

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. V, No. 2

NOVEMBER, 1940

Significant Month for Tekakwitha

On November 26 the Congregation of Rites will hold its first session to consider the virtues of the Servant of God Catherine Tekakwitha. As stated in the October LILY, the Historical Section of the Congregation has already reported that the documents which narrate how she practised certain virtues to an heroic degree are numerous, genuine and trustworthy. Historically, therefore, there can be no doubt of the fact. Now the Congregation will inquire about her virtues from a theological standpoint, that is, whether her virtues were not merely natural, but supernatural, whether she practised them not for any natural motive only, but for supernatural motives, for the love of God with faith in Him as her Creator and with hope in Him as her Remunerator.

There will be three sessions of the Congregation for this purpose. This first session will be attended by the Promoter General of the Faith and his six Assistants, by the eight official Prelates and the fifteen Consultors of the Congregation. It is known as the ante-preparatory session because it precedes the session known as the preparatory, the one at which the Cardinals of the Congregation, twenty-three in number, assemble or report whether they confirm or reject the decision made by the Officials and Consultors, or defer judgment. Finally, if the decision be confirmed, there follows the session at which

the Holy Father is present, with the Cardinals, Officials and Consultors, to decide if it be right to declare that the virtues were practised to an heroic degree, and, if so, that the Servant of God may henceforward be styled Venerable. It is of interest to our readers to know that Denis Cardinal Dougherty is a member of the Congregation.

When the next, or preparatory, session will be held it is not possible to state now, but it usually follows promptly after the first and the final session will not be long deferred.

The procedure for the first session on November 26 is as follows: By October 16 every member of the Congregation of Rites received a handsomely printed volume containing a brief account of the life of Tekakwitha, a statement of the virtues practised by her, giving in detail examples of her practise of each virtue. This was followed by a plea for the declaration that such practise was heroic. Next the Promoter of the Faith, whose duty it is to test every point in the statement and plea, submits his objections and the advocate for the Cause answers these and petitions all present for a favorable decision.

The virtues are: faith, hope, charity, devotion to the Blessed Virgin, love of her neighbor, prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance, poverty, chastity, obedience, humility.

VENERATION

Venerable is a hallowed word, suggesting affection, esteem, honor. We venerate advanced age, sacred traditions and associations, exceptional merit, lofty virtue, the memory of our ancestors, our fellow beings created to the image of God, and become by Baptism His children, adopted brothers of His Divine Son, and, by the Sacrament of Confirmation, temples of the Holy Ghost.

As we worship God, bow head and knee at the thought or mention of His Holy Name, in other words, adore Him, so we venerate any person or object which has a special relation to Him; His Angels, Saints, notable Servants, dust from the tomb of His Martyrs, relics of any Saint, relics of the Cross, or image of it, on which His Son was crucified for the salvation of mankind.

An act of veneration is a tribute to whom it is made and an ennobling performance for the one who makes it. It is permitted as a public testimony of worship to God's saints, and as a private mark of esteem and affection for His Servants who have not as yet been declared saints and especially to those who have been considered as possibly worthy of being so declared, notably in our case, Catherine Tekakwitha.

How may we best venerate her? By knowing and making known to others her extraordinary virtues; by striving to imitate them; by realizing how simple they are and how well suitable in our own time for old and young; by cultivating the devotions she cherished to the Holy Eucharist, the Cross, the Blessed Virgin. Invocation is a common form of veneration: a sign of our belief that the one who is venerated enjoys special favor with Almighty God. Knowing and making her known, imitation of her virtues, invocation for favors through her intercession—all this we can do now privately even before Tekakwitha is styled Venerable.

FROM TUCSON, ARIZONA

"As you have charge of the 'Kateri Tekakwitha' League and her 'cause' is now in Rome, the following news will interest you:

"For almost seven years I have been aiding two Sisters instruct in Christian doctrine very poor Indian children in the Yaqui Indian Village, nearby Tucson. Every Sunday we autoed to the village, rang the bell for prayer, and out of the huts flocked the children. All went well until early last year when Baptists tried to steal all our flock. Yes, they were clever, experienced missionaries returned from the Orient (for *safer* work in America?).

"Sister Mildred was discouraged, but we knelt and prayed in St. Rose's small chapel and the few children prayed with us. Mrs. Josephine Valencia, an intelligent half breed, promised to help me, for my large girls and boys were in real danger. How I prayed all week for little Kateri, the Lily of the Mohawks, to help us, and very soon our Sunday School had so many children we had to have two more helpers.

"Yes, the parties were a great success. My class was formed into the 'Blue Star Club.' It was an inspiration to see them assisting at Mass and receiving Holy Communion. Only one girl I lost and I am sure she will return, at least that her soul will not be lost, for Kateri Tekakwitha will help the little ones with weaker wills than herself.

"Now I am praying hard for her sainthood for I am sure she helped us, helped me to locate this summer coast vacation nearby the Catholic church; for almost daily Mass, Communion, Stations of the Cross, special night prayers, fifteen decades daily, too. Yes, she wants us all to pray harder and with greater devotion. We are living in a Godless, lazy age and God grant that 1941 may bring world 'Peace,' with expansion of Christ's Church, 'One flock with one Shepherd.'"

