

**AT OKA, P.Q.
DEDICATION OF A CHAPEL
TO BLESSED KATERI**



The Church of the Annunciation

Adjoining the parish church and on the opposite side of the sacristy, this chapel, recently renovated and decorated with

basreliefs taken from the Oka Calvary, was officially dedicated to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, on Sunday October 11, by the Auxiliary of St. Jerome, Bishop Raymond Saint-Gelais.

With a population of about 4,500 inhabitants, Oka numbers six or seven hundred Amerindians, most of whom are of Iroquois origin. Five hundred and fifty are French-speaking and Catholic; the others, English-speaking, are of different religions either Protestant or Long House.

Everybody, however, was invited to the Catholic Church for the magnificent ceremony which culminated in the blessing of a large picture of Kateri and of its enthronement in the chapel. The Church was full, even the organ loft, occupied by the Caughnawaga choir. In the front pews had taken place the two mayors of the parish and of the village, Messrs. Jacques Fournier and Jean Ouellette, the chief of the Oka Indians, Mr. Hugh Nicholas, and the chief of Huron Village, M. Max Gros-Louis, as well as senior citizen Miss Marie-Ange Hyacinthe.

Among the dignitaries accom-

panying Bishop Saint-Gelais, besides the Pastor of Oka, Fr. Roger Lachapelle, P.S.S., were Fr. Roland Dorris, Superior of the Sulpicians, Fr. Léon Lajoie, S.J., Pastor at Caughnawaga, Fr. Adrien Pouliot, S.J., of Quebec, Bro. Stanley Saigh, Minister of the Pentecostal Church, and Mr. Harvey Gabriel of the United Church. The Rev. Frank Gilmore, Pastor of the United Church, absent because of an engagement at Mascouche, was represented by Mr. Morley Oke, who partook of the community dinner following the religious celebration.

After the Pastor had introduced the chief guests and the Bishop offered a prayer, the Celebration of the Word of God took place: first, a text from St. Paul (I Cor. I, 26-31) and another one from St. Matthew (XIII, 44-46). They served as the inspiration for the bilingual homily by Fr. Adrien Pouliot, Jesuit historian, who thus resumed Kateri's message for her Indian brothers and sisters: "I beg of you, save your families. I will help you."

Following him to the pulpit were Bro. Stanley Saigh, Mr. Harvey Gabriel, Mr. Morley Oke and Mr. Maurice Cree. The Messrs. Gabriel and Cree, spoke in the Indian language, Messrs. Saigh and Oke, in English. Polyphonic hymns introduced and completed their talks.

The Universal Prayers—for youth, for all the Christians of the world, for happy and unhappy families, for the Christian Churches, for all the people participating in the celebration—perfectly expressed the intimate sentiments of the assembly.

Before inviting all present to refreshments at the auditorium of the Six Nation Kanesatake Indian School, Fr. Lachapelle thanked all those who had helped to organize the celebration, in particular, Messrs. Ronald Bonspille and Allen Gabriel of the Oka Community Center, Miss Jeanne d'Arc Gaspé and her brother Gaston, as well as Sr. Marie-Laure Simon of the Congregation of Notre Dame. The Pastor himself, no one will deny, is to be

highly thanked and congratulated.

Unable to take part in this Ecumenical celebration in honor of Blessed Kateri, Fr. Henri Béchar, Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha, had entrusted Fr. Pouliot with a relic of the Beata for the chapel now dedicated to her.

All our readers are invited to visit this beautiful spot and the first Chapel dedicated to Kateri Tekakwitha.

REV. ADRIEN POULIOT, S.J.

SORRY!

The subscription to **Kateri**

is now

\$2.00.

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