



LIKE all great saints Kateri was noted for her zeal; she loved God above all things and longed to bring all men to Him, but she never preached to anyone. The sermon which she wrote was her own example. In order to see living proof of the perfect life all the Iroquois had to do was look at Kateri and observe her behavior. After her death the tale of her sanctity spread far and wide and exerted considerable influence in Christianizing the Indian people of the Northland. Kateri was a Lay Apostle by example.

Modern youth can see in Kateri much to follow. A truly Christian life today stands in just as sharp a focus as the spiritual life of Kateri Tekakwitha among the Iroquois in the 1600's. One of her greatest virtues, an outgrowth of true zeal, was her charity; she was never known to speak an unkind word to any human being. No matter what she thought of the defecations and sins of others she said no word of criticism against them, instead she redoubled her prayers for their betterment.

# Kateri and

## Part IV

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All through her short life Kateri sought only what was most agreeable to God. She tried to find out God's will in everything and then did her best to follow it or accept it. Her only fear was lest she should fall into the sins which afflicted her people. While she had charity for them she did not want to be like them.

One day while cutting down a tree for firewood, the tree in falling struck Kateri a glancing blow knocking her to the ground. Her companions rushed to her assistance, fearing that she was badly injured, or dead. As soon as Kateri regained consciousness she said aloud, "My Jesus I thank Thee for having preserved me from this accident." Then picking up her hatchet went back to work.

Kateri displayed her zeal and gave excellent example to the youths of following generations when she made the acquaintance of another Indian girl named Maria Theresa, who had gone through grave temptations, had

☞ Don't forget to give us a detailed report of the favors received through Kateri's intercession! ☞

# Modern Youth

by Anne Tansey

## Lay Apostle

fallen into sin and then repented. The two girls became almost inseparable, aiding each other to higher and higher realms of sanctity.

Kateri had a profound devotion to the Blessed Virgin. She was never without her Rosary and said it on every possible occasion. Winter and summer she attended two masses every day, the first at four o'clock in the morning. In winter she would walk through the snow to church in her bare feet. She went to Confessions once a week, received Holy Communion as often as possible and spent every spare moment in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Although she worked hard Kateri fasted a great deal, she tasted no food on Wednesdays or Saturdays. When she was weak from hunger and the Indian women forced her to eat, she sprinkled ashes in her food so that she would not enjoy eating it. Such penance was as rare in Kateri's environment as in ours, for like our modernists the Indians ate and drank a great deal.

Kateri did not diet, as many girls do today solely in order to acquire slender figures, she fasted for the good of her soul, for self mortification and to atone to God for the sins of her people.

Kateri's zeal embraced another form of devotion which is very pleasing to God and one which is of special merit as an example to modern youth, the complete acceptance of the physical infirmities which God had pleased to send her. Having had smallpox at the age of four Kateri was left with serious eye trouble. Her sight was dim and she suffered greatly from headaches. The delicate membranes of her eyes could not stand the glare of the sunlight and during most of her life Kateri had to wear a partial shield over her eyes. Her general health condition was so bad that much of her life was spent in invalidism. She did not *blame* God for these discomforts, she *thanked* Him for letting her bear a part of His Cross.

From these brief glimpses into the life of Kateri Tekakwitha we can see how worthy the Lily of the Iroquois is of sainthood. She has already been declared Venerable while her cause for beatification is going forward. American boys and girls need look no farther for a saint to emulate, Kateri was truly an American girl.

☞ Send in the names of your friends who may be interested in the Lily of the Mohawks! ☞