

## The unbelievable misadventure of *Claude Robertson*

Claude Robertson is very much involved in the ministry of his parish of Mashteniatsch but we must know why. It's part of a commitment taken in honor of Kateri Tekakwitha, nine years ago.

Before 1986, as an electrical contractor, he was kept busy. He worked for CHI (International Health Corporation) while giving time to missionary ministry. Moreover, twice a year, he would travel to Haiti trying to establish a home for orphans. In fact, his adopted sons, Paul and John, come from this home.

In January 1986, suffering from cardia problems, he flew to California, to rest at his brother's place. But while he was there he had to face another trial. During an outing with his brother in the mountains, he and his brother were suddenly buried under the snow, due to an avalanche, as sudden as unpredictable.

After a very long bout with the cold where Gaston showed a lot of courage, Claude arrived in a hospital. His brother had to mortgage his house in order to guarantee appropriate care. After a very minute exam of his legs, the doctors came to one conclusion: his legs must be amputated.

Fortunately, Claude is a firm believer in God, one who has real faith. His first reflex was to call his parish priest in Rober-

val, Father J. M. Larouche. By chance, this latter was getting ready to officiate at a celebration, so he told Claude these comforting words: "I'm going to preside at a celebration now and I can assure you that you will keep the use of your legs. I will pray for you."

A short call but so encouraging, enough to inspire our patient to pray Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha to make him keep his legs. He made a promise to her; he would have someone in Mashteitsh sculpt a life-size statue of her. He also made a pledge to get involved in the parish activities.

Since then, Claude has resumed his functions as electrical contractor. He still works for the CHI and does pastoral work. But now he's a member of the pastoral committee, handles the funerals, always to the benefit of the parish. He did not forget the statue either. It is the work of the best sculptor of Mashteniatsch, Charles Courtoisand. It stands beautifully in the Kateri Tekakwitha's church.

As far as Claude Robertson is concerned, a promise must be kept and Blessed Kateri is a witness of that. ■



*Carl Robertson*

## Why a Canonization?

Canonization assures amongst us the presence and the model of a life of plenitude. If one lives the consecration of his baptism in its fulness and dies in a holy manner, his cause of canonization may be introduced following these proceedings;

### ROMAN PROCEEDINGS

The one responsible for the Cause requests the local Bishop to open a diocesan inquiry to examine closely the life and writings of the candidate. When serious theologians have finished their long inquiry and written their report on the edifying life, virtues and miracles of the candidate, all is sent to Rome with approbation of the Bishop.

### DIOCESAN PROCESS

The one responsible for the Cause requests the local Bishop to open a diocesan process to examine closely the life and writings of the candidate. When qualified theologians have finished this long inquiry and written a report on the edifying life, virtues and alleged miracles, the entire report is sent to Rome with the Bishop's approbation.

### ROMAN PROCESS

In Rome, a group of theologians examine the diocesan file and start their own inquiry on the writings and virtues of the candidate. When the report on the heroicity of the virtues is presented and approved by the committee of Cardinal and Bishops responsible for Canonizations, these latter beg the Pope to declare the candidate

"Venerable". At this critical moment of the Canonization, the Church passes an irrevocable judgment on the sainthood of the candidate and makes a pause to ask God a sign (a miracle) to ratify this judgment.

Now is the time to act for the Christians who want a saint. A true miracle must be obtained and not only a favor of the future saint. For a miracle to be credited to a saint, six conditions must be fulfilled:

- only one future saint must be invoked at the same time
- the medical proof of the incurable disease must be obtained
- the medical proof of the cure must be obtained
- the cure must not be attributed to surgery
- the cure must be morally instantaneous
- the cure must be permanent and complete.

### BEATIFICATION

If the miracle comprises these conditions, the Cardinal and Bishops ask the Pope to proceed to the beatification, which certifies the authenticity of the miracle and allows a public cult to the Blessed.

### MIRACLE AND CANONIZATION

After the beatification, the Christians must renew their pious efforts to obtain a second miracle in view of the canonization. By the canonization the second miracle is approved and the new saint has a right to a universal cult. ■