



in Nelson. Moreover, if she were to return to this diocese, it was a policy with her community to have a contract and salary agreement.

As events unfolded, I learned that Bishop Sabatini was to arrive in Williams Lake that coming weekend and was also anticipating a visit with us at St. Joseph Oblate House. When the Bishop arrived he had Msgr. Roy Carey of Church Extension with him. After a leisurely dinner, the Bishop and I discussed the question of Sisters and a contract. He had already drawn up a rough draft of an agreement which was to be presented to the Diocesan Consulters for their approval at the next meeting. The draft was designed in such a way as to serve for both Sisters and Brothers working in a pastoral setting rather than a school situation... just up my alley. After my exchange with the Bishop, I cornered Msgr. Carey who consented to finance from one to two sisters with funds from Church Extension, if I were fortunate enough to find them.

As God continued to disclose His plan, I contacted Sister Dorothy once again on March 19 and informed her of the 'glad tidings.' However, she cautioned me that her community required that she have a companion. Unwittingly, Sr. Dorothy was to add the other feather in the bonnet because she had heard that there was an Indian sister in the East who was planning to come West and work. The sister's name is Sr. Kateri Mitchell, S.S.A. As it turned out she was indeed an Indian Sister, a Mohawk from Akwesasne (St. Regis), a reservation seventy-five miles west of Kahnawake along the St. Lawrence River.

I was on the line to her in minutes. Later, I found out that she had put down her suitcase as she was going out the door in order to answer the phone. I related my proposal of an apostolate in the Williams Lake Indian Missions. She was very surprised and was intrigued by my offer and would make arrangements to visit me after Easter during her visit here in the West.

Meanwhile, I had received word that both Sisters Dorothy and Kateri would be visiting with me and would be arriving at the Oblate House on April 16. The shocking thing about this time sequence was that the next day was the Canadian feast day for Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, April 17. That Sunday was a memorable one for me! It was a warm, sunny day but, what made it extra special was that we were able to bless the people and ask for healing with a first class relic of Blessed Kateri which was given to Sister Kateri. Even more significant for the two sisters was that on the following day, April 18, the Sisters of St. Ann celebrated a community feast in honor of their foundress, Mother Mary Ann.

At the end of April, I received a letter from Sr. Kathleen Cyr, Provincial Superior, indicating that the Provincial Council had discussed my request and had 'responded favourably' and that both Sisters Dorothy Bob and Kateri Mitchell were given permission to explore possibilities. She added that Sr. Kateri would return to eastern Canada and discuss the situation with her Superior General, Sr. Colette Dube, and her Provincial, Sr. Helen Massari. Everything was quiet until I received a phone call from Sr. Kateri at the end of May confirming the fact that she would be joining us in this work here in the Cariboo by the end of August. Whereas, Sr. Dorothy had made her decision to accept my offer while visiting in April.



Srs. Dorothy Bob and Kateri Mitchell