



IN addition to an all-absorbing love of God, three virtues are vitally necessary for a lay apostle in any era. These virtues are

Courage, Humility and Zeal. Kateri Tekakwitha had them all in goodly measure. Catholic youth of today need equal shares of these virtues if they are to follow the wishes of the Holy Father, Pius XII. He wants every Catholic young man and woman to serve as a Lay Apostle.

Just as Kateri had the courage to live a full Christian life surrounded by pagans; to endure all the persecution that came her way; and yet attempted to convert her people, modern youth can draw upon her example to do the same in our contemporary world and convert our modern pagans.

Like many a young person of today Kateri was the offspring of a "mixed marriage." Her mother was a Christian Algonquin and her father a pagan Iroquois. Taken captive by the

# Kateri and Modern Youth

Part II

by Anne Tansey

## She had the courage to live a Christian life

Iroquois her mother had no opportunity to practice her religion. Before she could even have her little daughter baptized she was struck down with smallpox and died. Kateri contracted the disease and while she recovered, her health was never good, her eyes were very weak and her face was covered with ugly pox marks. She was however undaunted by these physical infirmities.

The uncles and aunts who raised Kateri wanted her to marry a young brave who would help supply their table with fresh meat, but Kateri refused to marry, she wanted to be a Christian and devote her life entirely to God. The girl had the courage of her convictions and endured their persecutions while resisting them.

When Kateri heard there was a Catholic missionary in camp she asked a friend to send him to her as she was sick in bed at the time. Father de Lamberville visited her and Kateri told him of her Christian mother and of

tempt they showered on her, Kateri considered herself fortunate to have lost her pagan name. Christ had suffered jeers and torments, she was glad to bear some of His shame and pain.

Seeing all that was going on the priest told Kateri that she would have to leave the village in order to practice her religion properly. He told her to go to the Catholic Indian Village which the Jesuits had built on the banks of the St. Lawrence River for convert Indians. Kateri had dreamed of living at the Sault, as it was popularly called, but she knew her uncle would never allow her to go.

In time the opportunity to do so presented itself. With two Christian companions Kateri set out for the Sault, daring the wrath of her uncle and the terrors of the forest. Her courage and trust in God carried her through all trials and at length she arrived at the Mission of St. Francis where she set an example to all the Christians, living the most exemplary life, foregoing all pleasures and giving herself up to prayer and penance. Kateri displayed her courage in many ways but in none so pronounced as in penance. She fasted to the point of starvation, and prayed for the conversion of her people whom she loved dearly.

her desire for Baptism. Even while knowing how opposed her uncle was to the Catholic religion Kateri was baptized in the presence of all her tribe on Easter Sunday in 1676.

Almost super-human courage was needed to endure the persecutions which descended on Kateri after she became a Christian. Those in her lodge accused her of being lazy because she refused to work on Sunday. One day they tried to take her Rosary away from her but Kateri declared she would rather die than part with it.

There were some Christians in the village who remained in the safety of their lodges, but Kateri's courage went beyond this, she went to the chapel fearlessly under the eyes of all. Children pointed fingers of scorn at her and no longer called her by her Indian name. Instead they called her "Christian" in derision as one would speak to a dog. Before long that was the only name she was called by. Far from lamenting the con-

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An enrollment (\$1.00) in the Tekakwitha Guild!  
Each donation helps further the cause. ☞

☞ Easter bouquet for Kateri:  
20 addresses or more of would-be friends!  
Each new list helps further the cause. ☞