

THE SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER MISSION MUSEUM IN KAHNAWAKE

The Saint Francis Xavier Mission is in possession of more than one object worthy of the most respectful attention: its collection of old books, which have been there for more than two hundred years, and which have brought strength and light to the missionaries of the past; some pictures, some crucifixes, gifts of Louis XIV (French king); an old monstrance, one of the oldest in Canada, undoubtedly, and where one can read the following inscription: "*Claude Prevost, former alderman of Paris, and Elisabeth Legendre, his wife, gave to the Jesuit Fathers, to honor God in their first Iroquois church, 1668.*"

Those precious objects in mind, are not the most precious objects of all the bones of the young Iroquois maiden, Kateri Tekakwitha? She was always considered a saint, pilgrims like to bow to all that remains of her. It's a continuation of a gesture that began more than two hundred and fifty years ago. It was in 1685 that Bishop de Saint-Vallier wrote: "*One still speaks today with admiration of a certain Kateri Iroquois ... and God does several wonders at the tomb of this marvelous girl!*". And Fr. Luc-François Nau, SJ, on October 2, 1735: "*Frenchmen come from everywhere to the tomb of the Servant of God Catherine Tekakwitha to fulfill the vows they have made during their sicknesses, and this keeps me quite busy.*"





Relics of Saints



Artifacts



Original painting of St Kateri on right



Icons and native artwork