



THE RELICS OF TEKAKWITHA

(Photo D. BIER)

THE VICE POSTULATOR TO YOU...

The purple-clad season of Advent . . . The deep joy of Christmas !
New Year's Day pregnant with divine hope . . .

All of which were days full of spiritual depth for the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha in 1677, during her first winter in the Christian village among her Indian brethren "who-made-the-sign-of-the-Cross" at Mission Saint-François-Xavier ! . . .

On New Year's Eve, Father Béchard, the Vice Postulator for the Cause of her Beatification will pray beside the chest containing the precious remains of Tekakwitha at Mission Saint-François-Xavier.

1950, he hopes, will be an important year for the Cause of Kateri. Thousands of people who practically ignore her today must be brought face to face with the full lesson of her saintly life — a lesson of love and sacrifice, correlatives that cannot be separated.

1950, he hopes, will see thousands of people who never heard of her before, praying to her and obtaining through her intercession, favors both spiritual and temporal, miracles irrefutable . . .

1950, he hopes, will witness the expansion of the Tekakwitha Guild to a 10,000 membership — friends and clients of Kateri from every walk of life, who will pray for her Beatification. (Until now, a Mass was offered each month at the Mission for the Members of the Guild ; each day their intentions, after they had been placed upon the relics of Kateri, were recommended at the Memento of the Living. Henceforth a Mass will be celebrated EACH WEEK for the Members of the Guild and the daily remembrance will be maintained.)

1950, he hopes, will assist at the growing of the modest 16-page-quarterly, KATERI, devoted to the sole interests of the Lily of the Mohawks and to those of her kin, the Iroquois of Caughnawaga, into a 22-page booklet. (Father Béchard, who draws no salary for editing KATERI, trusts that you will not begrudge him your dollar for his work for the one whom His Holiness, Pius XII desires, some day, to canonize as North America's first native-born saint.

1950, he hopes, will be a red-letter year for the Mission; the noted sculptor, Mr. Emile Brunet, is ready to prepare a statue of Kateri, for the school grounds.

1950, Father surmises, will be a busy year. He begs your prayers for the success of his work as Vice Postulator and as principal of the Iroquois Day School (Tekakwitha School) erected during the past year by the Federal Government at Caughnawaga.

In return, as he stands beside the relics of the Lily of the Mohawks, he will ardently pray that the sweet odor of her virtues and of her love pervade your every hour and every day during the coming year ! . . .