

## THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



## THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

1937, No. 12

SEPTEMBER

### An Indian Acadia

A godly man was Father Jacques de Lamberville and so the Indians styled him "divine man." Like all such men, he could discern what was in the minds and hearts of those he was forming to the image of Christ. He well knew that Tekakwitha would prove steadfast, that persecution would not weaken her will, but strengthen it. Still he also perceived her yearnings for surroundings more favorable to her faith. Though fond of seclusion, she could not avoid witnessing the wantonness and debauchery that were everywhere in the village, the rites of the sorcerers and their devil worship, and the orgies of cruelty inflicted on prisoners of war.

All things conspire for the welfare of those who love God. Had Catherine not suffered, de Lamberville would have treated her as a fervent but ordinary neophyte. Witnessing her heroism, he felt constrained to teach her the way of the counsels of Christ. Up to this she had been so far as anyone can be, self-taught, or self-made, as we say, in the ways of grace. Now she was to have the special guidance of one who practised as well as preached heroic virtue. The more she learned of the heights to which one might rise in the love of God and devotion to her neighbor, of prayer, and self-sacrifice, the more she yearned to live where her environment as well as her inclination would enable her to give herself unreservedly to the service of God and her own people. As vis-

itors would come occasionally from the Christian village which the missionaries had established in Canada and tell of the fervor and devotion that flourished in it, Catherine longed to go there to practise her faith and cultivate virtue in peace. The village then was at Laprairie, across the St. Lawrence from Montreal, where French and Indian Christians lived together.

Youth is fond of the day dream, and the young Indians usually found material for dreams in the hunt, the fishery, the trading excursion, the start or return of the nation's warriors when hostilities were on. At Gandaouaghe a change had lately come over the spirit of some of the dreamers. They had witnessed numbers leave the cabin, some of them chiefs of the tribe, to begin life over on new soil and with altered surroundings. They had seen some of these return and recount what to Mohawk imagination must have seemed like life in the happy hunting ground, where there was no laziness, no cruelty, no beastliness, no torture, no demoniacal spell or witchcraft, no drunkenness, no licentiousness, no mad orgy, but instead industry, kindness, decency, sobriety, chastity and innocent pleasures.

In the loneliness of her cabin Kateri would revel in the very thought of this celestial paradise. The more her craving for religion grew, and the more she was impeded or persecuted in her quest for it, the more she would naturally long for the haven where

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she could serve God with the liberty of His children.

The missionaries themselves had dreamed of such a refuge for the Christian Indians years before they could establish one. Meantime they tried various methods of withdrawing them from their vices and superstitions. They had encouraged French families to raise Indian boys and girls in their homes; they had the nuns take young maidens in their schools; they had induced adults to live away from their own people and near the French settlements, so as to civilize at the same time that they Christian-

ized them. All this was not enough. It could benefit only a few and it had no element of permanence. Even when they had acquired a site suitable for an exclusively Christian Indian settlement, they could not get any to come there and stay for any length of time. They were using the place as a rest resort for worn-out missionaries when again an apparent chance brought about what they desired.

What their fellow Jesuit Missionaries had done in Paraguay and the Californias, they were now to do in Canada on a smaller scale, but results lasting to this day.

### In the Court of Holiness — XI

Rome is a great place for sight-seeing, summer or winter, but in summer it is a poor place for work. The heat is sharp and enervating. All who can do so hie to the hills, but not all by any means do so. Those who are engaged in official work attend to it whether in the city or elsewhere, but sessions of the Congregations as they are called, or Committees, are necessarily suspended.

Cardinal Sincero was one who remained in Rome. I mention him because he was the first to be designated as "Cardinal Ponens" for the Cause of Tekakwitha, *i.e.*, he presented the Cause before the Congregation of Rites. Well do I remember calling on him one night with my dear friend, Monsignor Pace, when the two were revising the Constitution of the Philosophical Department of our Catholic University. He lived at the top of an apartment house. His rooms were like a pent house, opening on a roof where flowers and fruits and vegetables were growing. We had lettuce and apricots and a liqueur distilled from one of his miniature garden products.

How enthusiastic the great Cardinal was about Tekakwitha! He loved all things

American. He wanted to have the Cause terminate quickly and come here to celebrate it solemnly. He was soon to go to his reward and meet her, as we trust, in heaven. He was succeeded by Cardinal Ceretti, who was also enthusiastic about "The Lily of the Mohawks," but he, too, was called to help further the Cause in their company. May the present Cardinal Ponens Salotti live to celebrate Tekakwitha canonized!

It is well to remember occurrences like these when we wonder why certain Causes for beatification and canonization take so long. A more serious reason for delay in our case was the sudden death of the Reverend Abbot Dom Quentin, who was head of the Historical Section of the Congregation of Rites and as such he was very keenly interested in Tekakwitha, for the merits of the Cause itself and on account of his Canadian origin.

So it goes. When people say, "I hope she will soon be declared Blessed," or "I hope you will live until she is canonized," they forget that the unforeseen may delay a Cause and also that those concerned in it may by God's kind providence witness her

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glorification elsewhere as well as here.

In any case, the Cause of Tekakwitha is not proceeding slowly; on the contrary, when one considers that there were more than six hundred Causes in various stages when her's was presented, it has made extraordinary progress. Under the present head

of the Historical Section of the Congregation of Rites, all the preliminary work has been concluded and the Vatican Press will have printed, after the vacation season in Rome, *i.e.*, after September 8, the *Positio*, as it is called, the presentation of the case to the Consultors of the Congregation of Rites.

### THIS MESSAGE A YEAR OLD

With this number of THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS we conclude its first year. Readers will agree that it has fulfilled its mission as a monthly message on the Life of Tekakwitha, as a history of her Cause, as an account of the process for the beatification and canonization of a servant of God, and as a record of the very numerous favors, many of them extraordinary, attributed to her intercession. To prepare and issue it every month has been a pleasant act of devotion.

