPLE began to recognize that neither person nor place contributed any to the fervor of the Indians, who, once they were alone, away from the French, were not worse Christians and were even better at the Sault than they had been at Laprairie. The relation which has been made and which speaks of it until 1679 shows that things settled down by themselves, because everyone desired to do well.

The regulations of that time concerned prayers on working days and holidays, those of the adults as well as of the children, the hymns, processions, benedictions, frequentation of the sacraments, marriages, the different states: of married people, of widows and of girls, and of all the rest. In this the Mission is as orderly as the finest parish in France. The law against liquor was observed also as you may see in the particular chapter dealing with this question.

This year will be remarkable because of the celebrated present which was sent from Lorette to the Sault. It was a 'preaching belt' which carried the voice of the Lorettans to those of the Sault to make them accept the Faith for good, to have them build a chapel as soon as possible, and it also urged them to fight the different evil spirits which were plotting the ruin of both Missions. This belt was immediately attached to one of the beams of the chapel

which crossed above the altar so that the people would always see it and listen to its voice.

The devil, who had not been able to win over the spirit of the Indians by attacking them overtly, resorted to vile intrigues to make them succumb. Monsieur the Count de Frontenac, incited by troublemakers, took the resolution to hinder the erection of the chapel and did not succeed. He resolved to hinder the expansion of the Indians' fields, and, in fact, he did prevent that any land be given them above the Sault. He often resorted to threats of imprisonment and other measures, in a word, he would have been pleased had there been no Mission. The Iroquois also did all they could to starve the village of the Sault, passing there in throngs after hunting and, after having eaten much corn, they carried away a good provision of it, which showed that the earth vielded large crops. The number of transients which rose during the summer to 300 or 400 persons left the village short of corn during the winter and at the time of sowing. The success which they expected was not as good as had been hoped, for we see indeed that the village has considerably grown, poverty and famine being only a test which makes some of our Indians more sparing in their habits and Christianity at the Sault superior to all these different events. The fervor that they showed during this dearth won and attracted here many of their relatives. (To be continued)

KATERI WAS A CONVERT

By Nora Routledge

There comes an hour in the life of every convert when God speaks to him — perhaps directly, but more often through the lips of another. After acceptance of the truths of Christ, there is the great promised reward: "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

Then, with his heart overflowing with gratitude, the convert turns to God and echos the words of St. Paul on the road to Damascus:

"Lord, what will thou have me do?"

God required of Saul that he carry His name among nations and kings and the children of Israel.

Of Newman and Benson, He required that they preach from His altars. Of Chesterson, He required reasoned writings to show forth the glory of the faith. Of Thomas Merton, He required that he withdraw from life to a monastery and there use his great gift of writting as a modern-day apostle.

Many others in our day have given their talents in writing and speaking to share with others the wonderful gift of faith. To name but a few, there are Evelyn Waugh, Clare Boothe Luce and the one-time communists Dorothy Day and Douglas Hyde.

There is something about a convert that makes him apostolic. Perhaps it is because he, more than those who have been Catholics from birth, realize the difficulties and obstacles that confront those outside the faith.

Then too, they were spiritually blind and now are not; like the physically blind who suddenly see, their sight is particularly clear and sharp. They see things that we others have overlooked or begun to take for granted.

Anyone who reads Merton's description of his first attendance at Mass as a Catholic, will be struck with this fresh viewpoint. Merton vividly writes of being born with Christ in Bethlehem; hanging on Calvary's cross and dying with Him and then being swept up, with Him, a living sacrifice of love to the Father.

But converts are not all great preachers and writers. They are ordinary men and women whose road to Damascus lies along the streets of a modern city and whose profession or job takes

them downtown on a bus or street car, into an office, or factory, or department store.

What are they to do when they feel in their souls the question :

"Lord, what will thou have me do?"

Kateri was such as they. She, too, was a convert. Her road to Damascus was in the Mohawk Valley. She was surrounded by those who would have much preferred to see her dead, rather than a follower of the white man's God.

But God had marked her for His own. He had given her a Catholic mother, who taught her how to pray and who spoke the word "God" to her. When she lost her mother at an early age, God took her by the hand and surrounded her with the protection of His grace, so that she remained pure and tender in the midst of impurity and brutality.

