

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

1937, No. 7

APRIL

A Baptism of Fire

It was an uncle who adopted Tekakwitha, a former chieftain still prominent in the Nation of the Mohawks. In his cabin she had more privacy than she could have had in one of the long houses which housed several families. For walls these cabins had young trees fixed in the soil and bent at the top so as to form an arched roof; bark and strips of skin kept out the weather; doors or windows there were none; vents in the roof let in the air and out the smoke rising from the fires which each family had in the passage along the length of the cabin, about twenty feet apart.

Tekakwitha loved privacy. Her eyes, weakened by the smallpox, could not stand sunlight. She was grateful to her uncle and wanted to do all she could for him. True to either meaning of her name, she was busy moving all before her and putting it in order. Even that young, she would not let her cabin be untidy and unclean, as the others were. She could not yet do heavy work, but she could help to do things neatly and assist her aunts in the housekeeping.

When only ten years old she had to witness once more the destruction of her village, not by plague this time, but by cannon-ball and flame. It was in 1666. The French in New France could no longer stand the cruel invasions and deceptions of the Iroquois dwelling in what is now the centre of New York. Most of all, they were determined to subdue the Mohawks, who were the war lords of the Five Iroquois Nations. Since Cham-

plain's time they had waged almost incessant war on the French and on the Indians who traded with them. They had destroyed the Huron Missions and massacred their Missionaries, Brebeuf, Chabanel, Daniel, Garnier, Lalemant, now venerated as Saints. In their own village, Ossernenon, they had treacherously martyred Jogues, Goupil and Lalande, also among the Saints on our Altar. It had come now to the point for the French either to quit New France entirely or once for all break the power of the Iroquois, especially of the Mohawks.

In the winter Governor de Courselle led an army on snow-shoes from Quebec seeking the Mohawk Valley, but, deserted by his Indian guides, he lost his way and his army well nigh perished of cold and hunger. That summer Iroquois appeared in Quebec to sign a treaty of peace. Scarcely were signs manual of both parties dry on the parchment when word came of the capture of some French hunters and of the murder of a captain of the Carignan regiment. That decided the fate of the Mohawks.

Marquis de Tracy was now Viceroy of New France. He had won the rank of lieutenant-general of the armies of Louis XIV. He had jurisdiction over all the French Possessions in the New World. He had with him the Carignan regiment which had done distinguished service in Hungary and bore the royal colors. He personally led his army into the Mohawk Valley, marching so rapidly that the Indians had no time to prepare

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for defense. From Ossernenon they fled to the second village, Andagoran, five miles west, and from there to Tionnontogen, eight miles further, since it was their most strongly fortified castle. There they sent their women and children into the woods south of them. At the first roar of de Tracy's guns they deserted their castle and the conqueror soon destroyed it by fire as he had done with the settlements to the east. At one of these on the way back, perhaps at Andagoran, his chaplain, the Jesuit Raffeix, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving. At Ossernenon he planted a cross. De Tracy took possession of the country in the name of the King. The Mohawks sued for peace and for missionaries.

Tekakwitha witnessed all this and no doubt, like all her people, bewailed it bitterly. Little did any of them know that the peace for which they sued was to come in a form that only the Prince of Peace could bring them. Back they came to the ruins

of their several villages, destitute now of shelter, food and of all provisions against the approaching winter. With no fear of further invasion, the Mohawks could now move to the north bank of the river and remain during the winter on the lowland sheltered by the hills. There, until the Mohawk was made the present State Barge Canal, was a slight waterfall and, true to custom, the Indians named the temporary site "Gandaouaghe" (Caughnawaga) "laughing water." When soon after, for protection against the Mohicans, they moved to the bluff hill west of Fonda, they still kept the name, as underneath them rushed the waters of Cayudutta Creek. It was here they first received missionaries and here began Tekakwitha's glimmer of the Faith. Tekakwitha had already begun to grow in wisdom: with age increasing she was now to grow in grace. She had her baptism of fire; soon would follow baptism of desire so common in the early days of the Church.

In the Court of Holiness — VI

"Few Causes ever better documented" was the comment of the *Osservatore Romano* when the Process for the Beatification of Tekakwitha was presented to the officials of the Congregation of Rites. Many apparent miracles are attributed to the Servant of God, but not the least remarkable fact in connexion with her Cause is the existence, preservation and authentication of the documents so highly praised.

