



*Sr. Catherine Horn pinxit.*

PHOTO FERNAND LABONTÉ

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha  
Mission St. Anne, Winneway, P.Q.

## THE OBLATE FATHERS HERALDS OF KATERI

Rémi Cadieux, O.M.I.



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FROM last June 4 to 6, about thirty Algonquin Indians from Upper Gatineau and from Abitibi Temiscamingue gathered together at the rest center, Our Lady of the Smile at Rouyn, in order to relate better to the life of one of their own people, Kateri Tekakwitha, beatified in 1980.

This reunion, organized by Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, in charge of these reservations for more than 100 years, was one of the regular activities of the Algonquin Pastoral Committee. Last year, the Algonquins manifested the desire to acquire a better knowledge of the life of Kateri, to study thoroughly her spirituality so as to draw inspiration from it and to spread devotion to her in their reservations. They also intended to pray together to obtain as soon as possible Kateri's canonization. For the Algonquins of Maniwaki, Amos, Lake Simon, Winneway, Lake Rapide, Notre-Dame-du-Nord and of Great Victoria Lake, Kateri is not unknown, much less a stranger: her mother was an Algonquin, she is a member of the family.

The session was animated by Fathers Vincent Cadieux, O.M.I., of Amos, Réal Paiement, O.M.I., of Maniwaki and of Father Rémi Cadieux, O.M.I., of Winneway. Father Edmund Brouillard was not able to take part in the session, though he had worked at preparing the program for these days of prayer and of reflection. Father Henri Béchar, S.J., Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Kateri, accepted to share with us his knowledge of and his enthusiasm for Blessed Kateri. The participants were most grateful.

On Friday evening, the program took into account the fatigue resulting from the trip. It simply consisted in getting there on time, of settling down, of relaxing, of meeting one another and of renewing old ties. Then followed a period of spontaneous prayers. A film strip on the life of Kateri, published by the Daughters of St. Paul, was then shown. After a period devoted to exchanging ideas, to questions and comments, all were invited to visit an exhibit of books and of magazines published over the years to make better known the life