

appeared at two Montreal landmarks, the Queen Elizabeth Hotel and the Beaver Club. Esther organized a group of young people including her son Colin, Skypeak, to dance at these shows. It was a very well-balanced and entertaining show and they were asked back year after year.

About the same time, a group organized by Andrew Delisle and Esther travelled to Lucerne, Switzerland for an exhibition of Indian crafts and dances.

The event which all Kateri's friends around the world had hoped and prayed for came to pass in June 1980. Pope John Paul II declared Kateri "Blessed," the second step along the road to sainthood. Naturally, the choir was asked to sing in Rome for this occasion. Esther's proudest moment occurred during the mass of beatification in St. Peter's Basilica. She felt very honored to be chosen to read the intentions at the altar during the mass, the first woman ever to perform this task. Furthermore, she recited them entirely in Mohawk, Kateri's own language. Two days later the entire Indian delegation was granted a private audience with the Pope. The choir sang several of their traditional hymns at the Gregorian University and the Canadian Martyrs' Church in Rome.

Even though Esther spent the last eight years of her life in a wheelchair and in pain, she always kept a smile on her face and hope in her heart. She travelled whenever she could with the choir and spread the knowledge of Kateri. In 1985 she was rewarded with a plaque in Auriesville in recognition of all her work over the years for Kateri.

On November 6, 1987 the Lord called Esther to sing for Him in heaven. She answered as she always had "*Onen wa kate we nen ta on-a kats*", which is "I'm ready—let's go."

*la:wen kowa*, a "big Thank you!" to everyone who helped me in the research of this article, especially my mother.

❁ **Kateri's smile upon you, Mrs. C.M.!**

I offered prayers to Kateri for my daughter's successful major surgery operation and I'm sending this small donation in thanksgiving, also for another daughter's successful operation and the sobriety of someone near to me for nearly two years. Many thanks to Kateri.

(Douglas, Ont.)

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

# BLESSED KATERI IN BRAZIL



*The unfinished chapel dedicated to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha and the carved wooden altar surrounded by native parishioners, December 1986.*



*Indians gathered together before the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Chapel, Holy Keek 1987*





A native teacher Mr. Alcindo, explains to his pupils the representation of Blessed 2 inches wide. If you are a devotee of the Lily of the Mohawks, you will be proud to

In Brazil the Fathers of the Divine Word decided to build a chapel dedicated to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha for the Cainangue Indians at one of their posts in southern Brazil. The construction began in 1986.

At Christmas, though the chapel was not completed, the aborigines celebrated the birth of the Savior of mankind within its walls. "Miserably," wrote Fr. Fabiano S. Kachel, "but better than under the trees." Since the Cainangues are fond of dramatic performances, their catechist advised them to act out the Christmas story. They arranged the chapel as they saw fit. It was Bethlehem. The doors and the windows were taken as the different hotels. Mary and Joseph made the rounds, knocking at each door, but were welcomed only at the stable of the ox and the donkey. An angel intoned the "Glory be to God in the highest" and the Indians joined in with them to praise the newborn Child.

During Holy Week, Fr. Fabiano resolved to honor the Passion of Our Lord with a Way of the Cross three kilometers long ending at the cemetery where the Cainangues adored the Cross and showed it to their ancestors. The bronze cross had been offered by the seminarians of Toledo (Parana, Brazil).

Since 1987, the Native people use this unfinished chapel "ÊG JÓG MÁG TY TOPÊ IN", *The house of our very great Father, who is God*. The seminarians of Penha (Corbélia) managed to defray the cost of a bas-relief for the altar. On Sundays, the Cainangues devotedly attend Mass. Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is certainly happy to accompany them and to intercede for these poorest of the poor, who love her so.

← Close-up of the altar of the Indian Chapel at Posto Indígena Faxinal, Candido de Abren, Pr. - Brasil