



FOR A TERCENTENARY

THE ST. REGIS MISSION, definitely established about 1755 on Lake St. Francis, a widening of the St. Lawrence River, was made up of more than thirty families from Caughnawaga, who were joined by a group of Mohawk Indians. Their link with the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha is undeniable. So, on December 4, 1977, they held special ceremonies to honor the tercentenary of Kateri's first Holy Communion on Christmas Day, 1677, at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier.

Two Masses were offered in thanksgiving to God for the holiness Kateri achieved here on earth, the first one at 10:00 A.M., with Fr. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., Director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs at Auriesville, N.Y., as celebrant; and, as co-celebrants Fr. Ronald Fleig, S.J., also from Auriesville, and Fr. Michael K. Jacobs, S.J., of St. Regis.

Before the Holy Sacrifice, Mr. Thomas Constantino from Amsterdam, N.Y., gave a short talk on Kateri, stressing her departure from the Mohawk country and her flight to the Mission of St. Francis Xavier in the autumn of 1677. He then unveiled an oil painting of Fr. Michael K. Jacobs in appreciation of the many years he had spent in spreading devotion to Kateri.



Mr. Thomas Constantino, Fr. Ronald Fleig, S.J., Fr. Michael Jacobs, S.J., and Fr. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., unveil Fr. Jacobs' portrait.



Mr. Constantino brought many statues of Kateri for Bishop Brzana to bless at the noon Eucharistic Celebration. After Mass, he donated one to Fr. Jacobs; later on, another to Fr. Léon Lojoie, S.J., Pastor at Caughnawaga, and still another to Fr. Henri Béchar, S.J., Vice-Postulator for Kateri Tekakwitha.



Fr. F. James Shurtleff, the Bishop's secretary, leads the procession of Knights of Columbus from the St. Regis rectory to the church. These Fourth Degree Knights were from Fort Covington, Malone, Ellenburg Depot, and Massena, N.Y.



Indian children in their colorful costumes follow the Knights.



The Pastor, Fr. Gordon Bazinet, S.J., and the Provincial, Fr. Julian Harvey, S.J.



Chief Paul Horne from Caughnawaga precedes Bishop Stanislaus Brzana with his wooden crozier, carved by the St. Regis Indians.

Bishop Stanislaus Brzana of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, N.Y., which comprises the American section of the St. Regis Mission, solemnly celebrated the second Mass at noon. The Pastor, Fr. Gordon Bazinet, S.J., gave the homily. The Bishop then blessed the new statue of the Lily of the Mohawks, the work of sculptor Charles Pizzani of Medford, Mass. He also blessed a score or more of smaller statue, which Mr. Thomas Constantino had had made from a mold created by Miss Adrienne Bouvier of Brookline, Mass., and which he intends to distribute among friends interested in Kateri Tekakwitha, especially in the New York area.



The blessing of the new statue: Fr. Louis Sanschagrin, Socius to Fr. Provincial, Fr. Fleig, Fr. Shurtleff, Chief Arthur Kerne, Bishop Stanislaus Brzana, Fr. Bazinet, and Chief Paul Horne.

At two o'clock, after the Eucharistic Celebration, Bishop Brzana with the assembled clergy, the Knights of Columbus, and Kateri's friends drove to Kateri Hall in Hogansburg, N.Y., the American section of the Mission. The St. John Baptist and the Altar and Rosary Societies were happy to offer dinner to the Bishop and the other guests.

Before the parting of the ways, Mr. Thomas Constantino donated a statue and plaque of Kateri to Bishop Brzana; Sir Knight James Burlow of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus presented the Pastor, Fr. Bazinet, with a Mass kit.

Grand Master James Barlow, Fr. Julien Harvey, S.J., Bishop Stanislaus Brzana, Fr. Thomas F. Egan, Fr. Gordon Bazinet, S.J., Fr. Henri Béchar, S.J., Mr. Thomas Constantino, and Mr. William Sunday, member of the Parish Council, St. Regis, P.Q.

