

Feast of Kateri



IN KAHNAWAKE

The church was full up on that Sunday morning, April 14. Mohawks from Kahnawake and Akwesasne, and also white people from the neighboring towns were there to celebrate Kateri's feastday. The Knights of Columbus with their panache and shiny swords brought more pomp to the ceremony.

Bishop Bernard Hubert gave the true note to the Feast by saving how happy he was to be with his children "in solidarity with that they live". With one heart, the assistants rendered homage to this young holy Mohaw girl, who also belongs to the whole church.

The Vice-Postulators of Kateri's Cause, Fr. Robert Boyle from the United States and Fr. Jacques Bruyère, S.J. from Montreal escorted the Bishop. The liturgy unfurled in a native color: penitential rites with

sweet grass, Indian dances around the altar after communion and as usual, hymns in Iroquois by the famous Kahnawake Iroquois Mixed Choir.



After Mass, dinner was served at Kateri Hall: graciousness of the Knights.

This solemnity was preceded by the Novena to Kateri preached by Fr. Bruyère. The Vice-Postulator had a thought for all the friends of Kateri, especially for those who sent in their intentions for the novena. Many devotees to the Lily of the Mohawks took part in it.

IN AKWESASNE

Three days of intense preparation animated by Fr. Milton McWatch, recently ordained priest in Sudbury, Ont. and three Ojibwe Deacons, preceded the feast. Thursday night, moments of reflection on the Indian Youth, Friday night, a healing ceremony and Saturday evening, hours of prayer at Kateri Hall and at the Nursing Home.

On Sunday morning, neither rain nor gusty winds could stop the Indians coming from all four directions: Syracuse, Kahnawake, Akwesasne, Tucson, AZ...

Fr. McWatch presided the solemn Mass accompanied by Frs. Boyle and Bruyère, Vice-Postulators for Kateri's Cause. The Pastor, Fr. Tom Egan and the M.C. Mrs. Alma Ransom welcomed this august assembly. Deacon Ronnie Boyer from Kahnawake stressed the fact that Kateri was making the unity of all the Indians of North America. "More and more," he said, "there are contacts between the different tribes who try to live the spirituality of Kateri."

After Mass, an abundant meal was served in Kateri Hall, which helped everyone to forget the inclemency of the weather and to invite all to stick together around Kateri.



IN KANESATAKE



Great celebrations were held there on April 21st. In the afternoon, blessing of a superb statue of the Iroquois Virgin by Mr. Marcel Demers, P.S.S., pastor of the parish of the Annunciation at Oka. The sculpture made of natural pine, life-size, is the work of the reknowned artist, Jacques Bourgault. The church was overflowing with people exulting with joy in spite of the bad weather. The ceremony was followed by the launching of the magazine *Okami*, journal of the Historical Society of Oka. A report with photos of this event will be presented in the next issue.

IN WENDAKE

The Ameridians of the Region of Quebec, regrouped themselves, on Sunday April 21st, in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto, in the Indian Village, to put into light the liturgical feast of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

More than 150 persons — Hurons, Montagnais, Attikameks and a few non-Indians partici-