



Obverse

(x 1½)

Devotion to Saint Anne was instilled in the hearts of the Indians of New France by the Franciscans and later by the Jesuits. Champlain, the Founder of Quebec, who had been present among thirty thousand pilgrims at the Blessing of the Shrine of Saint Anne d'Auray in Brittany on July 26, 1625, always aided the missionaries in spreading devotion to the Saint. The expression "Saint Anne" in the minds of many Indians signified "Religion". "To go to Saint Anne" meant for them "to go meet the Black-robos."

In 1658 a sailors' chapel in honor of the Mother of Mary was erected at Beaupré, near Quebec, in thanksgiving to her for protecting those who went down to the sea in ships. During the tercentenary of Saint Anne de Beaupré the faithful have turned with renewed devotion to the Grandmother of our Savior.

In 1670, seven years before Kateri's arrival, a Holy Family Society had been organized at the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier. Kateri was admitted in 1678. It is barely conceivable that the



(Reverse)

Moderator of the Holy Family Association did not mention to the devout membership another Holy Family, that of Saint Anne, Saint Joachim, and Mary!

May be you do not know that a medal of Saint Anne was uncovered during the summer months of 1955-1956 while the archeological work at the fourth site of Kateri's Mission, established in 1696, was in progress.\* This artifact of a period not far removed from Kateri's day bears testimony to the Indians' devotion to Saint Anne.

At Lourdes, a sick child who had not been cured, from the window of a train which was carrying her home, looked up at the Basilica: "I'll tell your Mother," she said, "because you did not help me!" She was cured. During the current Lourdes centennial and the Saint Anne de Beaupré tricentennial, should we not imitate the trust of this little one and often say to Mary: "If you don't hasten Kateri's beatification, I'll tell your Mother! . . ."

\* See Illustrations above.