

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. IV, No. 7

APRIL, 1940

To Prove a Miracle Is Very Like One

Miracle means something wonderful performed by supernatural power as a sign that some one or some event is marked by special favor of the providence of God. Christ our Lord healed the sick, drove out demons, gave sight to the blind, made deaf to hear and dumb to speak, restored life to the son of the widow of Naim, to Lazarus, and arose from the tomb.

Miracles did not cease after His Ascension into heaven; they were not in His time, and have not been since, always concerned with bodily ailments and the passage from death to life. He calmed the sea, drove demons into swine and the swine into the waters. St. Paul was struck down on the way to Damascus and converted. There are miracles of grace as well as of healing. Usually, however, proof of the latter is required to show that a Servant of God proposed for beatification has been the medium or instrument used by divine providence to bring about the something wonderful that is considered a miracle.

Now Servants of God, men or women, may have lived a holy life and died a natural death. Such are known in the language of the Church as Confessors, to distinguish them from Martyrs, who have shed their blood for the Faith. If their martyrdom be proved, no miracles are required for their

beatification, and after that only two are required for their canonization.

For Confessors, if persons still alive were eye-witnesses of two alleged miracles, and give satisfactory testimony, that is enough for beatification; but three miracles are needed when the testimony was ocular in the first investigation and only hearsay in the second. When only verbal or documentary testimony to a miracle is available, then there must be proof of four reputed miracles. When after it comes to canonization two new miracles are required.

Now the important thing is to establish the fact of a miracle. For this the inquiry is very searching. Besides the ordinary questions about the name, age, physical condition, previous serious, if any, ailments of the one cured and of his family, the diagnosis and prognosis, medical chart, physician's opinion, patient's reaction to remedies prior to the cure must be stated in detail. Particular as this may seem, it is not so difficult in hospital cases.

The chief point is to determine the actual state of the person cured when the alleged miracle occurred. Was there danger of death? Day, hour, place, etc., in which cure occurred. Circumstances of the cure—was it instantaneous, without the aid of remedies or natural forces? Did the symptoms of

the illness disappear at once, even though strength was not regained at once? Is the cure permanent?

The opinions of medical men as to the seriousness of the illness are important, but they are not asked to express their opinion whether the cure was miraculous or not. That is a matter for the experts attached to the Congregation of Rites to decide.

Now comes the question how to know if the miracle can be attributed to a particular Servant of God. Who was invoked, and how, by mental or vocal prayer; was it during a triduum or novena; was votive offering promised or not; was any relic, medal, or picture used? Was the cure simultaneous with the invocation, or soon after? Were others in heaven invoked, so that the cure might be attributed to them?

AN APPARENT MIRACLE

"I was charged with giving a young Sister nurse a series of injections for hay fever. She took the first three without any untoward effects. After chatting a few minutes after her fourth injection she went to a nearby room with a Sister companion. Almost immediately I heard an urgent call and hurried to see what had happened. I found Sister in a state of utter collapse, with all the symptoms of a true anaphylactic reaction. I sent the other Sister for a hypodermic of adrenalin, and reached for a telephone and called for Sister Superior, a doctor and the Chaplain. Sister was new in the department and unable to find the adrenalin, so hastened to another floor. The interval was tense with suspense. I knew that it was only a matter of a few minutes at the most, and somehow Catherine Tekakwitha flashed to my mind, and I implored her aid, promising to publish this incident if she would save this young Sister. The other Sister now returned and we gave the adrenalin. In a few more minutes a doctor had arrived and gave

more adrenalin. Sister was unconscious for several hours, and only out of danger toward morning of the next day. The physician stated that these cases usually die within three minutes."

FROM HALF WAY ROUND THE EARTH, MANILA, P. I.

"The Alumnae girls of St. Bridget's Academy, Batangas, were planning an entertainment for our benefit. Some expected to make \$500.00; the very sanguine hoped for \$1,500.00. We had received some leaflets telling of Kateri's great help in financial matters, so decided to ask her for \$2,000.00. My class in religion is composed of the third and fourth year high school girls to whom we distributed the leaflets, asking them to make the novena (we did not say it in class, but individually). We asked the girls to keep it a secret until the results were known; then we would say, 'Kateri did it!'

"When the girls of our orchestra went to Batangas to play at the concert, one of them, seeing the splendid audience, felt sure Kateri had helped, so she simply could not refrain from divulging the 'secret,' and told the Directress about our hopes. Even then Sister was not quite sure; full houses do not always mean large financial returns, but the Alumnae girls gave us \$2,100.00. Our girls were overjoyed and attributed the entire success to their prayers. We know many other prayers were offered for this intention, but as we definitely asked Kateri for \$2,000.00 when such seemed improbable, we feel sure Kateri secured the success."

Again we notify our readers and request them to notify others, especially heads of schools of every grade, to beware of itinerant lecturers, claiming to be Indians from Caughnawaga, Canada, or nearby reservations. They are not authorized by any competent person, nor would they be approved for such occupation.

