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Kateri's Second Communion, Easter Sunday 1678

extraordinary calm should have justified her in the sight of the Jesuit. Anastasia Tegonhatsiongo, also, had her say on the subject, strongly advising her to set her conduct to rights, or if this was unnecessary, to forestall any improper behavior. The unhappy wife and a few other women who had learned of the accusation still considered her guilty.

In the Mohawk Canton, one of her aunts had falsely charged her with incestuous relations with her uncle. She had never imagined, though, that in a mission town she would be caught up in so sorry a story on the word of a fervent Christian. Never did she suffer so much as then. What hurt her most was the priest's attitude. He did not seem to believe her, even to the point of treating her as a culprit.

Kateri Tekakwitha had already quit her relatives, her country, and all the advantages of a good marriage, which she could easily have contracted. There still remained the sacrifice of her honor and of her reputation to complete her gift of self to God. She gave them up heroically.

With time it became apparent that she had not complained about anyone and had only said what was strictly needed to make the truth known. Her revenge consisted in praying for her accuser. And this was enough to undeceive those who had rashly passed judgment on her and the fine man who had fallen asleep close to her mat. The marvels following on Kateri's death a few years later gave them the opportunity of calling to mind her charity, patience, devotion, and the good example she had shown on all occasions.

The suspicious wife wept over her error for three years. She could not console herself, thinking that our Lord would never forgive her. It took all the missionary's doing to rid her of her fears and to restore her peace of mind.

During these trying days, Kateri found comfort in the nearby church at the foot of the tabernacle. As Holy Week was about to begin, she resolved to make the most of it. It was the first time she participated at the Mission in the ceremonies preparatory to the Resurrection. The terrible sufferings and the death of Jesus moved her deeply. She felt such fervor that she shed abundant tears, especially on Good Friday, as the missionary preached on the Passion of our Lord. She reverently kissed the Cross, and, her heart filled love and gratitude, decided to carry the mortification of Christ in her body for the rest of her life.

On Easter Sunday, with the permission of Fr. Cholenec, her confessor, she received Holy Communion a second time,