



The New Year's Greeting — Peace

Greetings are in order in this New Year of Our Lord, 1941, and the greeting is one of peace, as the Angels chorused it the night of His Birth: "Peace on earth to men of good-will!" As the Lord in after life, and after His Resurrection, was wont to greet His apostles: Peace be to you! Peace I leave you, My peace I give you.

It is the message most needed by the world these days, by the heads of nations already at war, or preparing for war, and by every human being at war within himself or disposed for war in hatred of his fellow being.

Perhaps the greeting for peace should be preceded by prayer that we should all be of good-will, in accord with the Will of God and in accord with one another. The greeting for peace is a greeting for both.

Tekakwitha was the very soul of peace. She loved quiet, solitude and she avoided the noisy amusements of her people. She could not bear to see the braves in the war dance, filing away to battle, bringing in prisoners, torturing and putting them to death. One of the motives of her penances after baptism was to atone for the fiendish cruelty of her tribesmen and women.

How Kateri loved the peace of the woods, the steady flow of the Mohawk, the firm flow of the St. Lawrence, even over the rapids near her village! All was at peace within as well as without; her heart was at peace

with God, and her will all good toward her fellow beings.

A lover of peace, the saintly Indian maiden was also a protectress of her people in time of war. As St. Genevieve of Paris protected the city from Attila and his Huns, so more than once Tekakwitha saved her people from the attacks of the savage Mohawks. It is strange how alike were the lives of gentle French maiden and the untutored child of the forest—a story that this LILY OF THE MOHAWKS will some time tell.

It may seem fanciful, but just as Genevieve and Joan of Arc were the means of saving France, why should we not believe that Almighty God may employ Tekakwitha as His instrument for preventing war in the countries consecrated by her holiness.

It is not by any means fanciful to believe and hope that the prayers of the Saints, of those who are still on earth and most of all of those who we believe are in heaven can bring about peace. Thousands of good people invoke the aid of Tekakwitha for favors, spiritual and temporal, and with few exceptions report devoutly that their invocations have been favored. Their petitions are nearly all on a limited scale. One would scarcely imagine that they realize their invocations ascend to the throne of one who is Infinite, Almighty, and that their petitions should be boundless.

VIRTUES OF KATERI — HOPE

Virtue means manliness, courage, fortitude. It requires strength of character to resist alluring evil and to do good when it requires effort. Tekakwitha had such strength, and this was plain in the manner in which she cultivated the virtue of hope.

Hope is natural to every human being, hope for life and health, for comfort and prosperity, for peace and happiness. As the poet has it: "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." This natural hope is constantly urging us to strive for good things and better. To cease to hope is to despair, and to despair is to give up as if all, even ourselves, were lost. All too many, depending on nature alone, fall into despair and can never be happy.

Not so with those who believe in God and hope in Him. This hope is above any natural longing because it is inspired by a knowledge of His power, goodness, mercy, a desire to know more of Him, to obtain His favor or grace to please Him, and to trust with unshaken confidence that by His kind providence we may obtain what is needed for our well-being here and ultimately the joys of life everlasting with Him.

This supernatural hope Kateri practised heroically. How she must have been tempted to despair when she witnessed the wickedness and devilry of her tribespeople! Even the Psalmist cried: "A fainting hath taken hold of me because of the wicked that forsake Thy law." Her hope was rewarded here by her escape from a den of corruption to a haven of virtue. Urged to marry in order to have the support of a husband, though she was very poor, she refused, relying on the providence of God to bestow what she needed. This hope became radiant as she neared her end. She spoke as if she had an assurance, even a foretaste of heaven. With Saint Paul she spoke as if certain: "There is laid up for me a crown of justice."

GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN — II

Why these glimpses of heaven? Why not? The object of this LILY OF THE MOHAWKS is to help bring about the declaration by the Church that the Lily, after whom it is named, is with God and His Saints in heaven. Naturally, then, we must wonder what heaven means, what its many names express, what is the bliss the Blessed enjoy. We ourselves are pilgrims on the way there, as we devoutly hope. Why not, therefore, try to know what is the destiny awaiting us?

The Church has its own language for speaking of heaven in its Creeds, at Holy Mass, in the Divine Office. It is a place of eternal rest; the abode of refreshment, light and peace, whose dwellers are in peaceful repose. It is the heavenly city, as the hymn *O Sa'utaris* has it, our '*patria*,' our true fatherland, homeland, in which there is eternal life, the life of the world to come, the glory of the resurrection.

Now we know what manner of life Tekakwitha led on this earth. Of few Servants of God have we such detailed records as we have of her. St. Paul reminds us our abode is in the heavens, *i.e.*, with mind and heart centered on the abode of the Saints, with conduct like unto theirs, and with aspirations to dwell in union with them after our pilgrimage here, in other words, in communion with the Saints.

