



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha at Auriesville.

PHOTO PAUL HANEL, S.J.

Blessed Kateri honored  
at Auriesville, N.Y.  
on October 18, 1980

## THREE GREAT QUALITIES

*In his homily of great depth and beauty, the Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop of Albany, N.Y.,<sup>1</sup> extolled the three outstanding qualities of Blessed Kateri's life. He repeated it with a few adaptations on November 12 at the annual reunion of the Catholic Bishops of the United States in Washington, D.C. This is the revised version.*



Bishop Hubbard

It is with great joy that we gather here in this National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to commemorate the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha, the first native American to be declared Blessed by the Church on June 22 of this year and to dedicate in her honor the beautifully carved relief in the nave of this magnificent basilica.

It is fitting, I think, that this dedication takes place in the context of the annual meeting of the American Catholic Bishops because it was the bishops of the United States, assembled at the Third Council in Baltimore in 1884, who first petitioned the Holy See to consider Kateri's cause.

More recently, in 1976, as part of the Church's observance of our bicentennial as a nation, it was our Conference of Catholic Bishops which again urged the Holy See to advance Kateri's cause. Two years later, that same petition was included in the *ad limina* reports of most of our nation's bishops.

We, bishops of the United States, can take pride in the role we and our predecessors have played in working with the Jesuit community, the Indian people, the Canadian hierarchy and the thousands of devoted followers of Kateri over the years, to obtain this well-deserved recognition.

1. Concelebrating with Bishop Hubbard were Bishop Frank Harrison of Syracuse, N.Y., Bishop William Connare of Greensburg, Pa., and Bishop Joseph Pernicone, retired Auxiliary of New York.