

THE HURONS HONOR BLESSED KATERI



On Sunday, April 14, 1985, the Lorette Hurons celebrated the 5th anniversary of Kateri Tekakwitha's beatification. To honor the event and also to help make her better known, the Committee of the Huron Church had a splendid oratory erected in the historic chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Loretto (1730), in hand-carved wood, showing Kateri in an Amerindian setting. This Katerian altar is the work of Paul Yves Gagnon of Château-Richer, nephew of the late Abbé George-Sally Gagnon who gave 47 years of his priestly life to the Huron nation. A relic of Blessed Kateri was inserted at the foot of the statue for the veneration of the faithful.

The religious ceremony of the blessing was the occasion of a very successful get-together. The youth of the village (both sexes) took in hand the Celebration at church and the cultural manifestation during the parish picnic at the Community Center. Serving at the altar, doing the first two readings at Mass and offering the gifts to the accompaniment of Huron dances were effected by these youngsters.

His Eminence Cardinal Louis



His Eminence Cardinal Vachon blessing the New Kateri oratory



Close-up of the oratory.



A child venerates the relic.



A cake for more than a hundred!

Albert Vachon, Archbishop of Quebec, officiated at the blessing of the Kateri oratory during a liturgy celebrated with ten other priests. The members of the Huron Wyandot Council were present as well as 200 of the faithful. The choir sang the Mass in the Huron language. Sr. Ghislaine Houde, S.C.S.L., sang Fr. Alfred Bernier's "Hymn to Kateri."

In his homily, the Primate of the Canadian Church stressed Kateri's faith and, recalling Pope John Paul II's message to the Amerinds, he invited the Hurons to be messengers of the Gospel and at the same time to maintain their culture and ancestral traditions.

After the religious ceremony, the festivity continued at the Community Center with a family picnic (each one having brought her or his supper). For dessert, an immense cake featuring Kateri was shared by more than one hundred participants. The celebration ended with a spectacle of Amerindian dancers executed by the folkloric

troupe "Handiwich," comprised of about fifteen young people.

This celebration of the 5th anniversary of the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha bears witness to the joy it caused among the Amerinds. It is also a proof of the Huron Wyandot nation's fervor towards their heaven sister, Kateri.

The sculpture of Kateri in the historic chapel of the Huron Village will make her known to the thousands of visitors who come each year to see the historic sites of the Lorette Reserve. To facilitate the acquisition of this knowledge, the Church and Arouenne Museum Committees published a flyer highlighting the most important stages of the life of faith of our Blessed Kateri.

May Kateri Tekakwitha continue watching over her Amerindian sisters and brothers and accompany them on the paths leading to God, our common Father.

Fr. Lucien Pageau

✠ Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. L.P.!

Sometime ago I had written to you asking you for prayers. My prayers—Praise the Lord—have been answered. It was for my son who was in serious danger of losing his big business, home and all, but thankfully to our Blessed Lord, he was successful through the courts. He is sending you this amount enclosed of one hundred dollars and he is asking you to pray for him, as naturally he has a few other smaller events to go through. He has great faith in prayers. Thank you most heartedly for same.

(North Bay, Ont.)

(When acknowledging favors to Kateri, be sure to indicate details.)