



Kateri's Vice-Postulator is out for . . . PRAYERS!

Three Centuries Ago...

In 1660, when Tekakwitha was four years old, she was stricken with smallpox. Father Claude Chauchetière, her spiritual director tells us the story:

"An epidemic of smallpox caused the death of many adults and children . . . Kateri's mother died and left two small children, regretting only that she had to leave them unbaptized. It was said that she was a good Christian, that she prayed until her death, and that perhaps her prayer obtained the grace of Baptism for her daughter, and, for us, the grace of possessing a saint. The other child died and only Kateri remained. It was thought that she too would die at the age of four, because she had an attack of smallpox. This, in the course of time, obtained for her the blessing of virginity. Her face, which was formerly pretty, became ugly; she almost lost her eyesight, and her eyes were so hurt by this disease that she could not bear a strong light. This obliged her to remain wrapped in her blanket, and favored her wish to

remain unknown. She often thanked Our Lord for this favor, calling her affliction a blessing, for if she had been pretty she would have been more sought by the young men, and so might have abandoned herself to sin . . ."

The time would come when she would be radiantly beautiful again. But all in all, humanly speaking, Tekakwitha could have said with Galsworthy: "Life is a tough job." For this Iroquois maiden it began to be tough at a very tender age. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, however, and of her confessors, she quickly learned that joy is achieved through the Cross, and not despite it. On the other hand, all this suffering enabled her to understand others and to sympathize with those who bow under the burdens of physical pain and of spiritual anguish. The following letter just received from Miss R. D., will show you what I mean—

"On July 17th I had the honor of visiting Kateri's Shrine. About 1934 I was given a pamphlet with her picture and a short prayer which I memorized and say immediately after the Morning Offering every day. I was told one day she would become a saint, and while I said the prayer every morning since that time, I never asked her intercession.

"We have a 'problem nephew'—age 18, father deceased; mother and stepfather alcoholics. We had not heard from him for a week and the CYO where he rooms said he had not been there for three days. I immediately began praying to Kateri to intercede for us and about three p. m. yesterday afternoon he came; my sister called me at work, and we both thank God and Kateri."

Kateri Badly Needs...

The Jesuit Relations.

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