

EACH NEW MOON



IN THIS ISSUE...

IN THIS ISSUE of **Kateri**, Sister Kateri Mitchell, S.S.A., an Iroquois from the Mission of St. Regis, which straddles the boundary line between Canada and the United States in the vicinity of Cornwall, Ont., and Massena, N.Y., tells of her efforts to further devotion to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

Then comes an article on the events of 1695, "the great year," according to Fr. Peter Choleneec, S.J., Blessed Kateri's spiritual guide, for she then showered the country and even distant Europe with favors galore.

You will also find spotlighted Father Clarence Walworth, the man responsible for launching the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. For some time, I had been thinking of preparing an article on this brilliant priest and Mrs. Gerald Waldbillig of Slingerlands, N.Y., kindly lent me a copy of **Life Sketches of Father Walworth** by his niece Ellen Walworth, now out of print. I then looked about for more material on this great man and I discovered that Fr. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., of the

Martyrs' Shrine, Auriesville, N.Y., had already focused interest on Father Walworth in the **Pilgrim**, Vol. XC, Nos. 3, 4. With his kind permission, I'm reprinting his fine article, **19th Century Father Walworth Pioneered Cause of Ven. Kateri**. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

A NOVENA OF MASSES

This year again, a series of nine masses shall be offered for our subscribers' intentions on April 6, 7, 11 (Easter Sunday), 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 (Blessed Kateri's Feast Day) inclusively. Send in your intentions beforehand. If possible, please add some signed Prayer Pledges.

WAS SHE THE FIRST ONE?

Many years ago, someone wrote to inform me that the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha would not be the first Amerindian "Saint", for this honor belonged rather to one of the Japanese Martyrs canonized in 1862, an Aztec missionary from Mexico.

In the periodical **Missions des Franciscains** May-June 1980, Montreal, I believe that I have found the solution to this problem:

"St. Phillip of Jesus of Las Casa: the only canonized Saint of North American origin, martyred in Japan (1597)! Of Spanish descent, he became a Franciscan in Manila in the Philippines in 1593; on his way to Mexico for his ordination as a priest, his ship, driven by a storm to the shores of Japan, was confiscated; he thus became a missionary cleric in that country, and because of this was arrested with

his superior, Fr. Peter Baptist, at Kyoto by the tyrant Hideyoshi and then taken to Nagasaki to be crucified on February 5, 1597 with five other Franciscans of the First Order, three Jesuit Brothers, one of whom was Paul Miki, and seventeen Franciscan Third Order laymen. Canonized in 1862 by Pius IX, these martyrs are honored on February 6, according to the calendar of the universal Church."

MY GOLDEN JUBILEE



September 1932

In my letters to many of Kateri's friends, I have been mentioning my Golden Jubilee as a Jesuit this coming September. Why call attention to myself? Outrageous! I'm doing so because I think it's an opportunity not to be missed to favor Blessed Kateri's canonization. Please, nothing for me personally, but as many signed daily Prayer Pledges of one Our Father and one Hail Mary as possible to obtain from the loving Heart of Christ and from our Blessed Mother the miracles needed for the elevation of the Lily of the Mohawks to the ranks of the Saints. Mrs. Dorothy Nash of Webster Groves, MO, mother of nine, has already sent in 173 signed Prayer Pledges and I don't know how many subscriptions to **Kateri**. Even if you can't do as much, a baker's dozen or less would be appreciated. My aim, you see, is 50,000 signed Prayer Pledges. Don't you think

the good Lord in heaven and His Blessed Mother would open the door to all this knocking? (Luke 11:10). And we would have our St. Kateri Tekakwitha in the near future.

KATERI IN PERU

In a letter of October 31, 1981, from Tingo Maria, Fr. Jacques (Diego) Lefebvre, O.F.M., writes:



Fr. Jacques Lefebvre, O.F.M.

"...Once again I shall have the great joy of receiving my mother in Peru this coming January and I am quite eager to make the jungle known to her and, also, my new field of action. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of two Canadian benefactresses, I shall receive, probably brought by my mother, a beautiful statue of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. As a matter of fact, after the ceremony of the beatification by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, I made her known to the people of the little village which belongs to the territory of the parish of Tamshiyacu, and they accepted her as their patroness. As mother took the necessary steps in Canada to procure this statue and abundant information about Blessed Kateri, I would like her to accompany me to the enthronement ceremony of this statue in the little village of Yacapana situated about two and a half hours from Iquitos on the Amazon. It will be an interesting trip for my mother and an important ceremony for the people of the village."

(Con't. on page 33)