

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

1936, No. 1

OCTOBER

A New Monthly Message

This is a message from the Vice-Postulator for the beatification and canonization of Tekakwitha. It will be issued monthly. Its tone will be personal. To answer, as one would wish, the numerous letters received daily would be impossible. This message will say to all what is said in letters to comparatively few. Rarely indeed is there such a

strong bond of sympathy between writer and readers.

Each message will be brief, but every sentence will be worth while pondering and remembering. The four pages might grow to eight, but no more. In this our first, all that can be done is to outline what is to come in future messages.

Object of the Message

Why this monthly message?

1. To make better and more widely known the Servant of God, Tekakwitha.
2. To urge those who know her to invoke her aid, and obtain for themselves and others spiritual and temporal favors.
3. To add to already abundant proofs of her holiness the evidence that there is a widespread and firm belief in the favor she has found in heaven.
4. To bring about the solemn declaration that what all who know about her be-

lieve and act on privately, is worthy of universal belief—that she is worthy to be declared one of the Blessed with God in heaven.

5. To give the authentic and latest news about the progress of her Cause in the Congregation of Rites, and thus prevent misstatements which are often detrimental when the Cause of a Servant of God is under consideration.
6. To protect her clients from those who would make capital in one way or other, by books or other publications, out of her fast-growing popularity.

Content of the Message

Each monthly message will contain:

A page about something striking in her life, virtues and reputation for holiness.

A page about the preparation, presentation and history of her Cause, something that has never been done before. Never was a more minute record kept of any Cause.

Authentic news about the progress of her

Cause received occasionally from Monsignor Joseph A. Breslin, Vice-Rector of The North-American College, Rome, who is the Postulator for her Cause there.

Extracts from letters of those who are interested in her here and abroad.

Some of the more remarkable favors reported as received through her intercession.

THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

Title of the Message

No other name would be proper for this monthly message from the Vice-Postulator for the Beatification of the Indian maiden, Kateri (Catherine) Tekakwitha, "The Lily of the Mohawks." She has many endearing names, all of which we shall mention, but this surpasses them all. In few words it expresses the charm of her greatest virtue, as Lily stands for purity; since the Mohawks were the fiercest of the five fierce Iroquois Nations, it tells how heroic she was to have kept her purity in spite of them, her own people.

"Lily of the Mohawks" is the most popu-

lar and the most expressive of all her name. It is a prayer in itself of praise, a vision of grace, elevating mind and heart to contemplate her and bless God for having made her so well known to us.

The distinct origin of all her other names can be traced, as we shall see, but not of this name. Before it ever was mentioned by any writer or other person it was like a strain of music audible everywhere, but not traceable to its source. Then, as if by acclamation, all who knew of her began to repeat it. Like the voice of the people, it came to be considered as a voice from above.

Other Names of Kateri

Many names has this Indian maiden, all given to her for something she did while in this earthly pilgrimage, or since arriving in her heavenly country. Names among her Indian people were not bestowed by parents or guardians. Children earned their names by doing something that indicated their character. Some say Tekakwitha means: "putting things in order," but the disorderly ways of her people left very little chance for that. Others would have it mean: "moving all before her," because she needed something to find her way with her weak eyes. It is not sure that she did; but she certainly moved before her all that stood in the way of her lifelong desire and determination to find God, and to avoid anything that would part her from Him. The name is not hard to pronounce, Tě-găh-kwēt-ha, h aspirate. It sounds prettily when the children say it in the town where her remains rest. Kateri, of course, is Indian for Catherine.

Then there is another name, "Good Catherine," because she was so good when on earth, and is still in heaven doing so much good for those who invoke her aid. "Wonder Worker" is the name she won for the signal blessings she began to obtain for her people and others right after her death and still continues to obtain.

"Genevieve of New France" she was called after the Patroness of Paris, because, like Genevieve, she had saved her people and their settlement from invasion and destruction. It was the second Bishop of Quebec, Saint-Vallier, who had visited her tomb and thus styled her, eight years after her death.

"Iroquois Virgin" was the name given by her first biographer, who had also been her director. Though each of the Indian Nations of the Mohawk Valley, like her people, the Mohawks, had its special name, all together were known as Iroquois.

She is also known as the "Indian Maiden."

How does anyone become Blessed?

Any person or group of persons may propose as worthy of being declared Blessed one who has lived and died practising virtue to

an exalted degree. Such a one is styled Servant of God. The proposal must be made to the Bishop of the diocese in which the Ser-

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ant died. It must be accompanied with sufficient proof of the holiness alleged. If for any reason the bishop cannot institute the process in his diocese, it may be instituted in the diocese in which the Servant of God spent many years and was there considered exceptionally virtuous.

Some of the terms that will occur frequently in THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS need explanation.

