



In their instructions to Kateri, the missionaries stressed the necessity of loving God more than anything else.

## “THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD”

BISHOP FULTON SHEEN used to enjoy telling the following story. One day a woman approached him on the train and said to him point-blank: “Bishop, I don’t like your teaching on hell.” The Bishop answered: “Neither do I.”

The missionaries who instructed Kateri Tekakwitha always stressed love of God. But, less naïve than some of our contemporaries, they believed in the teaching of Christ and of His Church concerning hell. They taught that Satan, “the Prince of this world”, exists.

In 1678 Anastasia Tregonhatsiongo, who had been instructed by the missionaries, often spoke to Kateri “about the pains of hell, about the horrible penances the saints had done to avoid them . . .”

Already, in 1667, Father Jacques Fremin, whom little Kateri then met for the first time, entered into the long house of a poor Iroquois woman whom some Mahingan warriors had scalped, spoke to her of “the other life, of the pains of hell . . . and of the joys of paradise . . .”

Father Jean Pierron, who was something of an artist, had painted

as early as 1669 many pictures to illustrate the truths of our Faith. “I have represented to them a hundred times, with all the force with which God inspired me, the eternal punishments and rewards of the other life.”

It would be easy to gather a number of similar quotations in the writings of the seven Blackrobes who helped Kateri in her ascent to God.

But the fear of hell was not the pivot of their spirituality. They considered love as the bridge which leads us to God; the handrail alone — on which no one walks, — was the fear of hell.

Time and time again Scripture teaches us that the bad angels do exist. And off and on throughout history, God in His Providence raises a corner of the veil of eternity and allows us to perceive a glimpse of this terrible truth that we do not like but in which we must believe. Such seems to be the case concerning the phenomena which were observed last January at Acton Vale, P.Q.

I interviewed Father Normand Bernier, one of the three priests who signed the following statement.