From those who wrote the Life of Tekakwitha we know how enraptured she was by the mysteries of our Holy Faith as expressed in symbol and ceremony, in the Mass, in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Cross, the sign of the death of Christ for our Redemption. From this we can glean what it meant for her when her soul left "the corruptible body which is a weight upon the soul, and the earthly habitation which presseth down the mind that museth upon many things" (Wisdom 9, 15) and she saw these mysteries and all others 'no longer through a glass darkly.'

As in every year there were many anniversaries in 1940, not many notable centenaries. One, however, is of special interest to clients of THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS, the four hundredth year of the foundation of the Society of Jesus, which soon after its origin had missionaries in every part of the world as it has today. Some of these pioneers of the gospel were, and still are, in God's providence, the instruments of civilizing and christianizing the people of Kateri. Three of them directed her to the perfect way of serving God for which she is now under consideration by the Church for the honor of His Altars.

St. Ignatius, founder of the Society, did many noble things, among them counselling his companions and followers to beware of the tendency of the people of one nation to think ill of, or speak evil of, those of another nationality. If the counsel were generally observed, the world would be at peace today.

A pastor who has done much, very much indeed, for the Cause of Tekakwitha, recently invited his congregation and school children to contribute in a collection for the expense of the Cause here and in Rome. The response was entirely satisfactory and not only were the offerings generous, but his people came to know and love the Indian maiden. Still another priest, originally from his parish, followed the good example in the parish in which he is now laboring. It is not so much the amount of such collections, generous though they are, as the result of making the Lily of the Mohawks better known and venerated.

"Many thanks for your kindness, rather many kindnesses. The corner-stone of the Kateri Tekakwitha School has been laid and in a few months the school will be formally opened. I shall send you pictures and an account of the event. A special groove was cut out to place one of your plaques of Kateri behind the corner-stone. I was very

anxious to do this as I remembered that the plaque was made out of wood from a tree that was at Auriesville when Kateri was born." —Linstead, Jamaica, B. W. I.

"I now come to fulfill my promise, for I am happy to report that during the year mentioned, twenty-four applicants entered the novitiate and there has also been a substantial increase in auxiliaries. I feel that these results are due to the intercession of the Jesuit Martyrs and Kateri Tekakwitha and may I beg you, dear Father, to make these favors known so that others will become acquainted with the powerful intercession of these favored ones of God. I trust that Kateri's Cause is progressing and that it will please God to soon honor her with the title of Blessed." —Cornwells Heights, Pa.

"Last August I petitioned Kateri Tekakwitha for the collection of \$17,911 which was outstanding on our books, as we had a large payment of principal and interest to meet on September 30. The total amount received before the above date was \$23,533.29." —Hospital, Toronto.

"We were married Catholic and a short while after my husband joined the Masons, which hurt me to the heart, so I started to pray and pray for his conversion. I was told about the Lily of the Mohawks and started a novena to her and in the midst of my third nine-day novena my husband was converted and practices his religion with the utmost faith." —New Orleans, La.

"You see, Father, I have many Indian children here, but under the circumstances they must go to a public school. I hope, through Kateri's help, to have a Catholic school here soon. In the meantime I want these children to become better acquainted with Kateri. Last week I spoke to them about her and they were deeply interested. —Pala, Cal.

CURES

"It has been one month since I have been relieved from an eye trouble which has been annoying me for three years. I feel very grateful and would like to promote Kateri Tekakwitha's Cause." —Wichita, Kan.

"After several months of a serious nervous breakdown, a young man was perfectly cured by wearing a medal of Catherine. He is now at work and perfectly normal. His father and mother wish to have this favor published through gratitude to their kind intercessor." —Fredericton, N. B.

"I am spreading Kateri Tekakwitha's Cause to my friends, for by her intercession two miracles have been granted me, my baby's recovery and my mother's recovery from a stomach disorder that the doctor did not know what to do for her, but after she wore the relic of Kateri for ten days, made the novena and received Holy Communion her disorder has cleared up and she can eat a meal now which she could not do before." —Baltimore, Md.

FINANCIAL

"Financial assistance was obtained through prayer to Kateri Tekakwitha."

—Kansas City, Mo.

"Thanksgiving to Kateri Tekakwitha for obtaining a position for me after being out of work for almost two years."

—New York City.

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"This is in appreciation of receiving most unexpectedly a sum of money which I needed very badly just at that time and which I believe was brought about through her intercession." —Buffalo, N. Y.

AS REPORTED IN A NEW ORLEANS
NEWSPAPER

"Dear Father: In addition to this favor the newspapers carried notice of another granted to the widow of a railroad man whose inheritance was tied up in legal proceedings for many years. She was put in possession of the entire estate by the Supreme Court of Louisiana in a decision rendered yesterday."

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	13	Won Law Suit	1
Positions	8	Rental of Apartment	2
Financial Aid	5	Property Sale	1
Not Specified	40		

PETITIONS

Cures	15	Not Specified	46
Positions	1	Sell Property	1
Financial Aid	10	Rental of Apartment	1

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