

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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By a special blessing of Divine Providence November 26 of this year has been set, with the approbation of the Holy Father, as the date for the first discussion on the virtues of the Servant of God, Catherine Tekakwitha.

The years of Pius XI as Head of the Church were notable for the great number of Servants of God who were declared Blessed and Saints. To all appearances under the Supreme Pontiff Pius XII, gloriously reigning, the number will not be less. Indeed, so numerous are the Causes now under consideration by the Congregation of Rites that they are obliged to restrict the list of those which will be considered this year.

Fortunately, owing to the interest of all concerned in the Cause of Catherine Tekakwitha, and especially to the zeal of our Apostolic Delegate and the Postulator of her Cause in Rome, the list includes her for the study of her virtues so that no time will be lost in the progress of her Cause. Already the documents which prove that she was notably virtuous have been accepted as authentic and convincing. It now remains to consider if she practiced virtue to an heroic degree.

By heroic is meant in a manner above the ordinary, without the usual favorable circumstances which help men and women to lead a good life, and with perseverance in spite of opposition, calumny, persecution. Heroic is the soul that does extraordinary things in an extraordinary way, prays incessantly, inspires others to do good, sacrifices

all that others commonly hold dear in this world, and lives so visibly united with God as to draw others unto Him and become for many a medium of His grace.

When the process for the beatification of Tekakwitha was begun in Albany, nine years ago, witnesses, that is, those who were familiar with the documents concerning her life, renown for holiness, and evidences of her fruitful intercession since her death, were asked to testify on thirty-one points concerning her virtues. In general they were interrogated on her faith, hope, love, prudence, justice, temperance, fortitude, the devout practices of Christian life. Here are some of these inquiries in particular.

FAITH

Did this Servant of God treasure her faith above everything in the world and even suffer persecution for it?

Did she make sacrifices for her faith such as abandoning home and people hostile to it and seeking under risk and hardship a place where she could cultivate it?

In what way did she manifest her desire to know, and make known to others, all that she could about her religion?

In what practical manner did she give evidence of her faith, in regard to the Presence

of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, assisting at Holy Mass, visiting the chapel, venerating the Cross as a reminder of the suffering and death of Christ and the means of our redemption?

How did her faith appear in her love of prayer, her hatred of sin, her regard for the Sacrament of Penance?

Did her faith extend to a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to the communion of the faithful in this world with the Saints of God in Heaven, to invoking and imitating them?

HOPE

Was her hope in God motivated by her desire for reward, or rather, by her filial confidence in Him?

How did this confidence appear in times of persecution, calumny and opposition?

What evidence is there that she longed for heaven, had a foretaste of its joys, expected it as fulfilment of her desire for complete union with God?

LOVE

What proof is there that she loved God above all; and sacrificed everything to be worthy of Him?

In what practical manner did she prove her love, in regard to God's Church, its holy sacraments, in particular, the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the Passion of His Divine Son?

How did this love of God extend to all the objects of His love, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Angels and the Saints, to doing His Will by the observance of His Commandments?

How did she comply with the precept: Love thy neighbor as thyself, in spite of the various habits of hatred in which so many of her people indulged?

THE CARDINAL VIRTUES

What evidence is there of extraordinary prudence on her part, justice, temperance or moderation, fortitude?

How is her observance of these virtues shown by her modesty, obedience, humility, simplicity, candor, patience, meekness, courage?

This is but a faint outline of the examination of the virtues of a Servant of God proposed for beatification. As usual, the Promoter of the Faith, or "Devil's Advocate," submits objections and difficulties which the Postulator of the Cause must answer. There are at least three sessions devoted to the inquiry.

A BEAUTIFUL INVOCATION

Tekakwitha loved the Holy Cross and that is why the following invocation for her Beatification is so worded. It is for private use only:

Lord Jesus, glorify Thy Servant
Catherine Tekakwitha:
We beg of Thee by Thy Holy
Cross.

Imprimatur:

✠ FRANCIS J. SPELLMAN, D.D.,
Archbishop, New York.

New York, February 2, 1940.

"... The Rev. Father Gagnieur, S.J., of blessed memory, who died three years ago, had a small chapel in that mission; it was an old laundry building that he had obtained after the mill, in Bay Mills, had been closed; but it was a poor building, which he did not want to repair, because it was not worthwhile, and when I came, the Indians brought in the question of rebuilding. So we did, or at least we started. We were hesitating about the name, St. Isaac or St. Catherine. In fact this little mission is only 16 or 18 miles from Sault Ste. Marie, where St. Isaac Jogues had come in 1641 with Father Raymbault, but the Indians or half-breeds preferred St. Catherine."

"PAUL PRUDHOMME, S.J.,
"Saint Ignace, Mich."

AND NOW FROM MEXICO

"Dear and Rev. Father:

"With great pleasure I am sending this little offering for the beatification Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha. I will remember of this Cause in my Masses. She will pray for Mexico and for me in heaven.

"Yours sincerely,

"✠ LEOPOLDO RIUZ,
"Archbishop of Morelia."

THE GROUP INTEREST GROWS

The Mission Club of St. Mary's, City of St. Joseph, Mo., and the Sixth Grade Mission Club of St. Andrew's School, Grand Rapids, Mich., each sends \$1.00 for the Cause of Tekakwitha. Very good for the little ones. On a larger scale a club in Teachers' College, Buffalo, N. Y., promotes knowledge and love of the saintly Indian Maiden.

"... It will interest you to learn that one of the small booklets you gave me I sent to one of my friends with the result that he became very devoted to Catherine Tekakwitha, and is at present in the Franciscan Order in Kentucky. He claims she brought it about!"

No one could be more devoted to Tekakwitha than a missionary in far-off China, Father Joseph Hoogers, Meikweiyngtze, Tsining, Suiyuan, China. His effort to make her known and loved is untiring. He is founding a Congregation of native Sisters—and founding means obtaining funds for their support. They are an impressive group as appears from the photograph taken when they were assembled for their retreat, 82 in number.

Father Hoogers has made Tekakwitha known to each and all of them and they imitate her virtues and recommend a like imitation to all who are under their care.

Then he has induced a Chinese artist, M.

Wang Suta, to depict the Indian Maiden in three colors with a brief sketch of her life and the prayer for her beatification.

To every Catholic mission in China he is sending some of these attractive pictures, 10,000 in all. This evidence of zeal he believes he owes to "The Lily of the Mohawks" for the many blessings he owes to her intercession.

Our American Indians, according to the best theory of their origin, are of Chinese origin, from Mongolia. The 'Good Catherine,' true to the veneration of the Chinese for their ancestors, will work wonders there as everywhere else.

"About two months ago, a good, pious Catholic, half-breed Indian woman asked me to make a novena with my class to the sainted maiden, Catherine Tegawitha, for a very special intention of hers. She promised publication and an offering of one dollar for the spreading of devotion to her, if her petition was granted.

"At the end of this time, the good woman gave me the dollar, and told me the following with childlike faith: 'I needed money badly as my property taxes had not been paid for two years. This was something serious for me, as my husband, being dead, left me to support a family of six children. The oldest son on whom I depended married, and the second son became my standby, but he, too, was married a few months ago. I wanted Catherine Tegawitha to help me find work, but instead of work, my son came unexpectedly to give me the sum I needed for the tax. So I attribute the saving of my beautiful little home to Catherine Tegawitha's intercession.' " —St. Francis, S. D.

A GENEROUS DONOR

"We are sending a check as promised by us before the holidays. It is 10% of a bonus my husband received, and promised by us to the "Lily of the Mohawks."—Seattle, Wash.

"Here is another donation sent you in thanksgiving to Good Catherine for favors received."

—Broussard, La.

"I have prayed daily to Catherine Tekakwitha for help financially. This past week I have received it."

—Pittsburgh.

"In thanksgiving for favors received. I was on the verge of giving up when she came to my assistance. Thanks to our dear Indian Maiden."

—Joliet, Ill.

"I was in desperate need of work; was told to pray to her and started a novena on Sunday and the following Thursday I had a position."

—Rochester, N. Y.

"In thanksgiving for having secured money to pay my insurance and in begging 'Little Catherine' to restore my brother's peace of mind."

—Pittsburgh.

"Enclosed you will find a money order for \$2.00, our little offering to Kateri Tekakwitha. My little brother is now on the road to recovery after a serious illness."

—Quincy, Mass.

"Just a little note to let you know I have received another blessing which, I am sure, has come to me through the intercession of 'The Lily of the Mohawks.' The check enclosed is only a small portion of what I would like to be able to do."—Pittsburgh.

"About four years ago one of our Sisters in Kansas was having a kind of epileptic attacks. I sent then a donation to help this

Cause, asking Kateri to cure that Sister and since that day the Sister did not have any more attacks. She is entirely well and strong."

—Los Angeles, Cal.

"Again we wish to tell you of a great favor received, which we feel is due in great part to the intercession of dear little Catherine. We have recently had a very important business contract renewed—had it not been, it would have meant serious financial stress. Please accept the enclosed thanksgiving offering for a Mass in her honor."

—New York.

"I received a letter from home (Pennsylvania) that if I wanted to see mother alive to come at once. I at once begged the help of Little Kateri so as mother would live. I left early next morning (Wednesday). I arrived home late Friday night. Mother was much better; Sunday she ate at the table with the family. The doctor said it was a miracle that she recovered."

—Milesville, S. D.

"A non-Catholic in practice, expecting a big financial deal to go through, had someone say a Mass, and ask Tekakwitha to help. She did, and the deal went over successfully."

—S. S. P., N. J.

"A Franciscan nun, Sister R., tubercular for at least three years, through the intercession of Tekakwitha has made such splendid progress that a lung collapse is not deemed necessary."

—Philadelphia.

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

226 EAST FORDHAM ROAD, NEW YORK