

DON'T BE AFRAID !

Don't be afraid of this picture of Kateri. It has character and much else that is worthy of note.

Last spring, Mission Saint-François-Xavier was honored by the visit of Dom Pierre Minard, Master of Novices at the Benedictine Priory of Saint-Benoît-du-Lac in Quebec. The story of Tekakwitha and the sight of her relics awakened his interest in her. He remembered having seen her picture in the library of his abbey in France.

In the middle of July, he sent along with the engraving of the Lily of the Mohawks which you now see, a letter to the Mission.

"I am happy," he wrote, "that I can give you, as promised, this small picture of Kateri Tekakwitha which I had spoken to you about. I asked my Father Abbot (of the Abbey of Ligugé in France) for it and he gladly offers it to you. It belonged to an old collection of pictures of the saints, and to me it seems that it dated from the first years of the sixteenth century. This illustration, made in Paris, was probably intended for some book. It is the reproduction of a xviiith century painting of which you showed me a copy. It belonged to an old collection of pictures gathered together during his whole lifetime by a Fr. Meurisse of Roubaix (Northern France), who gave it to the Abbey of Ligugé in 1934..."

This engraving is the reproduction of a painting of the Venerable, made by a man who knew her well : Fr. Claude Chauchetière. Thanks to him, we know how she was attired. But the features are certainly not fine enough. "After her death," wrote Chauchetière himself, "her face appeared instantly so beautiful and so smiling that (her people) who came to see this wonder were quite carried away by it as well as the French..." According to Fr. Cholenec, her confessor, Fr. Chauchetière "made the painting as best he could. Other pictures were made also, and though these were badly done on paper, the Canadians value them highly..."

The illustration of Kateri on the next page apparently stems from one of these pictures. The houses in the background were added by the French engraver.

§ Sticking several thousand stamps on several thousand letters is a long, slow job. To give you better service KATERI has acquired a stamp meter for the year. Rentage : \$118.00, Stamps : app. \$500.00, Total : \$618.00... §



CATHERINE TEGAHKOUITA IROQUOISE.

Morte en odeur de sainteté dans le Canada

Join the Tekakwitha Guild : a mass is offered every week for the members, both living and dead.