



We have now come to the beginning of April 1980. Besides the Beatification, another great event was on its way: on the seventeenth of the month fell the tercentenary of the precious death of "Kaiatonoron" Kateri Tekakwitha, the "Lady-of-quality" [Venerable] who was Kateri Tekakwitha. The faithful were not yet aware of the forthcoming Beatification. For them, they thought, the most outstanding day of the year would be the tercentennial.

In the United States, on the actual territory where Kateri was born, her devoted followers worked hard with hearts full of joy at preparing the festivities. For example, on April 17, Mary-Eunice of Mary Productions with the students of St. Mary's School at New Monmouth, N.J., presented the most striking events of the life of the Venerable to the student body; at Phoenix, Az., Attorney Alan and Mrs. McCauley and their six children celebrated Kateri, first of all, at home on February 17, and then on April 20 at the Church of St. Francis Xavier where the Bishop of the place, His Excellency James Rausch officiated at the Holy Sacrifice and Fr. Edmond Smyth, S.J. gave the homily. The Prelate then unveiled and blessed a bronze statue of Kateri, the work of Sculptor Ted DeGrazia.

A few other examples will suffice. Mr. Chet Adams, vice-president of the Kateri Tekakwitha League in the United States and Detroit area coordinator, actively prepared the No. 924 Circle of the Daughters of Isabella for the Kateri tercentenary, when they would receive the 1980 Tekakwitha Award, the first group to receive it.

On April 20, at Kenmore, N.Y., just north of Buffalo, N.Y., an award was presented to Sr. Marcella O'Donnell and another one to her circle of some thirty Marian Auxiliaries at half past twelve during the Eucharistic Celebration at St. Andrew's Church. For many weeks, Sr. Marcella and her Auxiliaries had propagated devotion to Kateri in the vicinity of Wilson, N.Y., especially among the Tuscarora, and gathered a good round sum for the construction of a new Kateri Center at Auriesville, N.Y.

To the most numerous of all the Amerindians of the country, the Navajos, from January 20 on, from the Mission of St. Mary, Tohatchi, N.M., Fr. Gormac Antram, O.F.M. disseminated knowledge of Kateri over the air. Each week from three radio stations, to his auditors in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado, in their tongue as well as in English, he spoke of Kateri Tekakwitha's tercentennial; besides, he distributed to whoever wanted one a short life of the Venerable Mohawk.

In Canada, also, the tercentenary was celebrated **a mari usque ad mare**. The festivities among her brothers and sisters, the Iroquois should be highlighted. First of all at St. Regis [Akwasasne is its Indian name] sister-mission to St. Francis Xavier of Caughnawaga, Sunday, April 13 was chosen to honor the Lily of the Mohawks. Three