

## EACH NEW MOON

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FROM MISS J. B. of Quebec City come the following comments on the "Each New Moon" column in the last issue of *KATERI*:

I always read *Kateri* with interest and profit. The winter 1971 issue with its cascades, cataracts, and waterfalls was particularly appealing. I am enclosing 500 cents in paper . . . which I would like to multiply by one thousand. I do not desire wealth but simply a certain affluence which would allow me to donate more generously to all the worthy causes that knock at my door.

What a vigorous restatement on the ticklish issue of abortion! A timely restatement, also, concerning the UNICEF cards. I did not buy any this year, but they were advertised everywhere, on TV, in supermarkets, even at the hairdresser's parlor. These people know how to operate. I am having the ladies at the pension read your article. We have sent petitions to the Honorable John Munro, Minister for National Health and Welfare, and to our federal parliamentary representative,

Mr. J. C. Cantin, the Minister of Justice's official secretary, to back up the complaints of the Catholic Women's League, and of many others. Mr. Cantin answered each letter with a circular, without pinning himself down to practically anything. I don't believe that Mr. Munro answered.

What fine doings on the part of Mr. Borowski, of the Daughters of Isabelle, and of others! Are we already sunk beneath the waves? . . . Let's keep on fighting as members of the Church Militant! And let's not forget the power of prayer! . . .

Kudos to all the friends of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, who signed their Prayer Pledge of one Our Father and/or one Hail Mary each day to speed up her beatification. Kudos to those who have gone out of their way to solicit the signatures of their relatives and acquaintances, particularly to Sr. Simone Rivest, C.N.D., of Boucherville, P.Q., who obtained 1298 signatures by knocking at doors! In North America there are more than 60,000,000 Catholics, not to speak of our Protestant and Jewish friends, who devoutly lift their hearts in prayer. Help up, for the love of Kateri, to obtain 1,000,000 signed daily Prayer Pledges. Without your help it can't be done, for we have a long way to go. . .

A few years ago, Montreal's novelist Leonard Cohen unceremoniously dunked the Venerable Kateri

Tekakwitha into a cesspool of his own creation. Now in a new motion picture, an unknown French Canadian had aped him. In its two hours of showing, not a single pleasant character crosses the screen. Jean-Paul Lefebvre delights in showing a nude Tekakwitha dancing lewdly in a down town tavern. (This is the kind of picture, the Quebec censors rate "For all the Family.") Sainly Jeanne Mance, first lay nurse of North America, whose cause of beatification is pending in Rome, is depicted as the perfect antithesis of what she was — a dedicated, efficient, and successful leader. The priest, of course, had to be a homosexual, — Abbé Frelaté — and, also, quite as much the vacuous fool as could be expected. Finally, Jean Talon, the seventeenth century intendant of New France, wearing a vast periwig, appears on TV to parrot out of context, the prime minister and premiers of today.

Lefebvre calls his movie or cinema *Les Maudits Sauvages: The Damned Savages*. The moral of his tale is that the whites are quite as much "damned savages", and even more so than the Amerinds. Were there any hesitation about the matter, after two hours of such tripe, who would dare deny it? Fortunately Lefebvre's cheap, amateurish bungling takes most of the sting out of the movie regarding the historical personages concerned.

I was particularly riled, I must admit, by the praise heaped upon it by one of *Relations'* critics. (Some people seem to think that the monthly review *Relations* is to French Canadians what the weekly

review *America* is to Americans.) We are calmly informed in the December issue of *Relations*, that *Les Maudits Sauvages* will help the immature find their way to maturity. An expression dear to the Prime Minister will serve as my comment: Fuddleduddle!

In the fourth and fifth issues of last year's *Kalumet*, a German bimonthly dedicated to the study of the Amerinds, Sr. Perboyre, SSpS., wrote Kateri up for its readers. After succinctly telling the story of the Lily of the Mohawks, she summarizes the history of her Cause in Rome. Sister Perboyre recalls the erection of the cenotaph to Kateri's memory in 1890 by Msgr. C.A. Walworth and by his niece, Ellen, the author of *The Lily of the Mohawks* (1891; 2nd ed. 1926), at what is today Côte Sainte-Catherine of Laprairie, P.Q.; she then concludes with the story of the dedication of a bronze monument of Kateri Tekakwitha at Caughnawaga, P.Q. in the summer of 1954. I thank Kateri's good friend, Mrs. Muller-Fricken of Franckfort on the Main for having forwarded these two issues of *Kalumet* to the Center, and, doubtless, for having encouraged Sister Perboyre to write this article.

The October 1971 issue of *Sainte Anne de Beaupré* carried an illustrated article on Kateri Tekakwitha. I am particularly grateful for this publicity as the author wrote: "When the occasion presents itself, let us consider it a duty to visit the fascinating locality of Caughnawaga