



Introduction of the Cause of Catherine Tekakwitha

The formal Introduction of the Cause of Tekakwitha with the sanction of the Holy Father is the best message which "The Lily of the Mohawks" has yet had for its readers. It is a reason for profound thanksgiving as it presages the happy and speedy termination of her Cause.

A cablegram from Rome announces that His Holiness Pius XII has approved the formal Introduction of the Cause of Tekakwitha.

Tuesday, May 9, the Cardinals of the Congregation of Rites met in special session to discuss the merits of the Cause for the beatification of the Indian Maiden, Kateri (Catherine) Tekakwitha.

The Cardinals are 23 in number, most of them in or near Rome. They are assisted by 28 Officials, Prelates and Consultors, also mostly in Rome. Wherever they may be, they are duly informed about the points in discussion, which are studiously prepared, printed and distributed among them.

In this case the Cardinals had had before them for fully a year a volume of 500 pages, containing 21 Documents concerning the life, virtues and renown for holiness of the Servant of God, and a summary of these documents with comments by the Historical Section of the Congregation. To produce this volume took six years.

They had, besides, three appendixes to this volume, as follows in next column:

1. Containing the plea and the reasons for the Introduction of this Cause.
2. Letters petitioning the Holy Father for its Introduction, from Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Monsignori, priests, secular and regular, sisterhoods, lay persons and organizations, Indian Tribes — 620 letters in all, bearing 96,555 signatures.
3. The arguments of the Promoter of the Faith (Devil's Advocate) against the admission of the Cause, and the answers thereto by the Postulator.

The question before the assembled Cardinals was: Should they approve of the Introduction of the Cause of Tekakwitha? Their decision was unanimous in favor of approval. The next step was to report the decision to Pius XII, and this was done on May 20, when His Holiness signified his pleasure by the simple words: *Placet Eugenio*: It pleases Eugene (his Christian name).

This means there is every reason to believe that after due process Tekakwitha will be declared Venerable, then Blessed and finally Saint.

The next step in the Process is to prove that nothing was ever done to create a public veneration for her, and ample proof of that is already in the hands of the Congregation.

Then her virtues must be examined from a theological standpoint. Already an his-

torical study has pronounced them heroic.

When that is done, she may be styled Venerable. After that follows the investigation of miracles attributed to her, of which four are required. When these have been proved, she will be declared Blessed.

A Natural Curiosity First Time Ever Satisfied

There is a natural curiosity about the expense of a Cause for the Beatification of a Servant of God; the estimates of expense are usually exaggerated. To give a general estimate is difficult, since the time and labor required in each case differ. However, it is possible to compute the probable expense for the Cause of Tekakwitha. Expense is incurred for:

1. The Preparation of the Cause.

Note that it is an Historical Cause, that is, since there are no living witnesses of the life, virtues, renown for sanctity of one who died so long ago, these must be proved by documents complete, authentic and convincing.

Fortunately the documents exist, many of them kept in the Archives of St. Mary's College, Montreal; others in various countries, but available after diligent search, nearly all in French; others in *The Jesuit Relations*.

These were assembled, translated into English, typed in fifty copies for use in Rome and among the members and witnesses in the Albany Tribunal for the first or Informative Process.

Next the *articles* or *points*, about 100 in number, on which witnesses were to be examined had to be prepared, translated into French, Italian and Latin and printed for distribution among the Cardinals and Consultants of the Congregation of Rites and for the Tribunal and witnesses here.

The members of the Albany Tribunal generously devoted their time and services for the Cause, but the travel and other expenses of the witnesses, most of them from

distant points in the United States and Canada, had to be reimbursed.

Adding to the expense for the above items, clerical assistance, correspondence and other incidentals, about \$7,500.00 were disbursed before the Cause reached Rome. It was well worth while spending this amount, since all was so well prepared, and all concerned so well informed, that "Few Causes ever better documented" was the opinion of members of the Congregation of Rites. They began studying it at once, even during the vacation season, although there were at the time over six hundred other Causes in various stages engaging their consideration!

