
Kateri's New Vice-Postulator, Deacon Ronald Boyer, diacre

By Anne Scheuerman

No member of the congregation present at St. Francis Xavier Church at Kahnawake, Canada (near Montreal) for the annual celebration Mass of the Feast Day of Kateri Tekakwitha on April 22, 2007 expected to hear any special news, or even suspected that there was to be an announcement of the appointment of a new Vice-Postulator in Canada for her Cause. At the close of Mass, Bishop Jacques Berthelet, Bishop of Longueuil, indicated that a Vice-Postulator had been designated and proceeded to read the lengthy official proclamation from Rome.

As the reading continued, people began to speculate in their minds which priest was to receive the honor. It was only at the end of the letter that the Vice-Postulator's name was announced. Tradition was broken for the first time in the Catholic Church's recent history (as far as this news reporter knows) that a man who was not a priest was appointed to the position! The person honored in the proclamation was someone who was a long-time devotee of Kateri, a diligent promoter of her Cause for Sainthood, and for years served the Native American and non-Native American Catholic Communities far and wide. He gave lectures, informal talks, conducted healing services, held retreats for people of all ages, led Bible study classes and promoted peace and understanding among all peoples. He delivered many homilies, participated in Sunday pulpit exchanges and promoted ecumenism. When there were baptisms, weddings, sick calls, funerals or homes to be blessed, he was there. This man, indeed, labored long and hard in the Lord's Vineyard.

It was broad smiles, loud applause and a few tears of joy that greeted the new Vice-Postulator for Kateri Tekakwitha in Canada - Permanent Deacon Ronald Boyer who resides on the Kahnawake Reserve. He graduated from Concordia University, holds a Master's Degree in Theology and continues his religious studies. Ron, of Ojibway origin, is married to Sheila of the Mohawk Nation. They have six grown children and ten grandchildren.

When asked how he felt about his appointment as Vice-Postulator, the Deacon said, "I was moved by Bishop Berthelet's comments about me... I didn't grasp it. I was completely overwhelmed." To the inquiry of future plans in his new job, he said he planned to continue working on Kateri's Cause, to complement the activities of Vice-Postulators in the past. He looks forward to work with Albert Lazare, the present secretary at the Kateri Center. Also, recognizing the need for healing due to hurts tracing back historically some 400-500 years ago, he wants to keep building bridges of understanding and communication between Native American and other cultures.

Pastor Fr. Alvaro Salazar, originally from Guatemala and a great promoter of devotion to Kateri, "Now as Deacon and Vice-Postulator, he can put Kateri's name in his homilies! And he is a good model of Christian marriage and family life for the people of Kahnawake as this year the couple celebrate 50 years of marriage."

Actually, sometimes when one's star shines, it shines in threes to create a banner year. In 2007, Ron Boyer marks 50 years of marriage to his wife Sheila -A Golden Anniversary for the couple; 20 years as Permanent Deacon; and the proclamation from the Catholic Church in Rome appointing him as Vice-Postulator for Kateri Tekakwitha's Cause in Canada.

We congratulate Ron Boyer on his new position and keep him in prayer! Anyone wishing to contact Vice-Postulator Deacon Ron Boyer may write to him at: Kateri Center, Box 70, Kahnawake, QC J0L 1B0

* * *

Kateri's Feastday Photos

By Anne Scheuerman



Fourth Degree Guard of Honor



The Iroquois Mixed Choir