



Philippine Duchesne, Tekakwitha and Others (Concluded)

One of the gladdening factors about the ceremony in St. Peter's, Rome, for the beatification or canonization of a Servant of God, is the importance which the press—the secular press—attaches to it. Prominence is given to it as news, with large headlines, portraits of the Saint or Blessed, and brief accounts of the character, accomplishments, and notably of the heroism of each. God's holy ones are beginning to be known not only as men and women who pray and practise acts of virtue, but who also brave the troubles and dangers that beset the world, suffer and sacrifice themselves in order to bring relief, joy and salvation to countless thousands.

Literally one is staggered when reading what Mother Duchesne did, in spite of hardships and perils in order to plant the seeds of faith, hope and charity in a rank wilderness. Why may we not say that one is also staggered when reflecting on the way her self-sacrifice and heroism are rewarded in this very world of ours, not to speak of her joys in heaven, by the numerous bands of her sisters in religion with their convents in so many important centres in the United States, Canada and all throughout America.

Not only that, as she came with faith alone, impelled by her fierce spirit of charity, pioneer and frontiers-woman, to help

spiritualize the very heart of our country, so members of her Society rejoice now to go from here to any distant part of the world with the same motive and the same exalted spirit.

To have Mother Duchesne glorified as Blessed in heaven was worth waiting and working for, and now it is worth-while praying for, that she may very soon be declared Saint.

That unmistakable mark of the Church, Holiness, was never dormant in the New World, but as a world in the making, its makers were too occupied breaking ground, building, struggling against malign forces, often dying for the cause they had at heart, too occupied and too modest to leave traces of their heroic virtues.

Not so any longer. The Church in all America could not have become so flourishing, in spite of poverty, hardships, rough conditions, nationals at odds with one another everywhere in the world except here—nay, in spite of persecutions in many spots, privation of property, privation of primal rights, of education, of adopting a priestly or religious vocation—without inspiring devout minds to inquire into her origins in the new land and discover what manner of men and women sowed the seed and bedewed the soil even with their blood.

So we have Father Marion Habig's *Heroes of the Cross*; Father Michael Kenny's *Romance of the Floridas*; Father O'Daniel's studies and many other testimonies bringing to light evidences of holiness and martyrdom among early Franciscan, Dominican and Jesuit Missionaries who gave their lives for the Faith.

No doubt the canonization of the Jesuit Martyrs in New York State and Canada gave an impetus to the pious investigations which have resulted in such precious histories. No doubt also the interest aroused in the Cause for the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha and its rapid advance in Rome, as well as the beatification of Mother Cabrini, have inspired the devotees of Venerable John Nepomucene Neumann and of Mother Seton to renewed activity in behalf of their beatification.

These, however, are only contributing causes. It is the innate admiration for holiness on the part of our Catholic people that prompts noble-minded scholars to delve into our annals, to preserve the saintly character of our heritage and to enable our people even in this time of pilgrimage to dwell in Communion with the Saints.

To dwell in Communion with the Saints! How glibly we repeat those words of the Creed, without reflecting on what that Communion means! Frequently everyone of us has the experience of assisting at the obsequies of Servants of God, parents, friends, pastors, sisters, neighbors, who lived and died holily. We mourn their departure, listen to their eulogy, and forthwith begin to speak of them as if they were no more.

Even the Saints whose Feast days come around each year we may honor for the day and then let the year pass without a thought of them. A beatification or canonization is celebrated and announced with much publicity, and that is the end of it.

Now, one of the duties of those who advocate and promote the Cause for beatification

of a Servant of God is to make that person known, to help develop a veneration and devotion that will last.

This is being done in the case of Tekakwitha, and it is wonderful how far a word about her will go.

Frequent mention has been made of what she is doing in China. Here is something about her from India:

"Herewith an express money order in thanksgiving for several favours received from Kateri Tekakwitha. One favour was the winning of a court case which was going against us in the court of law and when we knew we were in the right—the second big favour was that I received a decent job after praying to her. She has granted me and my mother and several to whom we recommended her several favours and many have promised to send donations."

—Panchgni, Sarata Dist., India.

And again from Mexico: "Eulogia petitioned K. T. for help, and said three *Paters* and *Aves* daily. In eight days came such relief that the doctor declared no treatment was now necessary."

—Chihuahua.

For years after her death, seven to eight years, her people attributed to her the safety of their settlement from the fierce Iroquois, so much so that the successor of the saintly Laval named her the Saviour, the Genevieve of New France; it was Genevieve who saved Paris from Attila and his Huns.

The Iroquois had destroyed the Hurons and they were out to destroy Catholic Indian settlements and the French in all Canada.

I do not believe I am exaggerating her power of intercession to bring about, if not a cessation of the savagery going on in Europe, at least to its spread over the rest of the world. Divine Providence uses many instruments to resist evil and the letters received daily would seem to prove that Tekakwitha is a special one.

Knowledge of Tekakwitha and of answers received to prayer through her intercession enlivens faith, inspires hope and develops love, and above all a habit of prayer.

