



(A little T.N.T.)

INTERVIEW with KATERI

CHUBBY INDIAN ANGEL : The Vice-Postulator's article in the September issue of KATERI about spurring on people to write in to Ottawa *re* a Canadian ambassador to the Vatican wasn't very effective, was it, Venerable Kateri ? As "protectress of Canada", aren't you concerned ?

KATERI : It takes time for an idea to flow into the fingertips of human beings...

INDIAN ANGEL (scowling slightly) : I'm sure the Fallen One would have suggested enclosing a pellet of T.N.T. in each issue of KATERI... Of course, good angels shouldn't talk that way. But the Vice-Postulator would get results !..

KATERI : No, my cherub, positively not ! How do you think my clients would be fit for correspondence

with Ottawa after that ?... Instead, I'm dictating a letter to you. Take it down and then ask the Canadian readers of KATERI to do as much. Their friends also... Their friends must not be forgotten !

INDIAN ANGEL : (*Takes quill out of headgear, produces ink and paper out of thin air*) : I'm ready, dear Tekakwitha !

KATERI (dictating in a low, mellow voice) :

*The Honorable L. B. Pearson
Minister of External Affairs
Ottawa, Canada.
Honorable Sir :*

As you know, Great Britain, Finland, Egypt and many other countries are diplomatically represented at the Vatican. As a Canadian citizen, I respectfully submit that a Canadian ambassador be accredited to the Vatican. Such action, I am sure, would be applauded by the vast majority of well-thinking Canadians.

Sincerely yours,

(Name and address)

INDIAN ANGEL (rereads letter, then looks up at Ven. Kateri) : Is there anything else to be added ?

KATERI : Yes, a little postscript : Merry Christmas, Mr. Pearson ! And peace on earth to men of good will !"

H. B.

CALENDAR TIDBITS



Sept. 10, 1950. — For the first time in History, a Roman Cardinal was made an honorary Chief of the Mohawks. To the proud Caughnawagans, befell the privilege of conferring that exclusive distinction upon their distinguished guest, His Eminence Eugene Cardinal Tisserant. Truly a red-letter day for the Iroquois Nation.

The occasion coincided with the closing celebrations of the Centenary of the Rev. Sisters of St. Ann. They have been teaching in this Mission for the past thirty-five years and were honored to welcome here their Cardinal Protector.

The Indians, led by the Holy Name Society, did their utmost to prepare a reception worthy of the occasion : the three-point program had been carefully planned and was carried out to perfection.

The ceremony opened with a Solemn Mass at which the Pontiff presided from his throne. As Secretary of the Congregation of Oriental Rites, he was particularly interested in the celebrated Iroquois mixed choir, singing in the vernacular the choicest pieces of its rich repertoire under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Alfred Bernier, S.J.

The three-century-old St. Francis Xavier Mission was introduced to His Eminence by the Very Rev. Léon Pouliot, Jesuit Provincial. His words were then interpreted in Indian by Fr. Michael Jacobs, S.J., first Iroquois priest, who, in turn, was happy to introduce the Prelate to his people. Holy Mass was concluded with the Jubilee Blessing imparted by His Eminence in the name of the Holy Father.

After Mass, the Cardinal in *magna cappa*, was led processionally to Tekakwitha School for the banquet. The long awaited event, the blessing of the new building, then took place. His Eminence spoke touching words of encouragement to the teachers and their Indian pupils.

The last number on the program, was the civic reception, held within the ancient walls of Fort St. Louis. The whole population nodded approval when the mayor, Frank Goodleaf, accompanied by his councillors and fellow tribesmen, in full regalia, vowed "unfailing loyalty to the Sovereign Pontiff, honored today in his representative."

At the rhythmic beat of the tom-tom, the "braves" and "princesses" were introduced, each in his or her favorite tribal dance, climaxed with the symbolical ritual inducting into the Mohawk Tribe, a Prince of the Church. The new honorary chief, *Kaswatseranoron* (Cherished-light-of-the-Orient), expressed his happiness at such a display of filial affection and promised to proudly exhibit in Rome before the Holy Father, the symbols of his new distinction, his Indian headdress and the Pipe of Peace.

FATHER LALONDE.