



Unpretentious, but Highly Valuable

Unpretentious as this monthly bulletin is, already it is sought by persons who are interested in the beatification and canonization of Servants of God, because it is the only full source of information on this subject in our language.

Here, for instance, is the translation of the Latin decree on a most important step in this process, the formal Introduction of a Cause for this purpose with the sanction of

our Holy Father. Unless there were every likelihood that a Servant of God would eventually be raised to the honor of our altars, such a decree would not be issued.

Montreal is mentioned here because Tekakwitha died within the limits of that diocese. Since, however, there were difficulties against instituting her Cause there, it was instituted in the diocese of Albany and conducted there most satisfactorily for Rome.

DECREE

MONTREAL OR ALBANY IN AMERICA IN THE CAUSE FOR THE BEATIFICATION AND CANONIZATION OF THE SERVANT OF GOD, CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA *Indian Virgin*

On the question: Whether to approve the Commission for the Introduction of the Cause in this instance and for the purpose for which it is intended.

O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are His judgments and how unsearchable His ways! (Romans xi, 33) as the Apostle (Paul) cries out in admiration of the hidden outpouring of God's mercies especially in the calling of the gentiles. This calling to the faith and justification is really a free gift of God as the same Apostle declares: Being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ

Jesus (Romans iii, 24); for there is no respect of persons with God (Romans ii, 11); and there is no distinction between Jew and Greek (x, 12); as Christ died for all (II Corinthians v, 15); He will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth (I Timothy ii, 4); He giving to all the means necessary for salvation, so that one who does not accept the truth is inexcusable. Whosoever whether poor, in need or despised believeth in him shall not be confounded (Romans ix, 33); nay, God lifts him up from the earth and exalts him that he may place him with the princes of his people.

To such glory Our Lord seems to have

raised CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA, an Indian Virgin of North America, of the tribe *Agniers* as the French called them, *Mohawks* as named by the English. This flower of holiness divine Wisdom brought forth from those regions which not long before had drained the blood of the Saints Isaac Jogues and his Companion Martyrs of the Society of Jesus and preserved and cultivated this immaculate lily unsullied among those very Iroquois peoples who had been the executioners of these Martyr Saints.

Born in the village Ossernenon, now Auriesville, today in the diocese of Albany, about the year 1656, her father was a pagan, but her mother a Christian of Algonquin origin. When four years old, losing both parents and her only brother, she was taken into the family of her uncle, a bitter hater of the Christian religion, and brought up in Indian ways.

Already moved by an instinctive and perhaps unconscious love of virginity, when she strongly resisted attempts to have her marry, she suffered much in consequence.

In the year 1667 three Jesuit missionaries spent three days at her uncle's house and CATHERINE took care of them. Three years later a permanent mission was established there and soon after, in 1675, our virgin was admitted among the catechumens by Father James de Lamberville, S.J.; the year following, on the Feast of Easter, in view of her extraordinary virtues and exceptional preparation she was laved in the Sacrament of baptism by the same Father de Lamberville.

To escape persecutions and dangers which threatened even her faith, leaving her uncle's home secretly, she fled to the mission of St. Francis Xavier of the Sault, now known as Caughnawaga, situated in Canadian territory, covering the space of a long journey to the village in which only Christians and catechumens dwelt, presided over by the missionary Father both in spiritual and tem-

poral matters, after the manner of the celebrated Paraguay Reductions.

In this mission CATHERINE made wonderful progress in Christian perfection, devoting herself wholly to prayer and mortification of the flesh in which she would have gone to excess unless she had been restrained by her spiritual director. In view of her spiritual disposition, the missionary Fathers, contrary to the usual rule they had prudently made, admitted her into the pious society of the Holy Family, into which only the more fervent Christians were received. Nay, more, at the request of the Servant of God, they granted that she should vow perpetual virginity, March 25, 1679, the first, so far as known, among Indians of that region.

Becoming thus the fragrance of Christ, she attracted by her example many like herself to the mission village where they led a Christian life more fervently.

Afflicted by many infirmities which she bore very patiently, after receiving the Holy Viaticum, brought to her with solemnity, and anointing with Holy Oil, pronouncing sweetly the words, *Jesus, I love Thee*, she flew to her heavenly Spouse whom she had loved, sought, and always desired. The renown for holiness which the Servant of God had always had has made her tomb near the Iroquois village of the Caughnawaga Missions, now in the diocese of St. John of Quebec, administered by Fathers of the Society of Jesus, a place for pilgrimages which even now after nearly three centuries continue.

Outstanding are the testimonies to this renown since the plea of the Baltimore Plenary Council of 1884 and the Postulatory Letters since of Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops of the United States, of Canada, and of very many Indians with their chieftains which express the ardent desire of Americans.

To satisfy this desire the Bishop of Albany in America by his authority as Ordinary instituted the process concerning the

renown for holiness in the year 1931-32 in due time reported to Rome. As this Cause had to be classed as one of old, by virtue of the *Motuproprio*, February 6, 1930, issued by Pius XI, of happy memory, the task of examining the historical documents submitted, of requiring others, of sifting them critically, so that what might be gathered and adjudged by them be known, fell to the Historical Section, subsidiary to this Sacred Congregation. On this task they labored remarkably well. Since, therefore, it has been proved that the documents are authentic, entirely credible, the renown for holiness of the Servant of God is convincingly proved.

