



Photo: J. G. Martin

THE RELICS OF TEKAKWITHA

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THE KATERI TEKAKWITHA GUILD

The sodalists of the Blessed Virgin of Caughnawaga, Quebec, who are descendants of the earliest Christian Indians in Canada and New York State, have formed themselves into a Guild to spread devotion to the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.

Our quarterly bulletin, KATERI, intends, above all, to tell her tale, to foster devotion to her and to record the favors both spiritual and temporal you receive through her intercession. As a result, it is hoped the cause of her Beatification will progress more rapidly.

A one year subscription to KATERI (\$1.00) or any other offering, no matter how modest, will enroll you as a member of the Kateri Tekakwitha Guild for one year, to share in a special Mass offered each week for your intentions in the old Mission Church of St-François-Xavier.

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1552 - 1952

by Jacques Bruyère, S.J.

Four hundred years ago, a giant died on the small Island of Sancian in the South China Sea. So small was the island that it could not hold his ambitions, his burning desires. His eyes were lifted towards the great kingdom of China.

This giant was Francis Xavier. So, today, his name is known all over the world. He is the patron saint of all the missions and the model of all missionaries.

This 400th Anniversary will be celebrated all over the world. The whole year, in fact, is dedicated to St. Francis Xavier. It may be timely then to recall an interesting bit of history : in 1667 was built in Laprairie the first chapel in honor of St. Francis Xavier in Canada.

The documents tell us that Fr. Raffeix invited many Iroquois families to establish themselves beyond the Sault or Rapids of Lachine at Laprairie. Then the chapel was moved along the shore four times until it finally was transplanted to Caughnawaga which is still known as the Saint Francis Xavier Mission.

We can be very sure that Xavier's interest in Kateri is something quite personal when we reflect that this great pioneer missionary of the Orient, in whatever country he won souls, cherished especially his first converts. And Kateri is the first fruit of the apostolic labors of our missionaries in Canada.

In celebrating the Xaverian Year, this relation between the Saint and Venerable Kateri is to be remembered, and since he is closer to God, why not beg him to intercede more for Kateri's Cause ?

1552-1952. Xavier could make it 1656-1956 — to commemorate Kateri's tercentenary and to celebrate at the same time Kateri's beatification !

The above cut of St. Francis Xavier belonged to the Rev. G. Forbes, Pastor of the Mission from 1892-1903, and, later, Archbishop of Ottawa.