### TO GROW IN NUMBER AS IN YEARS

We trust our subscribers have also been pleased and that they will not only renew their subscriptions, but also induce others to subscribe. Let everyone who thinks well of THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS make it known to one or more friends. It is not merely a medium of information, but a source of inspiration to learn what God's grace can do as in "the Good Catherine," and how He bestows His heavenly favors through the invocation of those who have served Him heroically as she did.

To increase its subscription list, we insert a subscription form and a list for names of possible subscribers.

### A TEKAKWITHA PLAQUE

Constantly we are asked for souvenirs of Tekakwitha, for dust from her tomb, for water from her spring. Now we are to have one which will please all who are devoted to

her. It is a plaque, full figure, inscribed with her name and title, "Lily of the Mohawks." It is of wood, oak brown, containing a part of a tree which had grown at Auriesville when she was born there. The design is gothic,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It will be ready late in September, and the price will be thirty-five cents, postpaid.

The subscription price for THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS is sixty cents, for two copies one dollar. For that price some may prefer to have the plaque, with a subscription to THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS for a year.

### KATERI IN THE MOVIES

At last we have a Tekakwitha film and it is one well worthy of the subject. For two years Miss Jeanne Bouvier, of Brookline, Mass., has been working on it. She has taken all her incidents and scenes from life, at Auriesville where the Indian Maiden was born, and at the two Caughnawagas, on the Mohawk where she lived ten years, and on the St. Lawrence where she died.

The pictures are all in color. The talk was composed by the Vice-Postulator of the Cause of Tekakwitha and recorded by the Rev. Michael Aherne, S.J., of Boston College.

Tekakwitha is true to her name. She moveth all before her. This picture should go all over the land and over Europe also. It will not be difficult to have it done in various languages. It will make a sensation in Mexico, in South America, in Old France as a story of New France, in Germany, in Rome, and in Castel Gandolfo.

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## THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF TEKAKWITHA

"A few weeks ago I asked her for a certain amount of money to meet pressing obligations at a certain time and it came just to the day."

—Ketchikan, Alaska.

"Cure from a recent illness of two years of which I spent four months and a half in the hospital. The doctors told me it was more than they that pulled me through."

—Havre, Mont.

"Was an asthma sufferer for six years—had it almost constantly. I feel sure that The Lily of the Mohawks brought me relief. Have not had it in a year. I prayed that my recovery be speedy and it was."

—Donaldsville, La.

"Last January six of our little tots were taken down with scarlet fever. Some one had brought in the disease. I took the relic and touched the head of each of our band of boys (nearly 200). Not one more case was recorded after that. We also had her picture placed in each classroom and prayed to her. I feel confident that she helped us out of this epidemic."

—Albuquerque, N. Mex.

"The successful performance and unexpected financial success of a \$1,000.00 donation just when we were praying for help which had a great spiritual uplifting effect."

—Mankato, Minn.

"Some time ago, my sister, who is almost an invalid, seemed to be getting worse. She lived at a great distance and I was unable to go to see her. This caused me a great deal of worry. I began praying to little Catherine Tekakwitha and promised to publish the favor if my prayers were answered. Thanks to our dear Lord and the pious intercession of Little Catherine, my sister's health is greatly improved."

—Turtle Creek, Pa.

"August 6, 1937.

"I was to become a mother. My first baby had died about a year or a year and a half before at birth. Therefore, I had hoped everything would turn out all right this time. I then said the prayer to Tekakwitha daily until the baby was born. The baby was born July 15, and is healthy in every respect. Through my daily prayers I also obtained some financial aid that I also needed."

—New Britain, Conn.

"One of the girls in our office told me her mother was given up. Doctors said she would never get well from kidney trouble. This morning she told me her Mother was going home next week cured, after I gave her the prayer and they made the novena to Little Katie."

"A friend of mine whose husband lost his very fine position during the crash, obtained a much better one after interceding with Little Katie."

—New Orleans, La.

"When I graduated from a Catholic high school, my mother threatened to send me to a State College in California, although I had won a scholarship to a Catholic college. Mother wrote a letter to the highly accredited State School, asking them if they recognized the work of the Catholic college. In the meantime I and many of my Catholic friends had been persuading her—one even took her 300 miles to see the Catholic college, but everything failed. Immediately I started a novena to Catherine Tekakwitha. On the second day the letter from the State school, which had been delayed in the Directory Searcher, arrived. It stated that they recognized the work of the Catholic college. Mother gave in and I attribute it to nothing but the miraculous intercession of Katherine Tekakwitha."

—Oswego, Ore.

"Enclosed please find a small check to further the Cause of the Lily of the Mohawks. Our good Bishop has sent me the card you addressed to him some eighteen months ago. He knew that I am in the worst plight of any of the priests in his diocese. Our school children joined me in begging the help of Kateri, and since then, things have been prosperous with us to such a degree that, if they continue the same way we have hopes of getting out of the deepest financial hole a parish may fall into. Of course this will take years, but hope has come back."

—Pastor, Holyoke, Mass.

"We have been having a long dry spell, which threatened to destroy our crops, especially our corn, all of which seemed to be injured, and some of it even entirely ruined. Last Wednesday there seemed to be not the slightest hope of rain, no more so than on any other day for the last weeks. However, I promised Katheri Tekakwitha that, if she obtained for us rain from God, that very same day, I would have the account of the favor published and would contribute for the furtherance of her Cause at Rome. That evening, contrary to all expectation, it began to rain; it rained the greater part of the night and a good part of the following day, and we have had amply sufficient rain since then."

—Trappist P.O., Ky.

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