KATERI'S CLIENTS IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA

Thirty-three of them wrote recently asking for favors through her intercession. They all want spiritual blessings as well as temporal: baptism, mind you; conversion, gift of prayer, grace to lead a holy life, love of God, peace, to correct faults, to work diligently, to have their families become Christian, to succeed in examinations, for unity among members of a family. One prays to become a seminarian and then a priest. It all sounds like Kateri's own days after she took up her abode in the holy haven for her people in Caughnawaga.

Here are some of the names:

ORIENWA OKO	NWEKE ALUM	OGBODO AGBAM
ANNI NGENE	ABOYI OGBU	ONOGO NWONOVO
NNAMANI	PHILIP MBA	EGBUABA NNAJI

A GENUINE VALENTINE

The way the students of the Sacred Heart School in Van Buren, Maine, celebrate Saint Valentine's Day is to choose a heavenly patron for a model during the year and to write a brief account of the one chosen. This year one of them chose Tekakwitha.

UNFAILING ANSWER TO PRAYER

"About 1923 I sent you a thanksgiving for favor granted me through Catherine Tekakwitha, by securing me a position. I have said nearly every day since then a prayer to her that she would help me to keep my position. I have been in the same position since 1923, and as I am in Wall Street, and you know how many there have lost their positions, I really contribute my good fortune to her intercession.

"Everyone I have given the prayer to has been able to obtain their favors. There were especially two girls, well in their thirties, to whom I gave her prayer and both are now holding very nice positions, although were unemployed for some time. They were very discouraged because it was so difficult for these older girls to obtain positions. Many places they went they could have se-

cured positions if they would permit dinner engagements to accompany their positions. As both these girls are very respectable, you can readily see how discouraged they were. However, they now hold positions with respectable employers."

THE TEKAKWITHA BOOK-MARK

To meet very frequent requests for the prayer begging for favors through the intercession of Tekakwitha, it has been printed in form of a book-mark, one and a half by four and a half inches. On the reverse is a medallion of Kateri and the invocation mentioned in the March LILY OF THE MOHAWKS: Lord Jesus, glorify Thy Servant Catherine Tekakwitha, we beg of Thee by Thy Holy Cross, both with the proper imprimatur. It is very attractive. Prayer has all to do to bring about the declaration by the Church that a Servant of God is Blessed. These book-marks make the prayer for that easy to distribute at ten cents a dozen.

INTERCESSORS ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN

It is common to get reports that prayers are answered during or at the close of a novena privately made in honor of Tekakwitha. Not uncommon is it to receive reports like the following:

A Sister in Texas learns that her sister in California had brought her five children through a siege of scarlet fever. Realizing what this would mean in money outlay, she at once invokes the Indian Maiden to obtain the funds necessary in the emergency. Somehow those people in convents and cloisters sense what is going on outside and have sympathies which make them intuitive. As intercessors they are often like those above. In this case the prayer was made on the seventeenth day of the month. That evening the father of the children was appointed manager of the business in which he was engaged with a greatly increased salary.

"I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving for a favor received through the intercession of Kateri." —McKeesport, Pa.

"Enclosed find a little donation to help further the cause of Tekakwitha for favors received and also place my petitions for a special intention." —Duluth, Minn.

"Thanksgiving for favor received some months ago, 'obtaining a loan of \$5,000 for our church here.' It was rather striking the way the answer came." —New York.

"Enclosing a check to be used towards the canonization expense of Little Catherine in thanksgiving for a favor." —St. Joseph, Mo.

"Having had a recent session with the medical men, including an operation on a pair of bad tonsils, I'm sending you the enclosed, which I promised for the Cause of Catherine Tekakwitha as a thanksgiving." —Pastor, Goshen, N. Y.

"You remember Sister Anna Marie writing to you asking that you pray to the 'Lily of the Mohawks' for my husband's recovery. He had been in the sanatorium for four months and came home yesterday well and strong again." —Nashville, Tenn.

"One, a successful operation for the removal of a cataract from my eye; the other, my sister gave birth to a fine boy although the doctors had said that she could never give birth to another baby, that she would probably die." —Birmingham, Ala.

"About two months ago a young lady under our care came near dying. I promised to write and tell you of the fact if 'The Lily of the Mohawks' saved her. Doctor thought she would die. She recovered and is back at her position." —Las Cruces, New Mex.

"My little grandson had a very bad ear. The doctors expected to take him to the hospital for an operation. I asked my daughter-in-law if she would mind if I would put the badge on my grandson. (She is not a Catholic.) She was willing and you know when the doctor came he was very much surprised to find that an operation was not necessary." —Syracuse, N. Y.

"Sincerest gratitude is due to Kateri Tekakwitha for the successful outcome of a serious operation; for the conversion of the husband of a dear friend." —Kaukauna, Wis.

"IN THEIR ABODE OF REFRESHMENT, LIGHT AND PEACE." —*The Roman Missal*.

Gertrude M. Reed, Waterbury, Conn.
Patricia Weaver, South Mountain, Pa.
Sister Marie Clare, Indianapolis, Ind.
Rev. C. W. Brennan, Waterbury, Conn.

PETITIONS

Cures	14	Relief in Distress	1
Positions	10	Examinations	14
Financial Aid	13	Not Specified	55

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	17	Relief in Distress	2
Positions	11	Examinations	5
Financial Aid	7	Sold Property	4
Not Specified		89	

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