

THE VICE-POSTULATOR'S DIARY



THE SIMCOE

Definitely times have changed. The St. Lawrence Seaway was open to traffic on April 25th 1959. The 36 year old SIMCOE was the first west-bound commercial vessel to steam through Caughnawaga. The above photo was taken by Miss Antoinette Cormier in front of the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, founded in 1667, facing Lachine and Ville Lasalle on the Island of Montreal.

Times have changed. On April 17th, 279th anniversary of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha's saintly death at the Mission, the new Kateri office in Montreal was formally opened and blessed by the Reverend Yvan Forest, S.J., Socius to Father Provincial. Other friends present were the Rev. Paul Mayer, S.J., Pastor of the Immaculée-Conception Parish in which the office is located, the Rev. Henri Lalonde, S.J., the Rev. Réal Lebel, Editor of the French language monthly "Ma Paroisse", Rev. Brother Wilfrid Venne, S.J. of the *Messageur Canadien du Sacré-Cœur*. The staff was happy to welcome Mr. Edgar Courchesne, the architect who, out of the kindness of his heart, drew up the plans for the new office. Our artist, Mme Andrée S. de Groot, the owner of the building, Mlle Hermine Guay, Mme Odilon Manseau, our new secretary, Mme C. A. Charlebois, and Mr. Albert Lazare with a 7 year record as Kateri's secretary, also signed the first page of the new Kateri guest book.

A recent issue of the *Readers' Digest* related the story of the Caughnawagas living in Brooklyn, N.Y. and working on high steel. At the invitation of a group of them, I spent from May 2 to Ascension Thursday, May 10th, in Brooklyn. I was welcomed at Idlewild Saturday morning after a seventy-minute flight from Montreal. There was sufficient time to say a little prayer at the International Chapel, *Our Lady of the Skies*.

The Rev. Raymond J. Neufeld, Pastor of St. Boniface's made me feel at home at once. After a short visit to St. Augustine's Parish, where one of our Indians has been head usher for several years, the round of visits began. On Sunday morning after the High Mass served by an ex-altar boy from Caughnawaga, I met over forty old and new Indian friends in St. Boniface's parish hall. It was of course impossible in five days, to visit all the homes, but I tried to go to as many as I could.

An interesting and profitable visit with the Reverend Father Thomas Coffey, S.J., American Vice-Postulator for Kateri, at Tekakwitha League, 30 West 16th St., New York 11, N.Y. More about this visit later.

Father Marian, President of the *Marian Films Inc.*, whom I met later in the week, enthusiastically spoke of his film project on Kateri.

You will understand how grateful I am to my Indian friends who made my trip to Brooklyn possible. I am not naming anybody for fear of omitting even one name. But to all, my heartfelt thanks and wishes that Kateri's smile will always rest upon them!

On May 10th it was my privilege to be the guest speaker at a father and daughter Communion breakfast of the dynamic Holy Name Society of St. Thomas More Parish in Verdun, P.Q. Subject? What do you think?...

KATERI OFFICE BILLS

Won't you help us meet them? Even part of one?

Moving Van (files, etc.)	\$ 40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grey chair for secretary	38.70	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grey chair for secretary	38.70	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arm tilter chair	44.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chair cushion	5.55	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linoleum for floor	20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Material for office divisions ..	128.56	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plumbing	42.91	<input type="checkbox"/>
Windows, weather strips, etc.	102.74	<input type="checkbox"/>
69 hours (labor). What an opportunity for 69 of Kateri's friends!	155.25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bell Telephone local service and equipment	35.66	<input type="checkbox"/>
Month of April telephone bill	15.20	<input type="checkbox"/>

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