Having overcome all obstacles and found her way to the Jesuit Mission at the Sault, Kateri too knew that impulse of the grateful heart — she wanted to do something for God. She could not write; neither could she preach like her cousin Hot Ashes.

What she did was this: she performed all the duties of her state of life with a willing spirit. For her that meant helping with the planting of corn, gathering wood with the other women, mending canoes for their journeys, fashioning clothes and utensils from bark and skins, making ceremonial wampum belts.

Added to this, she was ever helpful and loving with those around her, because she knew them to be her "neighbors" whom God instructed all to love.

But, over and above all these things, she let her heart and soul dwell with God, through prayer, through the sacraments and through meditation.

She was not a martyr, nor a writer, nor a preacher — but her life of grace and beauty has lived in memory for three centuries. Was she not an apostle? Yes indeed! The kind of apostle every Catholic can be. The pattern of her life is one everyone can follow.

Anyone can perform the duties of his state of life with such perfection of intention that they become a prayer offered to God. Each one of us can follow God's direction to love our fellowmen for love of Him. And, like Kateri, we can let our hearts dwell with God.

That is the answer to the question in every Catholic's soul: "Lord, what wilt thou have me do?"

He will have us be saints.

LETTERS TO KATERI

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

SAINT ANN, MO., Feb. 20, 1956: About her with confidence when I need proctecfour years ago my father was very ill. He had difficulty in breathing which made it impossible for him to work for a time. He went to several doctors who seemed to be unable to help him. It was at that time that I happened to read a small mission pamphlet about Kateri Tekakwitha regarding efforts to have her beatified. I immediately directed my prayers to her and promised that if my father got well that I would acknowledge the favor and maybe in some small way help her become a saint. Shortly thereafter my father did recover and now with care and prayers, he is enjoying good health. Naturally I was grateful to Kateri and wanted to keep my promise to her; however I had lost the mission's address and had no idea where to write. Since then I have thought of Kateri often and always felt guilty at not keeping my promise to her. I always intended in some way to find an address, so you can realize how happy I was to see her story published in the St. Louis Post-

Dispatch. Mrs. J. McD.
CHESTER, PA., April 11: I have taken a pretty rough examination in the naval reserve for a changeover in rating which occurred April 7th with Kateri Tekakwitha assisting me to pass. Please accept this small fee and use it for any cause that you think is needy. May God bless Kateri and may the good Lord place a halo over her head as he did the other Saintly

Martyrs. Mr. J.A.Z.

MONTREAL, P.O., March 23: Two months ago I began to suffer from head-noises. I consulted a specialist who told me that there wasn't very much to do on account of my age. I am seventy-four years old and it was a symptom of arteriosclerosis. I then turned to our lovely little Kateri and these symptoms have 'miraculously' disappeared. Mr. H.G.P.

HAVRE, MONT., March 8: We feel that several times when our daughters had throat infections, Venerable Kateri helped. Each time when we asked her to pray for us, our prayers were answered. since by the next day much improvement was noticed. Am enclosing two dollars for masses of thanksgiving and for her beatification soon. Mrs. F.X.K.

MONTREAL, P.Q., Feb. 25: I am very grateful to Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, our prayers were heard. All thanks to her! Mr. and Mrs. J.R.M.

ROSEMONT, MONTREAL, P.Q. Feb. 2: I have read with interest the article appearing in MA PAROISSE concerning Kateri. I would like to receive some picture prayers. From today on I will invoke tion. Mme A.D.

ROSEMONT, MONTREAL, P.Q., Feb. 8: I just received the pamphlets on Kateri with the two pictures. I am very happy and thank you sincerely. With great confidence I am beginning a novena today. I will attentively say the prayers to Kateri. If I obtain any help I will let you know and you may be sure that many others will thereafter implore her aid as I have done with confidence. For the time being my offering (two dollars) is very modest, but I purpose not to forget her. Mme A.D.