2. The Promotion of the Cause.

Gathering numerous petitions to the Holy See known as Postulatory letters from persons and organizations of importance, ecclesiastical and lay; making the Servant of God known by distributing booklets, leaflets, pictures, etc. The expense for this depends on the extent to which it is done.

3. What people generally want to know is the amount needed for the work of the Congregation of Rites and others in Rome.

This again differs for each Cause, but for Tekakwitha's here is approximate estimate.

For examining the documents, twenty-one in number, preparing a Summary of them in Latin on the life, virtues, reputation for holiness and evidence of miraculous intercession, and printing the same, the volume referred to on page 65, about \$1,500.00.

For the steps leading up to the formal In-

roduction of the Cause with sanction of the Holy Father, editing and printing—\$750.00.

For the Process proving that there has been no public veneration of the Servant of God—\$600.00.

For the theological examination of the virtues for which three to five sessions may be needed, each session about \$600.00—expense varying from \$1,800.00 to \$3,000.00.

For the investigation of the miracles for which there may be three to five sessions, for each session about \$600.00—expense varying from \$1,800.00 to \$3,000.00.

For the ten further steps or sessions that might all be needed before the Beatification and the solemnity of celebrating it in St. Peter's, Rome—about \$10,000.00.

At the utmost, there, the expense would

amount to \$20,000.00, but more likely only \$15,000.00 and even less in this case.

It should be noted that very little of this money goes for the services of members of the Congregation.

By far the most of it goes for copying, editing, translating, expert study of documents, printing them with comments and conclusions; for the Advocates of the Cause, secretarial expense and the many things incidental to the work of all concerned.

Considering that a Cause may take from ten to twenty years or more, these expenses are extremely moderate.

Now this is to be raised by popular subscriptions from Bishops, clergy, religious communities, lay organizations and from clients of Tekakwitha among the laity.

Tekakwitha on Church Days

Tekakwitha is interwoven with the liturgy of the Church. All the missionaries who knew and wrote about her consider that she was kept innocent and pure by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and June this year begins in the Octave of Pentecost, commemorating the Coming of the Holy Ghost.

Ten years before she was born at Ossernenon, now Auriesville, Father Jogues had come here to establish the Mission of the Holy Trinity, the feast occurring June 4 this year, and as for June 8, feast of Corpus Christi, no need to repeat what is so well known about her devotion to the Holy Sacrament.

Even at that early date the missionaries were not unaccustomed to speak familiarly of their devotion to the Heart of Jesus, June 16 this year. Witness Garnier writing frequently of the Heart of Christ and praying with all his soul that "He may take possession of our three hearts and that except with His own we may do nothing now and for all

eternity." This was forty years before the revelation of Saint Margaret Mary. To such devout Christians as Kateri, these sentiments would surely have become known.

In her penances she expressly emulated St. Aloysius, June 21, as her director, Father Cholenec narrates, and all who know Canada know how deeply rooted there has been devotion to St. John Baptist, June 24. Would the missionaries have failed to impart this devotion to Catherine and her companions?

Already claims are being made by Tekakwitha devotees for being the first to pay her honor. It is always dangerous to claim to be first, or best, or superlative in any way. It provokes others to claim precedence. However, the V. Postulator knows that as early as 1888 a school was erected in Montclair, New Jersey, dedicated to the Indian Maiden under the title in large raised letters, "TEKAKWITHA HALL," by the venerated pastor, Father Mendl. Can anyone date an earlier memorial?

At the annual meeting of the Directors and Officers of the Marquette League, Judge Alfred M. Talley, presiding, read a letter he had received from Reverend John J. Wynne, S.J., a member of the Board, asking that the Marquette League make a donation to the fund which was being raised for the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha. Mr. Fargis suggested that the League donate \$250.00 towards the Cause of Tekakwitha and instructing Father Cullen to send the check to Father Wynne. This motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Crawley then volunteered that he would personally contribute \$200.00 to this fund, which money would be sent to Father Wynne through the offices of the Marquette League.