ODDS AND ENDS

"While attending Mass last Sunday, the lady next to me dropped her prayer-book and I bent to pick it up for her. In appreciation, she gave me a leaflet to Kateri Tekakwitha which impressed me very much; at present I am praying for something which means more than anything else in the world."

—Maple Heights, O.

CURIOUS SUPERSTITION

"I never heard of this Indian girl until I came to Dayton. A lady who has the room next to me told me about her, and that one must pray for twenty minutes, and during that time light a blessed candle and also a black candle. This lady got her information from another lady who has devotion to her, so I went to see this person before writing to you. She told me that she didn't know why all this had to be done. She told me that the prayer *must* be started twenty minutes *to the hour*. She got her information from some one in Indianapolis. She brought her black candle from Krieg Catholic Supply House, Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. The sales girl at the supply house did not know why the black candle is used either."

—Dayton, O.

[Nor does anyone else.—Ed.]

"We have some Indians in our parish (mixed strain) and I have placed their cause in Kateri's care. We have three small schools for them, and I like to have the children pray for her beatification. Kateri has already helped us in starting these schools, and we still count on her."

—Theriot, La.

How many or rather how few would ever associate Tekakwitha with the winning of a baseball pennant, and yet the wife of the captain of a prominent team attributes his success and that of his fellow players to the invocation of this saintly Indian Maiden.

Requests for offering Holy Mass in memory, or in honor, of Tekakwitha, in petition or in thanksgiving for favors through her intercession, as also for hastening her beatification, are quite numerous. As a rule we send the stipends for celebrating these Masses promptly by air clipper to those in Rome who are promoting her Cause and the Masses are celebrated at once.

This monthly message, THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS, is now going to every Indian Mission in the United States and Canada. Devoted clients of Tekakwitha enable us to do this in order to make her better known among her own.

A new edition of the Tekakwitha leaflet I is now ready, with selected reports of favors received through her intercession during the current year. Until now we have not copyrighted this leaflet, so as to avoid even the appearance of trade in connexion with the Cause for the beatification of the Indian Maiden. Now we have been forced to copyright it, because the editors of a certain magazine pasted its name and address over our own.

HEROIC VIRTUE

What is meant by heroic virtues? Originally a notably brave warrior was styled a hero, hence it connotes a degree of bravery, fame and distinction which places a man high above his fellows. St. Augustine first applied the title to the Christian martyrs; since then the custom has prevailed of bestowing it not only on martyrs, but on all confessors whose virtues and good works greatly outdistance those of ordinary good people. Benedict XIV thus describes heroicity: "In order to be heroic a Christian virtue must enable its owner to perform virtuous actions with uncommon promptitude, ease and pleasure, from supernatural motives and without human reasoning, with self-abnegation and full control over his natural inclinations."

Every day brings reports of favors; here are only a few of thousands reported in 1940. Belief in her intercession began with her death. The reports come from United States, Canada, Mexico, England, Ireland, China, Africa, India; from priests, sisters, laity, non-Catholics.

These favors are of every variety—cures, avoidance of operations, conversions, reuniting of friends, peace in families, employment, money relief, vocations, examinations, success of Church affairs, etc. Gifts of money that come as thanks offerings are published only when given to meet the expense of the Cause for her beatification.

A mother in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, invokes Kateri to obtain for her daughter and son in war-torn Europe a safe voyage home. To reinforce her invocation she is distributing Kateri leaflets and pictures so as to make her known in that part of the West Indies.

"I have a son who lost his hearing and speech when he was one and a half years old. I sent him to school for the deaf and he got along well. He is twenty-seven years old. I put him under Tekakwitha's care and she got him a job. When they told me to send him in I was afraid they would not have patience with him, but they told me the man that was over him could talk the sign language for the past ten years, so you see Tekakwitha helped then and is still helping him. I have a Mass said for the Poor Souls for her Cause out of every pay he gets."

—Pittsburgh, Pa.

"Some months ago, my husband had a severe attack of the hiccoughs. After he had suffered forty hours and had the doctor twice, I accidently found a prayer to the Lily of the Mohawks (it had been clipped from *The Calumet* magazine) and I said this prayer, promising little Kateri (if she would help my husband) to have a Mass said in her honor and also to publish the facts. Immediately after I recited the prayer, the hiccoughs became less violent and in less than eight hours stopped entirely."

—Punxsutawney, Pa.

"While hunting, my husband's gun exploded and ripped his hand. The doctor said if circulation was restored he could save the thumb. As I generally wear the medal of Tekakwitha, I pinned it on his arm. That afternoon blood was circulating in the thumb."

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	13	Relief in Distress	5
Positions	14	Property Sale	1
Financial Aid	14	Not Specified	43
Spiritual	1	Rental of Houses	2
Temporal	1		

PETITIONS

Cures	8	Not Specified	10
Positions	5	Sell Property	1
Financial Aid	6	Rental of Apartment	1

OBITUARY

Rev. Fidelis Reiser, O.M.Cap., Brooklyn.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick McInerney, Topika.

TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

(Prices include postage)

Sketch by our Apostolic Delegate..... 5c. a copy
Life, by Wynne, 64 pages, 3 illustrations... 20c. a copy
Leaflets with prayer and remarkable favors
5c. each; 20c. a doz.
Novena Leaflets..... 5c. each; 20c. a doz.

Tekakwitha book-marks 10c. a doz.
Pictures, colored, large 13 x 10 in., 40c.
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