

In this connection, Cardinal Cushing wrote: "It would be good if more people read the decrees of the Council, and studied them, rather than allow themselves to be led astray by those who assume the right to interpret these decrees independently of the teaching authority of the Church."

Conscious of the importance of the "Decree on the Church" touching the cult of the Blessed and of the Saints, Paul VI established on April 28, 1969, a new Congregation, that of the Causes of the Saints, and gave it a Cardinal-Prefect, an Undersecretary, and a group of researchers and experts. One can see in this innovation, an invitation not to allow oneself to be deceived by the lure of an anaemic Christianity, a Christianity that refuses to recognize the Mystical Body of Christ. For us, here in Canada and the United States, I see more specifically an invitation to renew contact with those who sanctified our history and especially with the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, whose cause is pending in Rome. Within this sphere, we shall have to follow the example of our fathers in the Faith, a responsibility which obviously will demand more backbone than ever before.

Formerly

Shortly after the death of Kateri Tekakwitha in the seventeenth century, Intendant de Champigny and his wife had pictures of the Servant of God struck off and distributed so as to make her known at the French Court and among the Canadian settlers. On September 26, 1715, Father Pierre Cholenec, S.J., wrote a long Latin letter to the Very Reverend Father Michael-Angelo Tamburini, General of the Society of Jesus. In this document, he methodically set forth the virtues of the Lily of the Mohawks as if he had been the Postulator of her Cause of Canonization. In 1744, Father François-Xavier de Charlevoix, S.J., in his monumental **History and Description of New France**, notified his readers that this young Iroquois woman was then "universally considered as the protectress of Canada," and as "the new star of the New World." The conquest of New France by England slowed down the movement in favor of the Iroquois maiden's canonization.

In the last century, the Second and Third Councils of Baltimore, U.S.A., solicited along with the canonization of the Jesuit Martyrs that of Kateri Tekakwitha. On June 19 and 30, 1885, Their Lordships Bishops Antoine and Dominique Racine, both born at Lorette, P.Q., begged, Leo XIII to glorify the Martyrs and Kateri Tekakwitha. That same year, from the Holy Father twenty-eight Amerindian tribes requested the same favor for this child of the great forest.



N. Esther Higgins pinxit.

THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS