

EACH NEW MOON



THREE CENTURIES AGO . . .

THIS YEAR, EASTER falls on April 18. Exactly three centuries ago, April 18 was also Easter Sunday. For all the friends of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, this date is important, for it is the tercentenary of her baptism.

In this issue of *Kateri*, you will find the story of Kateri's christening, written by Father Pierre François Xavier de Charlevoix, S.J., in his monumental *History of New France*, first published in 1744. After teaching grammar at Quebec from 1705 to 1709, he was ordained priest in Paris in 1713. Later, so as to research his history of the Canadian colony, he returned to New France and even spent a few weeks at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier in 1721.

In 1676, the Iroquois castle of Gandaouagué (Fonda, N. Y.), where Kateri was baptized, stood on the north bank of the Mohawk River. The well from which the water was drawn for her baptism still exists. The Mohawk stronghold faces the Martyrs' Shrine on the south bank of the same river, at

Auriesville, N.Y., where three of the Jesuit Martyrs shed their blood for the Faith and where, ten years later (1656), Kateri was born.

This issue of *Kateri* aims to spotlight this tercentenary and to invite one and all to celebrate Easter joyfully in union with the Lily of the Mohawks, the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.

A TIDAL WAVE

How should Kateri's friends celebrate the tercentenary? It seems to me that they should do their utmost so as to hasten her Beatification. In order to do so, there is no better way than prayer.

The Venerable Mother Mary of the Incarnation, a mystical contemporary of Kateri Tekakwitha, wrote from Quebec to her son in France: "The Eternal Father revealed to a person I know [herself] that if she asked Him something through the Heart of His Son, He would give her anything she wanted." So, through the Heart of Jesus, ask the Eternal Father to grant us Kateri's Beatification. With the same purpose in mind, staunch fidelity to the daily Our Father and Hail Mary, which most of our subscribers have promised in writing, is one of the better means of properly celebrating the tercentenary of Kateri's baptism.

Another means of the same sort consists in finding new friends who are also ready to promise in writing that they, too, shall offer each day a prayer for Kateri's Beatification. Surely, among your relatives and acquaintances, there are at least

five or six who, did they know about it, would gladly sign the Kateri pledge. It may take a little doing on your part to approach them; still, it's worth the trouble. For the last eight years, the Kateri Center has obtained a wave of some 12,000 signed pledges. It's up to you to make a tidal wave, a Hawai 5-0 wave of it.

A CALL TO ACTION

Even if prayer is essential, it is not enough. One must set to work under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

1. Begin by reading a biography of Kateri so as to be able to speak or write about her pertinently;

2. Make her known and loved by the little ones, by the older ones, too; by the ill and the healthy; and most of all by anyone suffering in any way;

3. Get five new subscriptions to the *Kateri* quarterly. It only costs one dollar a year per subscription, just about the cost of stamps, stencils and mailing (See above p. 4);

4. Don't delay in reporting favors, particularly cures obtained through Kateri's intercession. If this had always been done, Kateri would certainly be canonized today;

5. For the upkeep of the modest Kateri Center (rent, lighting, water tax, typewriter servicing, paper, etc.), make an offering to Kateri's Cause, if you can afford it.

THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

Easter is the celebration of the birth of Christ the Man to eternal

glory. If our good actions are offered to Him, Christ accepts them, no matter how humble they may be, and joins them to His own to offer them to the Father of Love.

In each issue of *Kateri*, for several years now, I have been urging our readers to participate in one of the many pro-life movements in the country and to offer up the merit of the effort it takes in order to accelerate Kateri's Beatification.

Dilly-dallying is now out of the question. If one considers the situation, it soon becomes apparent that it is not all that difficult.

If someone were to ask me how to proceed, I should answer: "Do you know the name of your federal deputy? (In U.S.A., representative)... You don't? Do some research and, when you find it, please let me know. Then write to him and tell him that you would not approve of the abrogating of the present abortion law. Nowise. Then write the same letter to the Prime Minister whether you like him or not.

Whatever you do in order to prevent what Vatican II calls "a heinous crime," offered to God for the Beatification of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, redounds to her glory.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

To our American subscribers, whose letters to *Kateri* were returned to them because of the forty-three-day mail strike in Can-