

## "Jesus! Mary! I Love You!"

(Ninth Day)

KATERI knew she was going to die. For over six months, fever assailed her; acute pains gnawed at her head and stomach; for days on end depressing spells of weakness kept her bedridden. Each morning her friends, obliged to work in the fields, left her alone in the lodge with a plate of sagamite and a goblet of water; then through the long day solitude enveloped her...

How did this twenty-four year old girl react? ... Joy, very great joy marked her during those last months. She felt secure in the knowledge that she was giving to God what He asked of her. Kateri's "surprising gaiety... her smiling face which clearly showed the peace of her mind", impressed Father Choleneq. "In her inmost soul," he adds "she delighted in her God with an abundance of joy and spiritual satisfaction..."

On Tuesday of Holy Week he gave her the Holy Viaticum. Such a privilege it was to have Our Lord come into her long house! It was the first time this honor was accorded to one of the faithful of the Mission. Heretofore the sick were carried to church on a wooden plank. Everyone in the village came to assist at the death of the saintly maiden.

Then follows the delightful scene of the missionary leaving the lodge in great hurry and running all the way to church. One can see his black habit streaming out behind him. Poor Father! he was reproaching himself for not having given Extreme Unction sooner to Tekakwitha. But he need not have worried. Kateri told him, as well as her friend Marie Therese Tegaiguenta that she would notify them when the time came.

About ten o'clock the next day, the dying girl asked for the Sacraments, which she received with great devotion. She encouraged her friend never to give up mortification and promised to love her in heaven. Then she lost her voice. To the end, her hearing was good, and if an act of love of God was suggested to her, the expression of her face changed. Her last words were: "Jesus! Mary!" It was Wednesday of Holy Week 1680.

At the time of her death, Kateri's swarthy features still retained the pockmarks of her childhood. Scarcely a quarter of an hour had elapsed when Father Choleneq, who had been praying beside her, cried out in amazement. Kateri's countenance had become very beautiful, somewhat as it had been when she was a very small child. Doubtless, as Father Choleneq and her own kin remarked, a small ray of the glory of which her soul had taken possession, was reflected in her chaste body.

### PONDER AWHILE...

To die happily one must live happily. Kateri's death was such a happy one because her whole life had been happy — spiritually speaking. My death also, will be happy, if today and tomorrow and every day my soul is at peace with God... if it is happy!... (Now turn to page eight and read the Prayer for the Beatification of Kateri.)

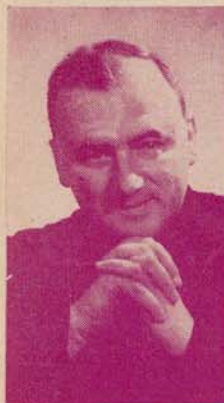
§ The V. Postulator relies on the financial aid of Kateri's friends to enable him to do his work. §

## Calendar Tidbits

Dec. 25, 1949. — The usual ceremony of the blessing of the Holy Bread took place again this year, at Midnight Mass. The bread was offered by the Indian members of the K. of C.

Jan. 7, 1950. — Our mission was greatly honored today by the visit of Rev. Fr. Jerome D'Souza, rector of Loyola College in Madras, India. Fr. D'Souza is a member of the Indian delegation to the recent U.N. General Assembly. He is a devotee to Ven. Kateri.

Jan. 25. — An event which will be of interest to all the good friends of Kateri, was the official giving of the name Tekakwitha to a township in the Prov. of Quebec. A letter received by our V. Postulator from Mr. Isaie Nantais, Secretary of the Geographical Commission of Quebec, reads thus: "The township of Tekakwitha has just taken place on the map of the Province of Quebec. It is situated in the County of East Abitibi (Northern Quebec); more precisely between 50° and 50° 10' of latitude, and between 77° 05' and 77° 20' of longitude.



FR. BURNS

Jan. 27. — A group of amateurs from Lachine, under the auspices of the Holy Name Society, entertained our Indians in Kateri Hall, with a minstrel show. This same group had been here once before during Dec. A large audience crowded the hall and enthusiastically applauded this cheerful and artistic group of entertainers.



FR. D'SOUZA

Feb. 2. — This morning, Fr. Albert Burns pronounced his final vows as a Jesuit. Rev. Fr. Real Lalonde, S.J., Pastor, officiated at the ceremony of the vows. Were present in the sanctuary with other members of the Mission Personnel, Fr. Michael Karhaienton Jacobs, S.J., Iroquois priest, pastor of the St. Regis Mission, a large group of altar boys in red and white cassocks. All the school children with their teachers and many adults were present. The school choir under the able direction of the Sisters sang beautifully. The ceremony, the gifts offered to Fr. Burns by parishioners and the spiritual bouquet of the school children left a deep impression on him. The spiritual bouquet was truly splendid: 574 Masses heard; 479 communions; 720 recitations of the rosary; 1592 sacrifices and

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