Wherefore, at the request of Fr. Charles Miccinelli, S.J., rightly appointed as Postulator of this Cause, the undersigned Cardinal, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and Deponent of this Cause, proposed for discussion this question: Should the authorization for the Introduction of the Cause, in

this instance and for the purpose in question be approved? The eminent Fathers, after the address of the aforesaid Cardinal, with the vote of the official Prelates, and the absence of objection vocal or written by the Promoter of the Faith, having in mind the Postulatory Letters, and weighing everything carefully decided to go on record: *Affirmatively*, or that the *Authorization* for the *Introduction* of the *Cause* should be approved if it please His Holiness.

After the Cardinal Prefect reported to our Most Holy Lord Pope Pius XII on the date below, His Holiness, considering the decision of the Sacred Congregation, deigned to sign with his own hand the authorization for the Introduction of the Servant of God,

CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA.

Rome, 19 May, 1939.

CHARLES CARD. SALOTTI, S.R.C., *Prefect*,

ALFONSUS CARINCI, S.R.C., *Secretary*.

Kateriana

Notice how the Decree for the Introduction of the Cause of Tekakwitha mentions her birthplace on the site of the martyrdom of Saint Isaac Jogues. As he is honored by State as well as Church, so one day will the Lily of the Mohawks be honored in the United States and Canada and everywhere else. There is no story of holiness quite like hers.

On July 3 the government of the State of New York unveiled a noble monument to 'Father' Jogues, as he is popularly known. Every branch of the government had part in it, the executive, legislative and the judicial in the person of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, Frederick E. Crane, who made the address on the occasion. The various churches also took part; a Catholic bishop making the invocation; a Protestant bishop pronouncing the blessing. The leading Catholic Daughter of America, Mrs. Daniel

J. Kennedy, unveiled the monument. On a base and pedestal twelve feet in height, the figure of the heroic missionary, of the same height, looks out upon the beautiful waters from an eminence in the State Park at the head of the lake, in a majestic pose christening them in the name of Holy Sacrament as it was on the Eve of Corpus Christi, 1646.

As a result of a Card Party, with the consent of the Pastor—

"Enclosed please find check for forty-three dollars for Kateri Tekakwitha.

"Have been promised a little more money, but it has not arrived, so thought best to send you this amount and if I get any more will send it immediately.

"I know you are wondering about our party. Well, Father, we had a very nice crowd and everyone said they enjoyed it very much." —Bellevue, Pittsburgh.

"I've since received my old job back with a ten-dollar raise per month."

—Finlayson, Minn.

"I am enclosing \$5.00 to further the cause of Tekakwitha, as promised if I made sale of property."

—Waseca, Minn.

"Kindly invoke the aid of the Good Catherine Tekakwitha in my behalf for the return of sight in my afflicted eye, and the cure of high blood pressure."

—New York.

"It was very dull in my place where I work. I was the only woman working so I asked Catherine Tekakwitha to pray we would get work and, thanks to her, work is much better. I have given Kateri prayer to quite a few people so I have them all praying to her."

—Everett, Mass.

"This is to advise that my sister had pneumonia and the doctor had practically given her up. I made a novena to Catherine Tekakwitha, and she is well on the road to recovery. People are amazed at how wonderful she looks after her illness. Many thanks to Catherine Tekakwitha."

—Youngstown, O.

"A lady parishioner, brilliant scholar, was trying to get a position as a teacher in public schools of Ohio. Her religion interfered. I asked her to make a novena to Tekakwitha, and towards end of novena, she was called in by a superintendent of schools and is now teacher of Latin and History in public schools."

—Ohio.

"I have great devotion to Kateri and have tried to spread devotion to her among my pupils this year. Everything we wanted we asked her to intercede and 99% of the class passed."

"Someone gave me a small leaflet with novena prayers. I would be most grateful if you would let me know where I might obtain more leaflets as the pupils are most anxious. There are many of our Sisters who would wish also to have some of them."

—Trenton, Ont., Canada.

"In the summer of 1937 I first heard of Catherine and never bothered any more. I came across her picture in a magazine and pasted it on my kitchen door, simply because I wanted a party, in aid of our church, to be a success. March 12, 1939, was the date of the party. It rained all day and all evening and was very cold; the party turned out to be a grand success."

"Last Saturday morning I turned to Catherine and said this kitchen needs a good housecleaning and unless you help us to win some money you are coming off the kitchen door. Saturday at noon we won \$100.00 we had taken chances on."

—Philadelphia, Pa.

OBITUARY

Readers are requested to pray for the devoted members of Tekakwitha League:

Rev. E. A. Caldwell, Bay City, Mich.

Sister M. Alberta, Youngstown, O.

Agnes Elmsley, Elmsley Place, Toronto.

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.

(Prices include postage)

Pictures, colored, large13 x 10 in., 40c.

" sepia, 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 when and where she was born, Auriesville, 1656.....
5 3/4 x 3 1/4 in., 40c. each

REV. JOHN J. WYNNE, S.J., V. Postulator of Her Cause
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