First of all, reflect on how they were written so soon after her death by men of excellent character who had been eye-witnesses of her holiness. Not an easy task was it by any means for men in their rude conditions of missionary life to write biographies that are classics of their sort. That of Chauchetiere reads as if he intended to have it presented in Rome as a plea for her canonization. Cholenec made sure to have a brief

Life go directly to the General of the Society of Jesus, Angelo Tamburini, so it might be preserved in the archives of the Order, and he had another published in the edifying Letters of the Society; the third, like Chauchetiere's, remains still in manuscript.

Fire, invasion and tornado visited the mission, and it was all one could do to save life and risk the loss of records. After Chauchetiere finished his Life in 1695, the site of Caughnawaga was changed twice, and manuscripts do not always fare well in removals. Then came the British occupation of Canada and, soon after, the Suppression of the Society of Jesus. To hold together the properties, chiefly the records of the Society, the last surviving member, a Brother named Cazot, was ordained priest. Before dying, in 1800, he turned over all he had to the Religious of the Hotel Dieu in Quebec. Forty

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years after the Jesuit, Felix Martin, was fortunate to recover from the nuns the manuscripts of Chauchetiere and an attested copy of Cholenec's Life by Father le Brun, with notations by Cholenec on the margin. It was the same Martin who collected with great labor the *Jesuit Relations* and edited the edition published by the Canadian government. It is these documents, with others

less complete, but quite as authentic, which convinced all who were concerned in preparing for the Cause of Tekakwitha that there was every reason to believe in the prospect of her beatification. The Court of Holiness has found them satisfactory and is now awaiting the printing of them in summary in order to take a decisive step in Tekakwitha's Cause.

Month to Month

The blessings of the Holy Season, of Holy Week and Eastertide, go to all the readers of THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS, as the devout wish of the Vice-Postulator for the beatification and canonization of the Lily herself, and that wish will be recommended at Holy Mass on Easter Sunday specially offered for her Cause and for all her clients.

1680
April brings round the day of Tekakwitha's departure for heaven. It is April 17, which that year was Wednesday in Holy Week. Since her biographers did not mention the day of the month, the celebrated astronomer, Father G. M. Searle, Paulist, kindly determined it for us.

No doubt all the friends of Tekakwitha joined in the prayers prescribed by the Holy Father for the Mission Intention of the Apostleship of Prayer for March the conversion of our American Indians. In this country there are 332,000; in Canada, 115,000; in Alaska, 30,000. In Mexico there are over 4,500,000 and in South America about 9,000,000. All but 1,000,000 of them have some degree, many indeed a marked degree, of civilization. A great many are Catholics. The Good Catherine does not fail to intercede for the members of her own race. What an incentive for them it will be to have her honored on our Altars!

There are countless others in heaven, as

we devoutly believe, men and women interceding for the people for whom they gave their lives. Two of them are already Venerable, our own Philippine Rose Duchesne and Marie de l'Incarnation of Canada. Keep them specially in mind when invoking Tekakwitha. May the miracles needed for their beatification soon be obtained.

This is the prayer for the Indian Missions, indulgenced by Pius X:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who hast died that all men may live, and hast sent Thine Apostles to teach all nations, we beseech Thee to grant that the Indian people, through the merits of Thy passion and the intercession of Thy Martyrs, may obtain temporal and everlasting life. Amen.

—Indulgence of 100 days, once a day.

Besides reports of favors attributed to Tekakwitha, we receive daily petitions for favors, many of them showing desperate need. These we earnestly recommend to our readers, and suggest that all join in a community of prayer recalling the blessing: "Where there are two or three gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18, 20.) Here is a petition from Bray in Ireland:

"... I am an orphan and so was Kateri, so I have special devotion to her. She understands what it means to be without the protection of a mother. I was orphaned when one day old. I have had a hard struggle trying to make and save a little home. . . ."

