

# Their Christmas and Yours

AS A CHRISTIAN, the Lily of the Mohawks enjoyed her first Christmas in 1677, a few miles from the spot where St. Isaac Jogues, St. Jean de Lalande and St. René Goupil died for the faith. On January 3, 1943, His Holiness Pius XII in his decree on the heroicity of Kateri's virtues, linked her with the Martyrs. To her, the pope applied Tertullian's often quoted words: "The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians".

In his biography of Kateri, Father Chauchetière, writing in 1685, five years after her death, stated: "The honor and the respect that I owe to the memory of Reverend Father de Brébeuf and the other Jesuits who began the Iroquois missions, have obliged me to break a five year long silence that I kept concerning what took place at the death and burial of her whose life I am writing..."

Four years ago in the Christmas issue of the *Kateri* quarterly, the Martyrs' Shrine at Auriesville was written up; in the

present issue the Martyrs' Shrine at Midland, Ontario, is highlighted.

Perhaps you may feel as I do. On those Christmas Days of three centuries ago, far from their homeland, among the snow-covered pines of the virgin forest, the five future Martyrs of Huronia offered to the Infant Savior their prayers, their efforts and their lives for the spread of the faith in the New World. They had received much from Our Lord; in return they offered Him everything they had. Doubtless, as we sit down to a well-laden Christmas table, in the midst of those we love, the thought may occur to us that we too have received much. Compared to the Martyrs, compared to the Lily of the Mohawks, what shall we offer in return?

▶ Windows of the Martyrs' Chapel, Regis College, Willowdale, Ont. By Artist James Meechan of Toronto



St. René Goupil  
St. Jean de la Lande

St. Jean de Brébeuf  
St. Gabriel Lalemant

St. Isaac Jogues  
St. Antoine Daniel

St. Charles Garnier  
St. Noël Chabanel