The rotogravure section of *La Presse*, Montreal, had recently a full page of the Nealis water-color of Tekakwitha, and much of the *Bouvier Life*, with illustrations, going throughout Canada to more than 200,000 subscribers.

His Eminence Charles Cardinal Salotti, who was Patron of the Cause of Tekakwitha, and who succeeded Cardinal Laurenti as Prefect of the Congregation of Rites, is now in charge of the Process for the Cause for the beatification of Pius X.

Very pretty stories come almost daily in our mail about the intervention of Tekakwitha. Here's a strange one. A contractor can get big work near a convent school in which he would like to place his young girl, but there is no accommodation for his family. They invoke Kateri and in no time a home is found and the child is registered as pupil.

—The Dalles, Ore.

The Certificate of Membership in Tekakwitha League is giving much satisfaction. It was described in the May LILY OF THE MOHAWKS. Now on the reverse are printed on silver-surfaced paster the prayer for her

beatification; the conditions of Membership, and the material that can be used to make her known.

Beginning in June, parishes in the Diocese of Saint John of Quebec will go in pilgrimage to Caughnawaga, which is in that jurisdiction. A visit to the tomb, which is four miles away, and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the present site of the village are the principal exercises of devotion.

The mayors of cities in that territory are to petition the Holy See to hasten Kateri's beatification.

Tekakwitha units, in the form of camps, clubs, parish, Sunday School groups, are growing in number and each unit is contributing its mite for the expense of her Cause. Since the May LILY OF THE MOHAWKS we have the Marycliff Crusade Unit, N. Y.; a club in Topeka, Kansas; a Sunday School in Hartsdale, N. Y.; a little ones' group in Rochester, N. Y.; "a few of the laity," through Sister Mary St. John, N. Y. City.

A "doubting Thomas" Sister, or at least one who pretended to doubt Kateri's intercession, felt prevailed upon to invoke her. The favorable answer overwhelmed her. Then she grew emboldened, needing a greater favor, got all her community and young scholars to invoke her, and, lo and behold, to the surprise of everyone, the favor is granted in a reduction of interest that would mean several thousand dollars.—Salt Lake City.

Addressing the Cardinals of the Congregation of Rites, the Promoter General of the Faith, Monsignor Salvatore Natucci, introduced his statement of the difficulties in the Cause for the beatification of Tekakwitha as follows: "Since before God there is no distinction between 'Jew and Greek,' most gladly does our tribunal, which has treated Causes of Negroes, Japanese and Chinese, take up the Cause of this 'genuine redskin.'"

"Thanksgiving for a suit won."

—San Antonio, Tex.

"For the sale of a small residence lot."

—Cleveland, O.

"For a favor received from Catherine Tekakwitha."

—Bronx, N. Y.

"We burn a vigil light to her daily, and we find our collections are better."

—Ashland, Wis.

"I have had a great deal of comfort through my prayers to Catherine Tekakwitha and feel her prayers are heard."

—New York, N. Y.

"After a prayer to Kateri Tekakwitha, I found the swelling on my son's hand coming down. It was swollen for eighteen hours."

—Brookline, Mass.

"My mother and I have had marvelous response from her in so far as health, employment and happiness have been concerned."

—Corona, L. I., N. Y.

"Last month our superioress became seriously ill. I pinned a small picture of Kateri to Sister's gown. Today she is in the best of health."

—New York, N. Y.

"Have given out about four dozen leaflets —I gave out one dozen leaflets last year and won a contest of \$10.00. I owe it all to Tekakwitha."

—St. Louis, Mo.

"I invoked her three days ago and asked her a very hard trial about a friend. She was abandoned without a thing to eat and I prayed to her very hard for help and it was granted. My friend didn't have a thing of groceries and in the morning she was presented with a large box of groceries. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts."

—Corona, Riverside Co., Cal.

"I promised Little Catherine, Lily of the Mohawks, I would have it published if she would help me in my financial condition and she did help me to sell stock at a good price and buy stocks that are paying me a dividend."

—Glenfield, Pa.

"I prayed for financial assistance, making the Novena for each day on the leaflet received from you. I received an amount which ten times over covered the sum I had received previously from her and from a most unexpected source, it seemed to be a miracle."

