

a sort of purely spiritual sympathy, forming even in this life a sacred bond, which will unite them hereafter in the abode of glory."

The missionary calmly invited the young girl to go to the chapel to pray. Her aunts, who alone had authority on Tekakwitha, suddenly remembered that they were Christians and gave their consent. As soon as their niece was able to walk again, during the rest of the autumn and throughout the winter, each day she made her way to the chapel and profited from the teaching dispensed to the Christians. But this was not sufficient. After the harvest had been gathered in and the trees had lost their magnificent and brilliant foilage, when the autumn rains fell, followed by snow-storms, the Jesuit went to her dwelling and explained to her in detail the precepts of the faith and the mysteries of Christianity. With all her heart, Tekakwitha cooperated with the grace of this preparation for baptism, the value of which became clearer to her as time went by.

One of the great joys resulting from these instructions was the knowledge she gained about the Blessed Virgin. This orphan found in her a mother, the ideal Mother, much better, much more beautiful than all she could have ever imagined. Fr. Chauchetière tells us that "Tekakwitha has a tender devotion to the Mother of God from the very first when she had learned the prerogatives, power, and glory of Our Lady and how worthy she is of honor."

Towards the end of the year, news from Tionnontoguen warmed her heart. Fr. Bruyas had received a miraculour statue of Our Lady of Foy from Dinant in Belgium. The unveiling took place with all the pomp and circumstance possible on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, with the singing of the Litanies of the Blessed Virgin in Iroquois. From December 8 on, Fr. Bruyas unveiled it each Saturday evening as the same litanies were sung, and every Sunday, it remained exposed to view, as the faithful gathered together three times to recite the rosary before the image of their heavenly Mother. The effects of its presence were not slow in coming. The old Christians regained their former fervor and the number of new converts increased from day to day. Even the unbelievers said that since the arrival of the Mother of **lesos** in their castle, they no longer feared anything.

At Gandaouagué most of the inhabitants cried out in admiration at the sight of these extraordinary events, at the very same spot where shortly before the majority of the inhabitants had been strongly averse to "Prayer." No doubt many Christians and others who were sympathetic to them decided to go to Tionnontoguen to



Studio Vincenzo Demetz Figlio

Ortisei Val Tardena, Italy

*This statue was blessed by Bishop Donald-E. Pelotte, S.S.S., at Auriesville, N.Y., on July 13, 1986.*