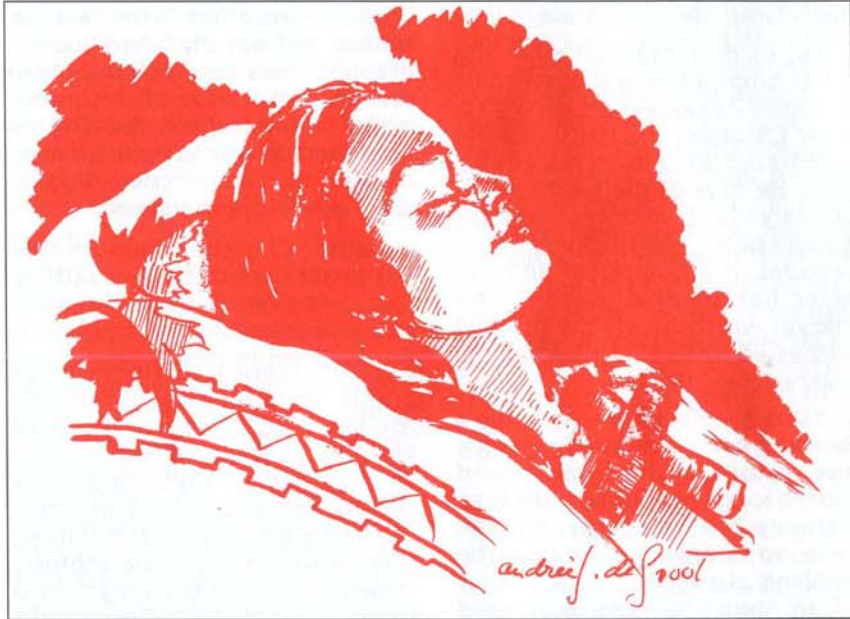


What do you Thing about it? (continued)

inspired our two settlers not to pray for her – as is usually the case at a wake-but to recommend themselves to her prayers. A face marked with the after effects of the terrible epidemic could not have inspired the two men to invoke this person because they felt they were in presence of something supernatural.

being reflected back on her body." Could a face "so changed and so pleasant" be the same as the one everyone had known so pitted and scarred? Furthermore, this impression of a "beam of glory" reflected on Kateri's body completely contradicts any idea of the aftermath of smallpox still present.



Fr. Choleneq treats of the same subject again in his letter of August 27, 1715 to Fr. Le Blanc in France:

"Her countenance, which had been extremely attenuated by her sickness and constant austerities, appeared so changed and pleasant some moments after her death, that the Indians who were present were not able to restrain the expression of their astonishment, and declared that a beam of that glory she has come to possess was

I could quote at further length in its entirety the evidence given by Mother Juchereau of St. Ignace in her *Annals of the Hôtel-Dieu of Quebec* written between 1713. and 1723. Also, that borne by Fr. Francis Xavier de Charlevoix in his *History and General Description of New France*, which appeared in 1744 but was prepared at Kahnawake, Kateri's Mission, where he was a guest in 1721, but it will suffice to quote the most significant passages:

"Although emaciated by sickness and austerities, her face appeared so beautiful after her death that the Indians could not sufficiently admire the transformation," relates Mother Juchereau. This proves that the details of Kateri Tekakwitha's death even reached Quebec.

"Her countenance, extremely attenuated by austerity and by her last illness, suddenly changed as soon as she ceased to live. Nothing could be more beautiful. The people were never weary gazing on her, and each retired, his heart full of the desire to become a saint," according to Fr. Charlevoix.

During the last three centuries, the admirers of the Servant of God, Kateri Tekakwitha, have believed in the humanly unexplainable disappearance of the smallpox postules on her face.

Let me close with the mention of a brochure published in Rome during 1961: *I Primi Miracoli della Ven. Catherina Tekakwitha* written by Fr. Carolo Miccinelli, S.J., Postulator General of the Mohawk Maiden. Kateri's first miracle according to Fr. Miccinelli was the "Transfigurazione della faccia." He quotes the same texts as Frs. Chauchetière and Choleneq to which he adds the comments of two Italian specialists, Drs. Francesco Saverio Armellini and Osvaldo Zuchi. The latter furnishes us with the conclusion of this article: "*Dobbiamo amettere un intervento Superiore: we must admit of an intervention from on high.*"

Henri Béchard, S.J.

Would you like to help Kateri's Cause?

When making out your last will and **testament**, why not reserve a share for the Cause in view of Kateri's Canonization and for the upkeep of her sanctuary.

Simply make your bequest to:

*Kateri Tekakwitha Center
Mission St. Francis Xavier
P.O. Box 70
Kahnawake, Quebec
J0L 1B0*

Kateri will then take good care of you and your beloved ones on earth as in heaven.