

## EACH NEW MOON



### EASTER YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Thanks to Fr. Joseph Cosette, S.J., Archivist of the Society of Jesus of French Canada, I am able to inform **Kateri's** readers that in 1679 Easter fell on April 2. It was the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha's last Easter on earth. As for us, living in 1979, how should we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ Our Lord? By doing our best to go thoroughly into the immense joy it holds for each and everyone of us, despite the sorrows and disappointments of life. By doing our best as Kateri did to be happy with Him, not only in heaven later on, but here below also. Eight days after her death, in an apparition to her old friend and guide, Anastasia Tehatsiongo, Kateri said as she showed her a cross brilliant with light, "Mother, look at this cross and see how beautiful it is. It was the source of my happiness during my life, and I counsel you to make it yours also."

Let us take to heart this message, fitting not only for good Anastasia of old, but also for each and all today. Let us wel-

come into our lives the supreme happiness of the Cross, not necessarily by hunting out for suffering, but by giving it a good reception even when the "day is darkening at the windows and the street doors are shut;... when the voice of the bird is silenced, and song notes are stilled..."

To thank Kateri for having vigorously recalled to us that the Cross always precedes the splendor, the glory, and the joy of the Resurrection, what is there to do? Offer up a prayer a day, no matter how short it may be, to beseech the Lord to grant us the miracles needed for her beatification, if possible for the tercentenary of her holy death. Hold up your friends spiritually for the promise of a daily Our Father or Hail Mary for the same intention; encourage them to ask for temporal and spiritual favors for themselves and for their dear ones. Make the **Kateri** quarterly better known around and about you, and do whatever a heart of gold and a normal imagination suggests. Alleluia! Alleluia!

### IN TELUGU



Already in 1966 a life of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, **Star of the Mohawk** was published in far-away India in the Bengali language, thanks to the efforts of Fr. Gaston Roberge, S.J., a French Canadian Jesuit, who had

volunteered to work in the Bombay Province of the Society of Jesus. An immediate success, it was soon out of print.

In November 1976, Fr. Ignatius Kakumanu of Guntur, India, informed me that another biography of the Lily of the Mohawks had appeared in his country. "You will be pleased to learn," he wrote, "that the life story (unabridged) of Kateri Tekakwitha has been published in the regional language, Telugu, a direct offshoot of Sanscrit, and the sweetest of our national dialects, spoken by fifty million people! Would you believe it? Three years back, an Indian National Conference was conducted in the said language.

"Needless to repeat there is something of that indefinable oriental charm about Kateri's mystic way of life and deep spirituality, which move the heart of a devout Hindu or an Oriental for that matter... May our dear Lord raise her to the altars as a model to her kith and kin! Juan Diego is another whom we love and admire for his utterly beautiful self-effacement!... We are pretty old Catholics. French Jesuits and later priests of the Foreign Mission Society of Paris labored here generations ago. And my brother is a Jesuit priest stationed in Bombay. Hindus have contributed millions of rupees towards your Institutions, e.g. Loyola College, Loyola Public School and Xavier Institute..."

I answered Fr. Kakumanu's letter, requesting that he send me a copy of this new book on Kateri and asking, also, to get the Ka-

teri Center some signed Kateri prayer pledges. At the beginning of April, 1977, he replied, enclosing prayer pledges in his letter:

"...I am making frantic efforts," he informed me, "to get at a copy of her life in the regional language. It is out of print. The same will be forwarded to you by Air Mail and gratis."

On November 20, 1978, the Telugu biography of Kateri reached my desk and two days later, I received a letter from Father Ignatius. He wrote:

"At long last, I managed to get a copy of the said book after searching the retired Bishop's old book shelves. I sent a nun for the purpose, since I failed in my attempt several times. It is a joy for me to be able to visit you in your work. I expect no recompense, please..."

And so, we rejoice with Kateri's devotees, that her life is made known to more millions of people, who will regard her as a saint for all nations.

### A KATERI STAMP?

In the Christmas issue of **Kateri**, a stamp in honor of the tercentenary of the death of the Lily of the Mohawks at Caughnawaga was mentioned. A letter from the Office of the Minister of Canada Post reached the Kateri Center at the end of November, "I have the honor," wrote his secretary, "of informing you that your suggestion was added to the list of subjects we are seriously considering for our program of postal stamps in 1980."

The members of the Kateri Guild, especially but not exclu-