

AMERINDIAN NEWS

KATERI IN THE LAST NICHE...



Those who have visited the magnificent basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. might have noticed that there was still an empty niche...

The basilica was decorated to recapitulate the glories and saints of the United States. So who would occupy this niche more fittingly than one who is the patroness of all the Indians of North America: Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. She will also be the first Indian saint ever canonized.

A model for a new statue had to be chosen. So Msgr. Paul A. Lenz, director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, consulted with Frs. L. Cyr and T. Egan, S.J. and a few Mohawk Indians and made a decision for the kind or statue: it is a replica of the statue sculpted by Emile Brunet, standing in front of the Kateri School in Kahnawake. The new sculptor is pleased with the choice.

It is our hope now that the statue will be placed in the niche to coinci-

de with the canonization of Blessed Kateri. Let us pray.

A TEE PEE CHURCH

The Indian Island reserve is the home of a small Micmac band, six miles from Rexton, New Brunswick. The people there are very religious.

The desire of the people to worship in their own church, in their own community, and preferably in English or even better... in Micmac language, made them decide to build a church that would be dedicated to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. A professional designer designed the church which architecturally combines the traditional, Indian spiritual culture with accepted church traditions. It was designed in form of a Tee Pee. It will provide a spiritual home for the Indian Island people and a distinct tourist attraction open to all faiths and cultures.



The Church committee has been working on this project for approximately six years. Their funds are limited and only permit them to work a little at the time.

The Indian Island People will be very grateful for any donations received. The Mailing address is: Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, P.O. Box 3, Indian Island, N.B., E0A 1L0

KATERI IN VANCOUVER

The Oblate Fathers have opened up a Native Catholic Center in Vancouver which they call Kateri Center. It was opened in 1980 and caters to 30,000 Natives living in Vancouver as transients, such as teachers, nurses, lawyers... professionals and ordinary laborers. Fr. Ivan McCormack, O.M.I. is in charge of the Center. There is an Oblate Brother and two Indian ladies as helpers.

Because of the number of Indian people who migrated from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, mass has to be celebrated in English on Sunday, except when homogeneous groups gather for a wedding, a prayer service or a special meeting.

Since Fr. Ivan visited the Shrine of Kateri in Kahnawake at the end of June, Kateri will become more alive in the Center and amongst all Natives of B.C. Father promised to tell every one: "I've seen the Shrine of the Lily of the Mohawks!"

THE V.-P. GOES TO AURIESVILLE

A year after his nomination as Vice-Postulator for Kateri's Cause, Fr. Jacques Bruyère, S.J. is invited to Auriesville, N.Y. on Kateri's Feastday—July 14 in the United States—to celebrate Mass and give the homily at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs.

On this radiant Sunday, Fr. Panet was pleased to see the big turn-out.

Kateri Awards were presented during Mass to Sr. Mary Pelagia Litkowski, to Fr. Walter Stocklosa and a few Girl Guides of Albany, all outstanding in their devotion to Kateri.

The Kahnawake Mohawk Mixed Choir sang beautifully in their own language. Fr. Bruyère in his homily stressed the point that Kateri became a saint for her faithfulness in little things, pleasing God in everything as a "joyful lover".



PHOTO ANNE SHEUERMAN

At 6 p.m. a banquet was served to honor the awardees and also Fr. T. Egan, S.J. who celebrates his 50th Anniversary as a Jesuit this year. Mary Eunice, Sarah Hassenplug, Terri Steele



PHOTO ANNE SHEUERMAN

and Mrs Marlene McCauley entertained the guests, Fr. Paret being the gracious master of ceremonies.

Congratulations to Fr. John Paret for the wonderful organization of this Feast Day!