Answers to prayer through the intercession of Tekakwitha are growing so fast in number, and the favors received are so various that they must be classified. Observe that the V. Postulator is not the only one who receives such reports. Besides what he receives others here and in Canada receive many and report them. Note that these favors are spiritual as well as temporal, and they are reported by pastors, Sisters, as well as the laity.

CONVERSIONS

"... for publication, which I promised in thanksgiving for three favors received for my nephew, who was in the Navy, one was that he return home safe; second, that he would go to the Sacraments; third, that he would get work when he came home; also promised to donate a dollar, which I am sending in this letter to help towards her canonization."

—Indianapolis, Ind.

"One of our good Chippewa families was very much grieved over the contemplated marriage of one of its members to a good-for-nothing non-Catholic. We promised to recommend the matter to St. Joseph and Tekakwitha, and asked one of the family to do the same. Our answer, which almost involved a tragedy, so disillusioned the Catholic party that she 'broke' completely with the undesirable 'intended,' much to the joy and relief of her relatives."—Odanah, Wis.

Tekakwitha's medal brought a hardened youngish rascal back to the Sacraments at Easter after fifteen years of more-than-carelessness. Oddly for an Indian, he was bitter and sarcastic toward religion and did his best to stand in the way of others' practice. His wife is a reformed Magdalene and he has

been her biggest stumbling block since her conversion. He would not wear the medal at first, but two weeks before Easter he put it on with wondrous results.

"A story I should like to enlarge upon is that of the Indian judge whose ancestors were Iroquois voyageurs. He returned to the Church at Easter after thirty-three years of non-attendance. The old strict Fathers had forbidden his entrance into the Church because he had not been married at the Mission. Unknown here, his children at public school, finally his boy of twenty years joined the Indian orchestra and began coming to the Mission to practice. The boy's sister, aged fifteen, came too. Neither had made First Communion, but their instruction began the first of Lent and Easter found all three at the altar-rails. Tears ran down the man's face returning to his place. Tekakwitha is rounding up her own."

—De Smet, Idaho.

EMPLOYMENT

"A member of our Dial of Mercy asked us to forward this to you in thanksgiving for employment obtained." —Frederick, Md.

"I have just received a job through praying to Tekakwitha and I hope to continue to help as long as my work continues."

—Latonia, Ky.

"A very unexpected offer came to . . . to make a change in his work with more money and what seems to be a much better position in the future; at the same time we received a very unexpected sum of money."

—Scranton, Pa.

The father of a family of six had been without work for a year. A novena was begun to Kateri, and before its close, in fact on the fourth day, the man received a good permanent position. On the second day his son, also without employment, obtained temporary work.

"A two-year-old child afflicted with what a specialist called 'dehydration.' Convulsions and high fevers accompanied it."

—S. S. H., N. J.

"I had a very sore head. I thought it was cancer. Doctor did not think he could cure me. I got a leaflet from a good Sister and prayed hard, and I am cured. That was four years ago."

—Altoona, Pa.

"Kateri is very dear to me because in 1932 I was dangerously ill with anemia—the worst case the doctors have had. I heard of Kateri and prayed to her; today I weigh 150 pounds."

—Lackawanna, N. Y.

"Then a nun having something wrong with her arm, rheumatism or arthritis, after one application, the arm felt so well she did not return to the doctor for the usual weekly treatment.

"One lady, who had quite a severe break and fracture of the leg in December, if not cured, at least the relic restored such confidence that she left the hospital one week ahead of schedule."

—Seaside Park, N. J.

"Two weeks ago I was stricken with a serious throat infection, which brought on very high fevers. During the night of one of the high fevers, I asked Kateri to intercede for me, and promised publication if she would let me rest peacefully. When I awoke I felt not only rested, but found to my amazement that all signs of infection had disappeared from my throat. A physician

told me that such infections do not disappear until after a week or two."—New York City.

"I wrote to you three weeks ago asking you to pray to Katherine Tekakwitha that my little son would be cured of a very serious illness, streptococcus peritonitis. He is home from the hospital now and on the road to recovery. We had three doctors and they all said it was a miracle. They did not give us any hope, but as soon as I pinned the relic of Catherine Tekakwitha on him he said, 'I feel better now.'"

—Chicago, Ill.

PETITIONS

Cures	26	Conversions	1
Positions	12	Examinations	7
Financial Aid	22	Sell Property	5
Relief in Distress	10	Spiritual	1
Not Specified	84		

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	25	Sold Property	2
Positions	20	Safe Delivery	1
Financial Aid	18	Lost Article Found	1
Relief in Distress	12	Spiritual	5
Rented Apartment	1	Not Specified	145

OBITUARY

Pray for the souls of clients of Kateri.

Rev. George Meyer, S.M., Dayton, O., ninety years old, seventy-one years a religious, sixty-three a priest.

Mrs. James E. Crampton, Great Neck, L. I.

Miss Alice Divver, Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Rev. Joseph F. Coppinger, Somerville, Mass.

Mr. T. J. Morris, Rock Island, P. Q., Canada.

Miss M. A. Rafer, Newark, N. J.

Mrs. J. Fink, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Miss Ella Duffy, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. P. DiMilla, East Boston, Mass.

R. T. Hanrahan, Chicago, Ill.

Mother Robert, San Antonio, Tex.

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

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