ROSEMONT, MONTREAL, P.Q., Feb. 22: I am quite happy to tell you that your encouraging letter had made my husband and my eldest daughter happy. They are withnesses of my great confidence in Kateri. I'm not saying it too loud yet, but I haven't had any headaches for some time. Let us hope it will last. I will let you know and will keep you posted as time goes on. I'm not asking the good Lord to never be sick, but if through the intercession of Kateri, I suffer no more from terrible headaches, it will really show that she is helping me find what to do to avoid them. There is always somthing to ask. Now it seems that we will have to quit our \$80.a month rent because our eldest daughter is getting married in September. Please help us find a satisfactory house. Mme A.D.

ROSEMONT, MONTREAL, P.Q., April 25: I want to let you know the progress that I made. For three months I have not had a single headache. My husband and two of my eldest children, my relatives, and my friends are extremely surprised. I have put on weight — from 89 pounds, I am now up to 104. From day to day I felt my strength returning. I was even able to assist at Mass during all of Lent. since I live next to a church. To those who ask me how it is that I look so well, I am quick to answer that it is through the intercession of Venerable Kateri that I obtained this great favor. I also obtained a lodging at a price that was made to order. No later than yesterday, I gave my last picture of Kateri to a friend who is suffering from high blood pressure. She will probably write to you one of these days. At the sight of my good health she has great confidence and I am sure that she will propagate devotion to her if she is cured. If you only knew how happy I feel at the progress I have made! You told me to place my trust in Kateri. Hen-

ceforth it will be unshakeable. Mme A.D. TAUNTON, MASS., April 24: Kateri has been good to us. My little girl had a bad

year, last year with bronchial trouble. This winter she wore the medal you blessed especially for her; she was better this year. Then I have a story to tell you about breaking (dislocating?) a toe and then after applying the statue to it last July, tripped in the back yard and the bone went back into place again! Mrs. M.B. WINNIPEG, MAN., April 5: After suf-

fering violent pain for five hours, I had relief. I promised Ven. Kateri the enclosed one dollar to pray for me. She never refuses me! Mrs. E.B.-F.

LOUISEVILLE, KY., March 23: I wish to express my sincere thanks to Kateri Tekakwitha for special favors received recently. I spent three weeks at the hospital and I am sure it was through her intercession that I made my recovery so successfully. I am sending a small donation for you to use for whatever you need. I am praying for the canonization and hope that it will be soon. Have received many favors through her intercession before and have promised to acknowledge them. Miss L.S.

JOHNSTOWN, PA., April 23: Enclosed please find one dollar in thanksgiving for a favor recently received through Kateri

Tekakwitha's intercession. Mrs. K.D.F. FALL RIVER, MASS., April 13: I am sending you five dollars which I promised to Kateri for a favor received. Mrs. M.K.

GLENAVON, SASK., February 3: Please find enclosed \$5.00 of which \$1.00 to renew my subscription to Kateri and the balance as a gift to Kateri in thanksgiving for many favors received. Mr. G.M.

VILLE LASALLE, P.Q., April 18: I am enclosing a check for five dollars in honor of Kateri for a very great favor received. Kateri has helped me in so many ways and I will always have faith in her. Mrs.

LASALLE, ILL., March 22: Please accept my offering of five dollars in fulfillment of a promise for help received in special intention. Little Kateri certainly answered our prayers; may she soon be

crowned in beatification. Mrs. N.A.W. DETROIT, MICH., April 14: We are enclosing a Money Order of the sum of \$12.00, \$2.00 of which is an offering from our daughter, Carol Ann, aged 31/4 years, as a birthday offering for her mother. The \$10.00 is a partial payment of our donation to Kateri's Cause. She has been so good to us. There will be more forthcoming. We are sending a like sum to Kateri's U.S. headquarters at New York. We hope this meets with her approval. Mr. and Mrs. C.J.A.

MONTREAL, P.Q., April 26: I am en-closing \$1.00 in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. My son received a certain sum of money and has found work although

it is not regular work. . . Mrs. E.R.
SOUTH HADLEY, MASS., April 26:
Enclosed you will find one dollar I am sending to my favorite Kateri who helped me get well. I thank her very much. Mrs.

LAKEWOOD, R.I., April 26: Enclosed please find check of \$5.00 to be used where ever it is needed. I have asked for a favor from Kateri which was granted to me. I shall always pray to her. Mrs. J.H.L.