"I have just received a donation for \$8,000.00 to pay on the debt of our church, through her intercession."
—Bartlesville, Okla. ✓

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THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF TEKAKWITHA

- "My husband secured a position."
—Hartford, Conn.
- "We have already obtained a request."
—Esplanade, Bray, Ireland.
- "I have obtained a favor and wish to distribute pamphlets."
—Nashua, N. H.
- "I asked a favor of the Lily of the Mohawks and it was granted."
—Madera, Cal.
- "Ordering leaflets to fulfill the promise to spread the devotion of Katherine for favor granted."
—Baton Rouge, La.
- "I have obtained favors from her and am trying very much to make her known."
—Lafayette, La.
- "Two wonderful favors. I have been in the mire for years—have received financial aid."
—Pittsburgh, Pa.
- "I received a permanent job and I did not lose a day of work between positions."
—Washington, D. C.
- "I obtained the money I had to have and more through prayer to the Lily of the Mohawks."
—Clarksburg, W. Va.
- "I have been offering up my prayers for the canonization of such a remarkable person and have received favors."
—Springfield, O.
- "I wish to tell you that I have found a way to save my home and received the money for mortgage."
—Lancaster, N. Y.
- "I have asked her assistance whilst going through a lot of trouble owing to a motor accident and return grateful thanks."
—New York, N. Y.
- "I promised to distribute leaflets if I found a suitable house to live in for my little family. Enclosed is for leaflets."
—Auburn, N. Y.
- "I promised to distribute leaflets in Spanish if my petition was granted. Thank God it was granted through the intercession of Catherine."
—San Diego, Cal.
- "I promised Catherine Tekakwitha that if I got enough money to tide me over the week-end I would distribute some pamphlets."
—Passaic, N. J.
- "I was in an automobile accident and the company settled without going to court. I received more than I expected through Little Kateri."
—Worcester, Mass.
- "I am most sure the Lily of the Mohawks has already helped mother and me out three times, since I gave out the leaflets."
—Chicago, Ill.
- "My husband had a stroke some weeks ago and I prayed to Kateri and he is now well and will soon be able to go back to work."
—Indio, Cal.
- "My son received the prayer to Catherine, 'Lily of the Mohawks.' He said it daily, asking for a raise in salary. In four months he has received two raises."
—Pittsburgh, Pa.
- "I have been praying for some time to 'Little Tekakwitha' to secure work for my brother in California. He received a job with W.P.A. manual labor. After the first day was transferred to office work."
—Pittsburgh, Pa.
- "I sent leaflet to mother in Penn. Shortly after I received a letter saying her prayer was answered after the fourth day. Son was out of work for years and now is back in old job."
—Milesville, So. Dak.
- "We have realized a wonderful change for the better in our financial set-up, in church funds and among the individual members of my parish, through our prayers for the canonization of 'The Lily of the Mohawks.'"
—Kouts, Ind.
- "My friend's brother came from another city to tell her he had lost his work though he was one of the oldest hands at that work (thirty-seven years). She told him how Kateri had helped her. He prayed and was recalled on Thursday."
—Rockville, Conn.
- "The little Lily is working wonders. She has kept sickness from our children. For the last two years we have had a great deal of scarlet fever and I really think it a miracle that we haven't, thus far, when the city was full of it."
—Cleveland, O.
- "I made a novena to the Most Blessed Sacrament through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha promising publication of the favor if granted; also a donation of \$50.00 for my parish to be used for the Blessed Sacrament and \$50.00 for a poor community of Sisters. Thank God my prayers were granted and my promise fulfilled."
—San Diego, Cal.
- "A few weeks ago, one of our Novices became critically ill with an infection of the throat and for two or three days the doctor held out little hope of her recovery. We brought Kateri's picture to the sick room, promising publication of the favor if she were spared. Within a few hours Sister began to improve and has now completely recovered. She has obtained for me also a number of favors."
—Buffalo, N. Y.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF TEKAKWITHA

Cures	2
Positions Obtained	4
Financial Aid	4
Relief in Distress	1
Not Specified	25
Spiritual Aid	3

Make Tekakwitha Known

The Lily of the Mohawks Monthly Message . . . Subscribe at 60c. a year; 2 copies, \$1.00
Leaflets—I, cures—II, money aid, employment, etc.—III, Novena . . . 5c. each; 25c. a doz.
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Pictures, colored . . . 5 x 3 in., each 5c.; 10 x 13 1/2 in., each 40c.; discount on quantities
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(Prices include postage)

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