

## KATERI'S MESSAGE

27 December 1978

Dear Father,

Let me thank you heartily for your magnificent Christmas greetings and good wishes! A novena of holy masses is being offered for the early beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha, the mystic Rose of the Mohawks.

When Western man prays, he does so with his head, it is said. He is a performer, a doer, and an actor. In a word, he is busy. He has lost the art of being still, of listening to God speaking in the depths of his being.

The Eastern or the Semite approach is instead one of the heart. Man descends to his inner self and there listens to the transcendent God, who is closer to him than our most inward part and higher than our highest as St. Augustine confesses.

Viewed from this context, the mystic Rose of the Mohawks has such an irrisistible appeal to the Orientals with her prayer of quiet contemplation and transcendental union with God, the ground of all being... This is the message of Kateri to the modern world.

May I suggest that you publish short articles on mystical prayer in all its versions in your Bulletin now and again?... You may send a few more prayer cards if you like...

Yours fraternally in Kateri,  
Father Ignatius

18 January 1979

Dear Father,

At long last, I am able to provide you with the information regarding the Telegu Version of Kateri's life.<sup>1</sup> This may not satisfy you at all.

In fact I sent a man to interview the retired old Bishop (80 years) whose talk is hardly intelligible. He was not keeping well of late with the cold, etc. Hence the delay.

1) The Telugu version of Kateri's Life was indeed a translation of Teri Martini's **Treasure of the Mohawks**, published in 1956 by St. Anthony Guild Press, Paterson, N.J. The English copy is taken from the Bishop's library and is on the table as I write this.

2) The retired Bishop can't recollect when the Telugu ver-

1. Cf. *Kateri*, No. 119, Spring 1979, p. 12-13.

sion was published. About twenty-five years, he remembered. Let us say about twenty years ago.

3) The translation, according to the Bishop, was done by a group of people. Hence no name was given. But it is my opinion, after reading the book, the translation was done by a Hindu, because of the Catholic words or terms he failed to use and the style is not up to the work. But it is quite simple. **Mohakula Pennidhi** is the Telugu title. All syllables are short. "The great treasure of the Mohawks," it means. Vyayama Kala Power Press, Guntur Industrial Art Electrical Press.

4) In fact I met one of the Hindu teachers who used to help the Bishop to translate books and booklets for publication. He denied that he ever did the work of translating Kateri's life into Telugu. Moreover this man is well versed in Telugu and has an elegant style (Brahim Pundit).

Two thousand five hundred copies were printed and the price given in the book 3/4 of a Rupee or 75 pies according to the metric system adopted now. Many copies were distributed free.

Yours respectfully,  
Fr. I. Kakumanu

7 April 1979

Dear Father,

This morning I received the Spring Issue of **Kateri** and was pleased to note your interesting comments on the Telugu Edition of Kateri's Life Story. It was so thoughtful of you. Thanks a million.

I am just wondering if you received my letter of 13th January 1979 with the information you wanted on the Telugu Edition. In any case you have given enough information on the subject.

Meanwhile, I found that the said story was published in the form of a ballad, 36 pages. I have a copy from the local library, but can't send it to you. I am trying to secure an extra copy.

Story telling in the form of a ballad is very popular in rural India. Communists have used this method extensively for propaganda purposes with resounding success.

There are two drummers who repeat the refrain along with the narrator, holding and playing a "citarista" (Sithar in the local dialect.). It is indeed very colorful and people love it. All is song with interspersed witty anecdotes...

Always at your service and that of the enchanting Kateri!

With multa Paschalia Gaudia!  
(With many Easter joys!)

Ignatius Kakumanu

