

(Now turn to page sixteen and read the Prayer for Kateri's Beatification.)



Sixth Day

Unconditional Surrender !...

Kateri made her First Holy Communion on Christmas Day, 1677, a few months after her arrival at the Mission. In those times, Indian neophytes were subjected to a trial of several years before they were privileged to receive Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The missionaries wished to give them a high opinion of the Holy Eucharist. This rule, according to Father Cholenec, did not hold for her; "she was too well disposed and desired with too great an eagerness to receive Our Lord, to be deprived of this great grace, so she was promised some time before the feast that she might receive Him on Christmas, after she had been instructed in the mystery."

She knew beforehand, and this was one of the deep joys which she tasted, that for the first time, the Savior of Mankind with His infinite Love would visit her. Kateri Tekakwitha, the little illiterate Indian girl, who never went to confession without weeping profusely because she thought of herself as the greatest sinner alive (she was of angelic innocence) was to welcome her Redeemer