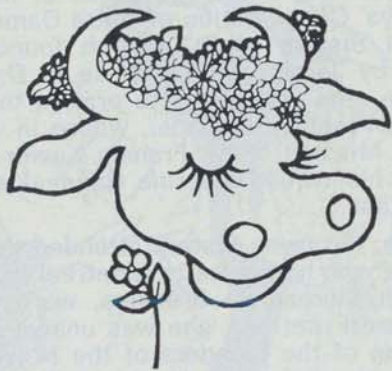


EVEN A COW AND AN OX

Kateri is interested in all kinds of petitions; take for example those made for a cow and an ox in 1695:

A woman of Lachine, who had come with her fellow parishioners to honor Katharine at the Sault, came to me after High Mass and told me that the only cow she possessed, had one day so vastly swollen up, without apparent cause, that they had given the beast up. But she then had recourse to the ordinary refuge of the people of Lachine, saying with the greatest of simplicity: "O Good Katharine, have pity on me! Save my poor cow!"



Her few words were hardly out of her mouth when the swelling disappeared before her eyes and the cow has been fine ever since.

Last winter an ox fell on the ice at Montreal and was so badly injured that to the great loss of his master and his family, the beast had to be stabled for the whole winter. One of the girls of the household was much devoted to Katharine, and got the idea of taking some of the earth from her grave, mixing it with the water which she would secretly bring to the ox to drink. Said she, altogether charmingly: "Why should not Katharine cure beasts as well as men?" Next morning the ox was found on his feet and to the astonishment of all was hitched to his accustomed yoke. When the young woman saw the wonderful thing that had happened, she broadcast what she had done, for the glory of her who had designed to grant her the favor.

Francis Le Brun, S.J.
Between 1707-1721

KATERI'S IMPACT UPON US



HOW did Kateri Tekakwitha achieve heroic faithfulness to all the Christian virtues? What is there in the achievement that attracts so many ardent devotees?

Here was a flower that bloomed in pagandon, a most attractive girl who lived to precisely the same age of the Little Flower, and confessed the Faith and practised the Christian life in the midst of a people slowly emerging from a primal to a Christian culture. She was for them what Agnes and Agatha, Cecilia and Lucy were for the newly converted and the on-their-way-to-Christianity Romans of the Apostolic age.

Modern Americans benefit from a Christian heritage imported from the Old World and implanted in the New. Ours is not an age when the message of Christ is new and startling. Nor does the Devil now roam our forests inciting indigenous nations to diabolical orgies and direct violence against Church of Christ and His Members. The Sign of the Cross today is not followed by a death blow from the tomahawk. What have we to learn from an Indian maiden who lived at the dawn of Christianity in this nation?

The Serpent is still with us. Apathy, indifference, forgetfulness, procrastination, despair... these are the slough of the Serpent. Profession of the Faith and a truly Christian life are as incomprehensible and suspicious to the modern American mind as they were to Onse-gongo, uncle of Tekakwitha, and war chief of the Mohawk.