

extraordinary career of this lily of the forest. During her life she had served her own people by her virtues and by the influence of her example, she was now to serve them just as efficaciously by the reputation of her holiness. One of the first evidences of her good influence in the mission of St. Francis Xavier was the founding of a sodality of young Indian women, known as the "Catherine Band", whose members undertook to practise the virtues which distinguished their saintly sister. The other neophytes living in the village were, in like manner, so profoundly impressed by her passage among them and by the lesson of her life, that they tried to imitate her as closely as they could

The Indians in her works of penance. Iroquois
try to imitate men and women began to wear iron
her virtues girdles and hair shirts and to afflict
their flesh in other ways. Some beat themselves with thorns and nettles; others walked barefooted in the snow or plunged into the ice-cold river; others fasted rigorously or mingled ashes with their food. As usual, the arch-enemy of souls, transfiguring himself into an angel of light, urged many of those poor untutored but well-meaning Indians to commit excesses in these penitential exercises, and it required the prudent intervention of the missionaries to enlighten them and regulate their conduct without diminishing their fervor.

The influence of Kateri's life and her reputation for sanctity had other interesting developments. In 1681, the year after her death, a sick man who had been given up as incurable, regained health