



## An Icone of the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha by Denise Gosselin Gravel

*The **ROCK** represents God: 'My God, my Rock!'*

*It also represents the Church, the Cornerstone; the Word of God on which Kateri built her life. This is why her feet rest on solid rock, not on sand.*

*The **water** flowing from the rock: the Living Water, grace.*

*The **trees** are the vegetation, this earth which aspires towards God.*

*The **Golden** leaf is God, uncreated Light, the Glory of God by which Kateri is impregnated by color – but Gold is not a color. It is light.*

*At Kateri's feet, a fort, a small church and a big Iroquois longhouse.*

*A birch canoe also with a fish, the symbol of Christ.*

*The devotion of Kateri: **her love of the cross** and of **her lover** crucified.*

*She used to carve crosses on the trees, at places where she often passed: halts of prayer. The Rosary in her right hand with the Lily of Virginity, recalling her vow.*

*Her **left hand** is a leading hand which takes us to the cross, suggesting us to contemplate it, as she did.*

*She wore a **small cross** in her neck, the sign of a Christian, a sign of witnessing amongst persecutions.*

*Her **dress** is green, symbolizing the friendship the fecundity of her witnessing. The red shawl tells of her charity, her passion of the love of Christ...*

*This is a typical Quebec icone, because of the subject and the Indian elements used in it. It was painted by an iconographer from Quebec, even though the technique used is traditionally Russian.*

*The colors used to depict Kateri could have been different, truer to reality. But the colors of the icones represent the charismas of the personages. The colors used here show that God clothed Blessed Kateri with a spiritual robe. He made her **LOVE** in her virginity and charity.*