



Original Portrait of Kateri
by Father Chauchetière
1680

the missionaries who selflessly sacrificed rest and comfort and health in their avid quest for souls.

For many years Kateri had kept locked in her heart her yearning to be a Christian. Then she had made known to the missionary her secret desire to be baptized. Yet because of the opposition that would surely arise from her relatives, delay had been advised. But now came the day on which she was to be made a child of God and an heir of heaven — Easter Sunday in the year 1676. Over her head were poured the saving waters of Baptism by the young Jesuit missionary Father James de Lamberville. Let one of Kateri's modern biographers describe the unforgettable scene: "Easter Sunday, 1676, was a gala day at Gandaouaghe. De Lamberville regarded it as the most beautiful day in his apostolic career. The Christian Indians saw in it a triumph, that one whom all revered as exceptionally modest, charitable, industrious and prayerful should now be admitted to dignify their own ranks. The pagans for once forgot their animosity to the Faith and attended the ceremony. The chapel was a revel of decoration. . . Catherine, as the missionary named her when pouring the sacred waters, was the ornament that riveted the attention of all by her modesty, peace, piety, and rapture. She had already won admiration and reverence. That day she won, as she walked to the chapel under the avenue of trees her tribesmen has planted purposely for the occasion, a veneration which has never ceased." (Rev. John J. Wynne, S.J.) Kateri Tekakwitha had been born again of water and the Holy Ghost; upon her soul was impressed the sacramental seal of Baptism that was never to be effaced.

(To be continued.)

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Her cause is as poor as she herself was here below !

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