MY PLEDGE TO KATERI

a) to say daily						
A decade of the heads						
11 decade of the beads						
The Rosary (five decades)						
b) to receive Holy Communion daily						
twice a week						
weekly						
monthly						
for her prompt beatification						
(Signature)						

THE VICE-POSTULATOR'S DIARY

The Very Reverend Martial Caron, S.J., Superior of the Mission, began, on March 10th, renovating the room in which Kateri's relics will be exposed for veneration. Articles going back to Kateri's time such as the old Monstrance before which she prayed, and the wampum belt which was given to the Mission in 1677 will be on view. The linoleum containing a lily with the dates of Kateri's death (1656-1680) will be furnished by the V.-Postulator who counts on Kateri's friends to help him with this item. Old friends of the Mission will be delighted, to see the sacred remains of Kateri Tekakwitha more fittingly enshrined.

Father Albert Burns, S.J., Pastor of the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, visited his Indian parishioners living in Brooklyn, N.Y. Leaving Montreal on April 6th, he preached at St. Boniface's parish, where he was very cordially received by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Paul Faustmann, and visited many of his good friends, before returning to Caughnawaga the following Friday.

April 17th, 256th anniversary of Kateri's saintly death at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, the Indian school children were invited to come and pray at the 8 o'clock morning mass for her speedy beatification. That afternoon, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, was followed by the veneration of the relics in the sacristy.

His Excellency Bishop Jean-Marie Coderre of Saint Jean confirmed one hundred and fifty-eight children of the Mission and a few adult converts, on April 24th. I have already mentioned before how interested our Bishop is in the Cause of the Lily of the Mohawks. A spiritual drive is being planned for the late summer and autumn of the present year to help speed Kateri's beatification. Before leaving, the Bishop blessed a beautiful 20-inch statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague donated to the Mission

by Mrs. Charles P. Carey, in her husband's name, and by her Mother, Mrs. Mary Callan. A gold cross and chain, belonging to Mrs. Carey's daughters when they were little, hangs from the Child's neck.

Kateri's friends who intend to visit the Mission during the summer, will please take note that I will be absent from July 11th to August 15th. Continue sending your correspondence to Kateri at Caughnawaga, where my secretary Mr. Albert Lazare will take care of it. Any mail addressed to me in care of:

Les Servantes du St-Coeur de Marie Notre Dame des Anges Comté de Portneuf, P.Q.

will be acknowledged insofar as my duties as Director of a thirty-day retreat to the Sisters will allow.



Father Caron, beretted, at work



TO RENEW OR TO REVIVE

"I will shower down abundant blessings on all their undertakings", the Sacred Heart promised those who were devoted to It.

It was with this thought in mind, coupled with that of Kateri's Cause, that the V.-Postulator wrote The Unpredictable Bernard de Hoyos, a biography of a young Jesuit mystic of the XVIIIth Century, probably the greatest apostle of the Sacred Heart after St. Margaret Mary.

During 1733, one morning after communion, the Sacred Heart was exposed to Bernard crowned with thorns and a cross, which he describes: "I saw the aperture where the most pure blood which redeemed the world looked visible. Jesus, my divine Love, beckoned my heart to enter within through the opening of this wound: it would be my palace, my castle, and my rampart always. As mine accepted, the Lord said: "Do you not see that it is barbed by thorns, and that they will prick you?" All this was the more to prod my love and only after entering into the confines of the Divine Heart, did it discover the thorns were roses.

"... I was made to understand that the riches of this Heart had not been offered to me for myself alone to enjoy, but that through me others might benefit by them."

This is the book for any Catholic who wishes to renew or to revive his devotion to the Sacred Heart.

Help the author publish The Unpredictable Bernard de Hoyos. Be one of the needed thousand to sign the following form and send it to Kateri, Caughnawaga P.Q.:

PLEASE DO NOT SEND FUNDS NOW

I promise to pay Kateri the special price offered to her friends (approximately \$3.50 a copy) upon reception within the next year and a half of

The Unpredictable Bernard de Hoyos, S.J., Apostle of the Sacred Heart

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City or Town	 	
Province or State	 	