

lenec noted, had she been anything but a Christian from Sault St. Louis, her life would inevitably have been spared.

Margaret was tied to the stake. Her body was burnt systematically: "commonly", wrote Father Charlevoix, "they begin by burning the feet, then the legs, and so on up to the head." This long and painful torment, she accepted as a true Iroquois without the least complaint, without the slightest display of pain. Now and then she murmured the names of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and begged them to assist her throughout the terrible ordeal. On and off she requested a little water, but after some thought, asked that nobody comply with her request, even if she insisted.

"My Savior", she said, "was thirsty dying upon the Cross for me; why shouldn't I endure the same discomfort?"

From noon to sundown, Margaret Garon was underwent excruciating torture. Anxious to see the woman breathe her last before the day was done, at twilight they released her from the stake, scalped her, packed her exposed skull with hot cinders and ordered her to run. Margaret fell upon her knees, and lifting up her eyes and her hands to heaven, commended her soul to God. Her torturers rained blow after blow upon her without succeeding to interrupt her prayers.

"Can't this Christian dog die?" one of them shouted, and seizing a brand new Dutch knife, plunged it into the lower part of her body. The blade, thrust hard, to the surprise of all, snapped and fell into pieces at their feet. Someone else grabbed the stake to which she had been attached and bludgeoned her several times upon the head with it. As she was still alive, they fired a heap of dried wood and threw her into the flames. There Margaret Garon was died a martyr's death.

## A Most Engaging Personality

The 281st anniversary of Kateri's death on April 17 was well publicized. Thanks to Miss Nona MacDonald, researcher, to Mr. Frank Williams, producer, to Mr. Sheridan Nelson, interviewer, in a live TV appearance of April 5 on *Montreal Matinee*, I spoke of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. Thanks again to Miss MacDonald, on April 17, I was able to put Kateri's case before the public on Seven-O-One at the CBC Station in Toronto. In this Canada-wide appearance, the researcher was Mr. Peter Kappele, the producer, Mr. Georges Dick and the interviewer, Mr. John O'Leary. ❀ Last March, while I was in Rome, Fr. Jean Lucas, S.J., Director of the French programs at the Vatican Radio, taped Kateri's Vice-Postulator in an interview, which was beamed in France on April 16. A shorter talk on the same subject was broadcast, from Montreal, on May 6, at Station CKAC, on the *Chronique romaine* program. ❀ On April 17, *Radio-Sacr -C ur*, with headquarters in Montreal, recalled the anniversary of Kateri's death in Canada, and the next day, the 285th anniversary of her baptism in what is today Fonda, N. Y. ❀ The March 18th supplement of the rotogravure section of *La Presse* in Montreal carried a two-page feature of Kateri; the April 16th issue of *La Patrie du dimanche*, a one-page feature with colored illustrations. ❀ On June 7, I was able to speak of Kateri and of Auriesville, her birthplace, over CFTM, a new French TV channel in Montreal. M. Jacques Desbaillets was the interviewer. ❀ This year the annual St. Jean Baptiste parade et Montreal spotlighted the "Women of French Canada". One of the floats featured the Canadian Mystics—among them the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. The printed program comments: "Kateri Tekakwitha remains the most engaging personality of the religious history of Canada. The remarkable life of this neophyte, called the "Lily of the Mohawks", is a living proof of the special vocation to which she was called. Quite probably she will be the first native-born American Saint."

