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In 1949, Fr. Henri Béchard, S.J., received his nomination as Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha from Fr. Charles Miccinelli, S.J., Postulator General of the Cause in Rome. — Brenda and Doreen Dearhouse with the Vice-Postulator at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, Kahnawake, P.Q., where Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha achieved union with God.

KATERIGRAM

WILL YOU ALLOW ME to say once again that this September is of special significance for me? It is the fiftieth anniversary of my entering the Jesuits Order in Montreal.

What thanks I owe to the Lord and to His Blessed Mother for my vocation to the Society of Jesus! With my companions I was blessed in having Fr. Guido Leclaire as Master of Novices. A man who knew how to combine austerity and goodness, both indispensable for the formation of the future religious. None or practically none of those he was entrusted with later reneged. And the twenty-two men who will celebrate their fifty years of religious life at the same time as I, and the six who will celebrate their sixty years of religious life, and the four who will celebrate their fifty years of priesthood will all owe him more than they can ever repay.

One of the deep satisfactions of my life was granted to me in 1949. During the previous year, I had been named to the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, where Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha achieved union with God. On an October morning, I received from Fr. Carlo Miccinelli, S.J., my nomination as vice-postulator for the Lily of the Mohawks. Despite my duties as principal of the Indian School at Kahnawake and of chaplain of the Sacred Heart Hospital of the Mission, I set to work. Slowly, patiently, by means of the *Kateri* quarterly, launched in 1949, I tried to spread devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha.

I have no illusions about my endeavors. Only thanks to Kateri's friends have I been able to hold out. On September 8, 1982, I will offer the Holy Sacrifice in thanksgiving at the altar of the little chapel of the St. Anthony Daniel Residence, where I live, for all the Katerians who helped me with their prayers, their offerings, their efforts at making the Iroquois Maiden known, to attain the happy day of Kateri Tekakwitha's beatification in 1980. I am counting on them to do as much to hasten her canonization.

As for her beatification, prayers and still more prayers are needed for her canonization. You are aware of the Our Father and Hail Mary drive begun in the first months of the year. My present aim: 50,000 signed pledges before the end of September. May I count on your active participation in gathering this magnificent bouquet of daily prayers? Speak about it to your relatives and acquaintances. All these appeals to Heaven will surely obtain for us the great favor we are hoping for, the miracle needed to obtain our St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

HENRI BÉCHARD, S.J.
Vice-Postulator