—Auburn, N. Y.

"Just recently developed a very bad cold which the doctor pronounced tuberculosis, but said it was best to take an X-ray before making a decision. I prayed to Kateri Tekakwitha that the X-ray would come out with no signs of tuberculosis, which was granted. I also wish to thank her for many other favors."

—New Orleans, La.

"From a friend of our family who has been brought up as a Quaker. On several occasions he has been greatly worried over financial matters and we have prayed to 'Little Catherine' for him and she has always come to his aid helping to meet payrolls, etc., from unexpected sources. He is grateful for these favors and wished in some way to express his appreciation."

—Drexel Hill, Pa.

"She has helped me to sell properties and has even answered my request that the mortgage on my home would be cleared, the money coming from a source never expected, a second cousin, whom I had not seen for years, at his death he left me enough money to clear my debts."

"I am a widow with two children to support and I have no fear for my 'Teka' hears me in short time when I ask for her help."

—Staten Island, N. Y.

"Two years ago a lady of our parish fell on our steps and broke her ankle. She falsely pretended it was due to our carelessness for not cleaning the steps, that were clean. She claimed \$6,000 of indemnity. I promised Kateri Tekakwitha that I would buy the book of her life if I could settle the case out of court. We settled for \$275 and here I keep my promise." —Minneapolis, Minn.

"I have a little piece of cloth which has touched her relics and am wearing it and praying to Catherine for improved health and promised this donation towards her Cause and would spread devotion to her, and I am feeling better already. I would like to have about two hundred of the leaflets No. 1, which I will give out to friends and put a number in our church magazine rack."

—Youngstown, O.

"We made a novena to God's loving Servant, Kateri Tekakwitha, for M. A., a penniless girl who could not have even dreamt of taking a single step towards her vocation. Half a year had already been spent in very annoying red-tape application, etc. Suddenly, we say miraculously, 'Kateri' made easy the immigration visa and trip; even provided a protector for her protégé."

—Philadelphia, Pa.

". . . It was the cure or happy death of the father of a family. The father died, and all the circumstances connected with his death showed most plainly the loving Provi-

dence of God. The family is consoled and grateful, and I feel that our 'Lily of the Mohawks' must have used her influence with God. So please mark another thanksgiving in her favor.—In the meantime, she also obtained a very speedy answer to a request for some money we needed for a poor mission. At least she was the only one to whom we prayed for it." —Chicago, Ill.

"My prayers or requests were concerning work (contracts) that I thought were almost impossible for a member of my family to get. Three times prayers were answered and I am now in hopes a fourth will be heard." —Hawthorne, N. Y.

"A friend handed me a leaflet of Kateri Tekakwitha and asked me to pray for her canonization. I did and also asked her for the sale of some property, and within two weeks the property was sold. We had been trying to sell it for over a year."

PETITIONS

Cures	63	Spiritual Aid	1
Positions	29	Relief in Distress	11
Financial Aid	46	Sold Property	6
Examinations	7	Not Specified	136

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	95	Spiritual Aid	3
Positions	30	Relief in Distress	12
Financial Aid	50	Conversions	1
Studies	7	Sell Property	4
Not Specified		197	

Life, by Wynne, 64 pages, 3 illustrations, containing in detail reports of remarkable favors.....15c. a copy

Leaflets.....5c. each; 25c. a doz.; \$1.50 a 100

Tekakwitha Novena Leaflets....5c. each; 25c. a doz.

Medals.....Oxid. silver, 15c.; aluminum, 50c. a doz.

Pictures, colored, large13 x 10 in., 40c.
" " small5 x 3 in., 5c.

Pictures, colored, silk applied to her relics, 5 x 3 in., 10c.

Image of Kateri in wood admixed with oak growing where and when she was born, Auriesville, 1656.....
5 3/4 x 3 1/4 in., 40c. each

(Prices include postage)

REV. JOHN J. WYNNE, S.J., V. Postulator of Her Cause
226 EAST FORDHAM ROAD, NEW YORK