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Canada, Wake up!...

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, N.Y., last autumn, two magnificent bronze doors, three years in the making, were adjusted and formally opened. On one of these doors, as you may see on the preceding page, Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks, stands out in a splendid attitude of prayer and recollection. The doors were made by C.E. Halback & Company, Maginnis and Walsh being the Architects and John Angel the Sculptor.

To me, these doors are symbolic of America's devotion to Tekakwitha. Americans are definitely aware of Kateri; they love her; they are anxious to see her elevated to the honors of the altar. Statues of Kateri may be found in the most distant parts of the Union (there is no outdoor statue of her at Mission St.-François-Xavier in Canada, to which she belonged!); thousands of Americans from every walk of life, pray daily for her beatification. On Fathers' Day, one of her American clients had a Mass offered for the repose of the soul of pagan Tekakwitha's father. Such is their interest in the Lily of the Mohawks. Naturally she reciprocates and favors of all sorts are showered down upon her devotees below the 45° of latitude.

Please don't think that I am a grouchy, straight-lipped partisan of Tekakwitha. I well know that she also has friends in Canada. Wonderful friends, devoted and true to the core. But their name is not legion. Possibly they do not exceed the 400 mark.

Perhaps Canadians ignore much of her story, how she achieved sanctity on the banks of the St. Lawrence at Mission Saint-François-Xavier, how she died there, in the peace of the Lord at the age of twenty-four and how, immediately after her death, she began helping those who invoked her aid. The new sketch of the Life of Tekakwitha in the form of a novena (20c postpaid, the proceeds, if any, being used to further her cause) will help you to know her better.

1956 will be the tercentenary of Ven. Tekakwitha's birth. If, along with her American friends, Canadians really began to pray for the two miracles necessary for her beatification, the little Indian girl who was called the "protectress of Canada" as early as 1744, may then be known as Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha!

Canada, wake up!...

HENRI BÉCHARD, S.J.,
V.-Postulator for the Beatification
of the Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha.

✉ Your name and address in block-print, please, when writing to "Kateri". ✉