

THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

1938, No. 4

JANUARY

### Tekakwitha's Great Vow and Devotion

While Catherine was thus meditating a life of virginity, her adopted sister was planning to have her marry one of the young braves of the village. It seemed so natural that a maid whom any young man would be proud to marry should think of her future and do as others do. Indeed, according to the Indian way of thinking, it was highly proper. Kateri's manifest disregard of fashion in dress and ornament just at this time made the sister fear she was not looking out for her own interest. Her almost exclusive companionship with the two good women who, like her, were following the rule of life drawn up for them by Father Frémin, was considered as singular and hurtful to her prospect in life.

So artful was the chief lady of the cabin in presenting what she considered as the obligation to enter the married state, that Kateri, not confident in her own powers to reply, had recourse to the missionary to learn from him the Christian view of the two modes of life in virginity and in marriage, only to confirm her in love for the former. When in her early girlhood she evaded the efforts of her relatives to have her marry, she was shunning what appeared unnatural and wrong to one so young. Now, however, she was choosing what she regarded as a distinctly better condition, in that it left her freer to devote her whole soul to God's service. For a time she kept

her secret to herself. When urged to marry, she made it known.

To avoid further pressure, she sought from Father Cholenec a thing until then unheard of among her people, permission to make a vow of virginity. He bade her deliberate over it for three days. In good faith she agreed, but before an hour was up she returned to tell him she could not deliberate on a decision she had long since made and would never alter. Needless to say, he approved her resolution. Soon the motherly Anastasie, who had urged her to marry, came to support her resolution not to do so. Her penitent friend, Teresa, had all along encouraged her in her high resolve. Her vow was made on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1679.

Hunting was as much an occasion of sport as a time for securing food and skins for trade. It was the outing of Indian man and woman from the tame enclosure of the palisade and the laborious days in the corn-fields. Those who went hunting would have plenty to eat and relish for it: those who remained at home must live on sagamite and dried fish or meat with little savor. Only the old and very young remained at home with those who were infirm. Though never robust, Catherine was not at this time infirm. Still she chose to remain at home in spite of the pressure of her relatives to accompany them. Her reason was that the excitement and irregularities of the hunt,

## THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

though not necessarily sinful, tended to distract her thoughts and kept her away from what she had now come to regard as the

very center and substance of her life, the chapel with her Saviour ever present in its tabernacle.

### Some New Year Items

To all the subscribers for THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS and to all the devotees of Tekakwitha, the editor and V. Postulator for her beatification wishes all the graces of this Holy Season, remembering them at Holy Mass on Christmas and New Year's Day, and often also during the year.

Excerpt from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Bishops, National Catholic Welfare Conference, November 18, 1937:

His Excellency Edmund F. Gibbons of Albany stated that the cause of canonization of Blessed Katherine Tekakwitha is well advanced in the Historical Section of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and would soon be in the hands of the Consultors of the Congregation. As there are a large number of canonization processes in this stage, he asked the Bishops to go on record as expressing to the Holy See our great interest in the cause of Tekakwitha and giving testimony to the widespread and profound desire of our priests and our people to have her honored. It was so moved by Archbishop Curley of Baltimore, and seconded by Bishop Gibbons. Unanimously voted, it was so ordered.

The image of Tekakwitha in wood is finding favor everywhere. Plaque is not good enough name for it. Some call it a statuette and it is really a fitting name because the image stands out in clear relief.

"Thanks to our dear Tekakwitha, we are blessed with vocations, since I am here, 12 young English girls entered our novitiate."

—Bon Secour, Liverpool, England.

New dies have been made for the Tekakwitha medal and it is now greatly improved in appearance. The name Tekakwitha now appears above the image of Kateri, and this leaves room for clearer lettering of *Lily of the Mohawks* on the reverse. For the image of the lily formerly used, the *fleur-de-lis* (lily flower) has been substituted and this stands out much more distinctly.

Lives of Kateri still keep multiplying. As one writer told me, she could not help writing about such an attractive maiden. Our *Kateri*, by Sister Immaculata of Maryknoll, has just been published by Benziger Brothers. As Sister has spent a fair number of years on foreign missions, she writes from that point of view, as she considers how the missionary priests, who had Kateri under their care, would write about her.

Though not yet published, this other Life soon will be. It is altogether different from Sister Immaculata's *Life*. It is for children, and the writer, Miss Pember, knows her audience, as she spent many years helping to train them in one of our celebrated convents.

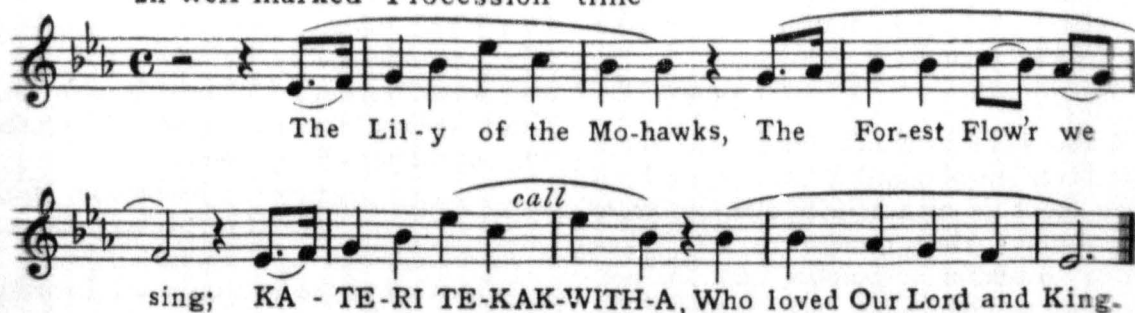
As with books, so with pictures and statues and paintings. Appearing to Chauchetière, Kateri had him draw her picture and spread it everywhere. This he did and a great number were sent to France. Since then many artists have devoted their talent to reproducing images of our "Lily" in various forms, and some are still doing so. Not all that they do appeals to everyone, but we hope soon to start illustrating THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS by an image each month.

# THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

## The Lily of the Mohawks

Words by Rev. J. B. Crowe  
Music by Sister Mary M. Hayes,  
of the Visitation

In well marked "Procession" time



## The Lily of the Mohawks

REV. J. B. CROWE

The Lily of the Mohawks,  
The Forest Flow'r we sing;  
Kateri Tekakwitha,  
Who loved Our Lord and King.

An Iroquois—Algonquin,  
Who prayed the Prince of Peace;  
Salvation, for her people,  
And cruel strife to cease.

She prayed and toiled and suffered,  
A saintly child was she,  
And what a sweet example  
She set for you and me.

Near Auriesville, New Yorkland,  
This child of grace was born,  
Baptized at age of twenty,  
One lovely Easter morn.

At Christmas, First Communion  
She made and in her face  
There shone the joy of gladness,  
Of light and love of grace.

She made the vow of virgins,  
And virtue's trail she trod;  
The spouse of Christ Our Saviour,  
She glory gave to God.

She loved our Blessed Mother,  
Whose Son for us hath died,  
Through grace this Indian maiden  
Became our Indian Guide.

In Canada, the Northland,  
At four and twenty years,  
She died, and then of wonders  
She wrought, the World, it hears.

The Lily of the Mohawks,  
A saint, she may be styled,  
Of Auriesville, the Flower,  
On whom the Heavens smiled.

Alike Saint Rose of Lima,  
Whose grace in glory flowers;  
We pray the Church may crown her,  
A patroness of ours.

("The Western Catholic," June 4, 1937.)

The new edition of the *Life of Tekakwitha*, by Father Wynne, is not only a new edition, but a new *Life*. It is the fruit of years of study of all that has been written about the Indian Maiden; and the writings are voluminous.

On Sunday, November 21, a statue of Tekakwitha was unveiled on the grounds of the Sacred Heart Academy, Lancaster, Pa. It was a thanks offering by a contractor for receiving a contract when it did not seem likely he would get it.



# THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

## THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF TEKAKWITHA

"... A Mass of thanksgiving for the recovery of my sister through 'The Lily of the Mohawks' intercession. Please continue to pray for her health, which is not very good. Publish she was saved from an operation. Also pray for my father who passed away a couple of weeks ago."

—Sharpsburg, Pa.

"I also want to thank Tekakwitha for a great favor she obtained for me. I had been ill for about six months with a serious heart condition. I then decided to ask Tekakwitha to obtain a complete cure for me, promising to give in her honor financial aid to the Missions, also to spread devotion to her Cause."

—Lancaster, Pa.

"About March 25, 1934, Mrs. Youngchief, an old Indian lady, was given up by the doctor as sure to die. Mrs. Mary Halfmoon begged Kateri's intercession and had five Masses said that Mrs. Youngchief might recover. These Masses were said by Father Lajoie and me. Lately Mrs. Halfmoon assured us that Mrs. Youngchief's recovery was due to Kateri's prayers."

—Pendleton, Ore.

"... I have been suffering from ulcers of the stomach for the last six months and could get no relief from pain day or night, although I had four doctors treating me and had been in the hospital for a month, without any success. I have been wearing this relic of Kateri Tekakwitha for the last two weeks and the pains that I suffered so much from are almost completely gone."

—Philadelphia, Pa.

"I have made two novenas in her honor to help me to get a certain amount of money by December 1, because a note became due and I did not know if I would be able to pay off the note. I prayed therefore to Blessed Kateri and asked, of course, the people to bring me some money, but I was not sure if they would respond. However, it seems that Kateri helped, because already, November 30, I could pay off my note."

—, Richmond, Minn.

(Fr. Adalbert, O.S.B.)

"The wing of the hospital where I worked was burned down November 27 while all our Nuns and nurses looked on. We saved our patients and babies, seventeen of each. When the last one was taken out the building was aflame. I was using the relic you sent me on a very sick baby's crib and in the rush I did not get it until after the building was water-soaked and cinders. I went back and found it on the crib spring. I feel she helped to save the mothers and infants."

—Cleveland, O.

### ADDITIONAL FAVORS RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA

Cures .....	13	Spiritual Aid .....	1
Positions .....	7	Relief in Distress ..	6
Financial Aid .....	13	Not Specified .....	57

### PETITIONS REQUESTED THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA

Cures .....	42	Examinations .....	5
Positions .....	17	Sell Property .....	4
Financial Aid .....	21	Conversion .....	1
Relief in Distress ..	14	Not Specified .....	58

## 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.

" —IV, special for priests and communities. .... " "

**Life**, by Wynne, new edition, 64 pages, 3 illustrations..... 25c. a copy; 5 for \$1.00

**Pictures**, colored ..... 5 x 3 in., each 5c.; 10 x 13½ in., each 40c.

**Image of Kateri**, in wood, with oak from where and when she was born, 5¾ x 3 in., 40c.

**Medals**, from new dies ..... Oxidized silver, 15c.; \$1.50 a doz.; aluminum, 50c. a doz.

(Prices include postage)

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