

PONDER AWHILE . . .

What does my Baptism mean to me? Does it mean as much to me as it did to Kateri? . . . Have I ever taken the time to read attentively the detailed ceremonies of Solemn Baptism? . . . (Now turn to page sixteen and read the Prayer for Kateri's Beatification.)



On September 20, 1694
Father Claude Chauchetière, S.J.
wrote to Father James Juheneau, S.J.
of Bordeaux, France:

. . . I beg the Reverend Father Rector of the Novitiate to have his Novices say a Pater, and Ave and the Gloria Patri three times for me. This is a devotion practiced here among the Indians and the French, who go to the tomb of Kateri, who is interred in the church of the Sault, when they wish to obtain some favor from God. I began it on the very day of her burial; and I have always believed that it was she who at the end of the year saved me, when our chapel was blown down by the storm. Then, in the opinion of all, I was miraculously saved; and I believed that this virtuous Indian repaid me on that occasion for the services that I rendered her during her illness . . .

In 1696,
Father Peter Cholenec,
Kateri's second spiritual guide,
noted in his biography
of the Lily of the Mohawk:

. . . In the following year, 1681, on the first of September, and in 1682, on the twenty-first of April, this same person (Father Chauchetière, S.J.) had a similar vision under the same circumstances, with this one difference, that in the first apparition he had seen Kateri as a rising sun, and had heard these words: Adhuc vini (sic) in dies, whereas in the two following he saw her as a sun in mid-heaven with these words: Inspice et fac secundum exemplar (Exod. 25:40), God thus making it known that He wished pictures to be painted of Kateri. For a long time we had refrained from doing so, but when they were painted later on they contributed a great deal toward making Kateri known, for, being placed on the heads of the sick, they brought about marvelous cures . . .