

Oddments

To Kateri's friends and to mine also, goes my heartfelt gratitude! On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of my Ordination, they joined in with me in thanking our Lord for the many blessings of the past quarter of a century. Many wrote to wish me well in the coming years; some others went to the trouble of choosing a silver white card of congratulations into which they slipped a generous donation.

On August 13, the twenty-fifth anniversary of my priesthood, I especially remembered these friends and relatives at the Memento of my Thanksgiving Mass. Our Lord and His Blessed Mother have been very good to me, and despite the trials and sorrows that make up the woof and warp of every life, deep joy in the service of Christ has consistently been the hallmark of these years. "Arzeria! Arzeria!" sings the Mohawk Choir. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Miss Flora MacDonald, a devoted member of the Kateri Center staff has been seriously ill for several months. May we count on Kateri's friends to ask our Lord to send her back to us fit and healthy as soon as possible?

Have you signed your Prayer Pledge yet? You may also obtain forms for your friends by writing to Kateri, Box 70, Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada.

From every quarter little paper bags of sugar are pouring into the Office of the Vice Postulation . . .

each one illustrated with a vignette of Kateri. Here it is . . .



Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680)

was called the "Lily of the Mohawk" and was regarded as a saint by her people in Caughnawaga, now a reservation near Montreal.

SUCRE

Redpath
MINIPAC

SUGAR

Kateri Tekakwitha

Kateri Tekakwitha, surnommée "Lis des Mohawks" vécut de 1656 à 1680. Sa tribu de Caughnawaga la vénérat comme une sainte. Elle mourut le Mercredi saint, tel qu'elle l'avait prédit.

Many times, in this column, I have mentioned that the spirituality of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha was distinctly Marian. Today we find that her entire religious outlook was in harmony with the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* of Vatican II concerning the cult of our Lady, always related to Christ, the Source of all truth, sanctity and piety. No one will be surprised then to learn that the Iroquois Maiden had great devotion to the Rosary.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The Council never intended, as some impulsive churchmen claim, that the faithful reject the Rosary.

As a matter of fact, the same Constitution approved of by all the bishops of the world and by the Holy Father, "admonishes all the sons of the Church that the cult, especially the liturgical cult, of the Blessed Virgin, be generously fostered. It charges that practices and exercises of devotion toward her be treasured as recommended by the teaching authority of the Church in the course of centuries . . ."

But, take care: to be truly able to take advantage of the Rosary, you must already have progressed somewhat in the spiritual life. Let me quote Father Karl Rahner, who is not noted for his ultra-conservative views:

"And when a Christian will have discovered that and how the Rosary may become the prayer of his daily interior life, both simple and sublime; when his spiritual vigor will have become vast enough and strong enough to spiritually realize what is dogmatically clear, to wit that the Blessed Virgin is objectively important to the individual, in harmony with her unique role in the history of salvation, — then he will be fond of reciting each day, according to his possibilities, a part of the Rosary; this will be a small part toward the achievement of his vocation of prayer for the salvation of the world."

With all the grace of a wild boar in a china shop, *Newsweek*, in its religious section of April 28, 1969, printed its appreciation of the Catholic method of canonization, under the heading "Saints March Slowly": "The canonization process appears to favor the eccentric. The first American-born saint, for example, may turn out to be a sickly

half-blind Mohawk maiden converted by the Jesuits in 1676. In the eyes of her promoters, the 'Lily of the Mohawks' demonstrated heroic virtue by her flagellation, prayer, and 'private vow of chastity' taken at a time when Mohawk mores demanded that she take a husband. In short, Kateri exemplifies the virtuous excesses of a seventeenth-century nun." To top it off, a saccharine illustration of the future Mohawk saint carried the snide legend: "Kateri: Gilding the 'Lily'."

Why does *Newsweek* call Kateri "eccentric"? Because she was sickly and half-blind? If so, are sickly half-blind people necessarily eccentric? Because she was a Mohawk? Is *Newsweek* published by a clique of supermen far superior to the indigenous inhabitants of North America? For the life of me, I cannot understand why being a Mohawk would make a person eccentric! Because she was converted by a Jesuit? Is Tennessee Williams eccentric because he was converted by a Jesuit?

Her promoters, among whom I am one, demonstrated that the Lily of the Mohawks practised heroic faith, hope and especially charity, whose immediate end is God Himself. In the wake of these paramount virtues, she practised to an exceptional degree all the other Christian virtues. Incidentally, even before Kateri, non-Christian Iroquois girls were known to have practised celibacy. "We have even seen maidens," wrote Father Claude Chauchetière in 1686, "observing virginity. One even died without having desired to marry, and it was held that she had never done anything wrong and had died in that

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