Cause is an adopted Latin, or near Latin, word which is common when we speak of beatification. *Case* is really the word we should use in English, because the whole process for beatification and canonization is a case in law, canon law of course, but little different from the conduct of a case in civil law. A court or tribunal is appointed, usually consisting of two judges, with a presiding judge. There is a prosecuting attorney, designated Promoter of the Faith, because he has to test every witness and see that no testimony is admitted unchallenged. Since he would seem to be opposed to the beatification of a Servant of God, he is humorously spoken of as "Devil's Advocate." There is also a notary, or clerk of court and other attendants, but all this will be unfolded in the history we are to give of the Cause, or case, for the beatification of Kateri.

Postulator is a word adopted from the Latin meaning one who claims or advocates. He advocates or urges that a special church court or tribunal be appointed by the proper authority to consider the life, virtues, reputation for holiness, veneration of the faithful and the belief that some of the favors attributed to the Servant of God in question are really miraculous. He resides, as a rule, in Rome. Since the diocese in which the

Servant of God died or lived many years is usually at a distance from Rome, the Postulator designates an assistant for presenting the Cause in that or other dioceses, known as Vice-Postulator.

Beatification.—The Latin word *beatus* means blessed; beatification means to make, i.e., solemnly declare, blessed. Without number, there are in heaven the souls of Servants of God about whom nothing is known to us. That we may honor them as well as the Saints we know of, is the reason for the Feast of All Saints. About very few, even of well-known Saints, have we such knowledge as we have of Kateri, from unprinted documents, books, pamphlets, magazine articles, leaflets, in more languages than one. That so many of these should have been preserved and are available is not without a special design of Providence—to enable us to establish proof of her holiness and have her declared Blessed.

Canonization.—Canon means law, regulation. To canonize is to declare with authority and solemnity not only that Servants of God have been beatified, i.e., declared to be among the Blessed in heaven, but also that on earth they are entitled to the highest honors everywhere. There are restrictions to the honors paid to the Blessed, not always to the canonized. Canonization differs from Beatification in that it is based on additional proof by miracles of the Blessed's power of intercession. It adds to the external, not to the internal, glory of the Blessed who is now called Saint.

Be sure to keep all the numbers of THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS. They will grow in value with each number.

Favors — Petitions

Scarcely were Kateri's remains interred when her tribespeople and even the missionaries became convinced that wonders were

wrought through her intercession. So great was the acclaim that the missionary in a neighboring village, not a Jesuit, considered

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it all as exaggeration until he prayed for his own cure and obtained it. Then he began recording what he witnessed or learned on good authority, and left us over a hundred instances of remarkable favors, each case signed by his own hand. His name is Père Remy, a Sulpician Missionary to the Indians.

Reports of favors attributed to the intercession of Tekakwitha are not solicited, but there is a steady tradition from the time of her death of eagerness on the part of those favored to make known her own favor with God. Many proclaim it by word of mouth; many love to record it in writing. With scarcely an exception, they write briefly and convincingly, in such a way as to increase one's confidence in prayer.

Reports of remarkable favors attributed to the intercession of Tekakwitha are often accompanied with thanks offerings. This we

do not mention when printing such reports as we wish to avoid all appearance of commercializing devotion.

Favors.—In all, in very recent years, 1,275 favors have been reported. During the past month attributed to her intercession are 14 remarkable cures; 14 money aid; 16 employment; 7 spiritual graces; 1 remarkable conversion; 28 not specified; in all, 80.

How is it possible to recommend the many petitions received daily from pious clients of Tekakwitha? As the Vice-Postulator reads letters with petitions, he forms an intention to recommend them. Then he places them near the Altar in the private chapel at Fordham where he daily celebrates Holy Mass, including them in the remembrance he makes just before the Consecration. They are kept there in a beautiful basket of Indian handiwork, to be described in next message.

The title of the book, *Catherine Tekakwitha*, by Daniel Sargent, is misleading. It is primarily a disquisition on Indians and secondarily only on Tekakwitha. It has 150

pages on Indian stocks, families, tribes and only 90 on Tekakwitha, with nothing that has not been far better told before.

It omits most salient facts in Kateri's life.



Prayer for her Canonization and for Special Favors

O GOD, Who didst wonderfully protect the innocence of Thy Servant Catherine, and bestow on her the gift of faith and spirit of penance, grant that all who invoke her may obtain what they desire, and I also the blessing I humbly beg; so that her favor with Thee may be known to all, and she may be exalted to the honor of our altars, as among the Blessed in Heaven. Amen. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.*

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Make Tekakwitha known, subscribe for *The Lily of the Mohawks*, 60c. a year; distribute:
Leaflets—I, remarkable cures—II, money aid, occupations, etc. . . . 25c. a doz.; \$1.50 a 100
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