



PHOTO SISTER MARY WINIFRED

The statue of Kateri pictured above appears in the beautiful American Catholic Bicentennial Calendar published by the National Council of Catholic Bishops.



SAINT JOHN'S ABBEY · COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA

56321

OFFICE OF THE ABBOT

September 26

1974

Father Henri Beshard, SJ
Kateri Takakwitha Center
Caughnawaga, Que, JOL 1B0

Dear Father Beshard,

A few days ago I received a letter from one of the Sisters in Rochester, Minnesota, asking that I send you some information concerning the statue of Kateri Tekakwitha which stands on the shore of our Lake Sagatagan. She indicated that she had sent you a snapshot of this statue and that you would like to print it in your magazine "Kateri" with a little background information. I am happy to give you this permission and to give you the following information:

The statue of Kateri Tekakwitha was erected originally alongside the church of St. Olaf in downtown Minneapolis, about 1950. The pastor of the parish at that time was Rev. Leonard Cowley, later one of the auxiliary bishops of the archdiocese. When a fire completely destroyed the church, the statue was damaged (the head was knocked off). Father Cowley had the head replaced by the St. Paul Statuary Company (who may have made the statue originally).

Because the plans for the new St. Olaf Church did not make provision for the statue, Father Cowley offered it to St. John's Abbey in 1955, and it was placed on the shore of Lake Sagatagan. I am quite sure that Father Cowley wished to call attention to the Catholic background of many of the Indians who are still in Minnesota and to add something to the Indian lore which is quite strong in the city of Minneapolis itself.

Unfortunately, the envelope in which the letter from the Sister arrived has been lost, as I was seeking information concerning our statue. Perhaps you will know who she is and perhaps you can inform her that I have sent you this information.

With all good wishes and the prayer that God bless you and your work, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John Eidenschink, O.S.B.

(Right Rev.) John Eidenschink, O.S.B.
Abbot

JE:fp