

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. V, No. 7

APRIL, 1941

That Her Favor With Thee May Become Known to All the Church

So reads the prayer we offer to obtain blessings by invoking Tekakwitha, and to bring about her canonization. It is an extraordinary invocation. It would seem to be asking for nothing short of a miracle, when we reflect first that the Church exists in every part of the world, with faithful members of every race, speaking every language, and so busied with their own interests as to be naturally slow to take up what is new, seemingly foreign and far back in the past.

Just to think of the world-wide Church and all its peoples becoming interested in a Maiden of a people which in her day was not yet civilized, living obscurely in a land which was only colonial and far away! Still immediately after her death a beginning was made and it has continued steadily and grown ever since.

Kateri died in 1680. In 1682 one of her spiritual advisers, Chauchetière, began to write about her in letters for the Jesuit Relations which were then popular reading in France. From that year on her *Life* was written in brief and at length, and it was translated not only into French, but into Dutch also, and Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian and English. A very good beginning, indeed!

It was only a beginning, but it surely warrants the prayer "that her favor with Thee may become known to all the Church." A

great part of the Church is comprised in Africa, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, South America, West Indies and the United States. With devotees of Tekakwitha in all these countries, we are in constantly growing correspondence.

The problem always is to prove the sincerity of our prayer by doing all in our power to make known to others, our friends and those who are under our charge in any way the wonderful and fascinating story of an Indian Maiden who, though orphaned at four, and unbaptized until twenty years old, remained unsullied in vicious surroundings. She took her full part in Indian life, in wigwam and field, in hunt and fishery, in all except in the sorcery, war dance and torture of captives. It is a strange story in the annals of holiness. No pressure is needed to inspire veneration for Kateri. People take to it naturally, conceive confidence in her power to assist them and are well rewarded.

So now let everyone who reads this monthly message about Tekakwitha strive to widen the circle of those who already know and venerate her. Some are in a position to make her known at least to a few; many can make her known to several, even to hundreds; priests to their congregations; religious to their students and pupils; members of the laity to their friends.

VIRTUES OF KATERI, V — CHARITY
(Continued)

"God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son." Thus, according to St. John, spoke the only Son Himself. Hence, to return this divine love, our hearts should center their affections on the Son of God and on all that He left us as a memorial of Himself, the Holy Cross as a memorial of His delivering Himself up for our salvation, and the Holy Eucharist, as His Sacrament of love.

Tekakwitha surely centered her affections on the Cross, so much so that from the time of her death she is represented as bearing in her hand near her heart an image of it. That representation is true to life, so much so that when one of the missionaries, her adviser, was inspired to make a sketch of her as she was in life, he did not omit a cross suspended from her neck and held in her hands with her face inclined reverently toward it and frequently kissing it.

Even when on the hunt, after doing all the chores the Indian women were required to do, she used to retire apart to pray in a woodland oratory all her own where she had carved the image of the Cross on the bark of a tree. As so often happens, her withdrawal from the other women was misconstrued and led to a false accusation against her which she bore in silence and without any ill-feeling toward her accuser. After death she appeared to the great friend, who had been like a mother to her, showing a crucifix and saying: "Mother, look at this Cross and see how beautiful it is. It was the source of all my happiness during my life, and I counsel you to make it yours also." The rude cross, crucifix as her biographer calls it, she had worn became a precious relic and more than once the missionaries used it to heal the sick. One of her great acts of love was to offer her body to Christ crucified on the Cross and her soul to Him in the Holy Eucharist.

GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN — V
(Continued)

What is the life of the Blessed in Heaven? Many answers might be made to this question; or, the question might be put in many different terms. Suppose we begin by asking: What are the Blessed doing in Heaven? Again, the answers are numerous, but first let us begin by one that concerns ourselves. This answer needs no speculation, no great doctrinal formula, because we know it by experience.

We do not know all the Saints are doing for us, nor shall we ever know until by God's great mercy we may be permitted to join them in bliss, but we do know that they help us, obtain blessings for us, and are the means of inspiring us to better things.

Read the last page of this message, and recall that every issue reports favors received through the intercession of Tekakwitha. These reports have been published for the last five years and they are only few of thousands. Nay, before this LILY OF THE MOHAWKS began to appear in 1936, similar reports had been accumulating for many years—two hundred and eighty years to be exact.

Explain it as one may. If only a few, for a time, in a restricted locality, believed that they were favored by invoking Tekakwitha, we might try to explain it by saying it might be imagination, illusion or some other form of self-deceit; but when thousands upon thousands, in every part of the world, constantly, not only testify, but have the actual results to back their testimony, to the effect that they have received blessings, many of them extraordinary, by invoking the saintly Indian Maiden, there is no other explanation except that this Servant of God has graciously intervened on their behalf.

So here is one answer to the question, what are the Blessed doing in heaven? For one thing they are blessing the pilgrims, the wayfarers they have left here on earth.

"Three years ago, a friend told me to pray for funds to install an elevator in our five-story convent, principally for the use of the infirmarians and the sick. We now have an elevator, best on the market, and all expenses paid, amounting to over three thousand dollars. We even received 'over and above.' "

—Great Falls, Mont.

A priest of the Erie diocese, Rev. Timothy Sullivan, pastor of St. Julia's Church, broadcasts twice on Sunday, in the morning to the 'shut-ins,' and for children's hour in the evening. Very kindly he has volunteered to choose Tekakwitha for his theme, and to offer to mail leaflets to inquirers.

Great Falls, Montana, has had recently some notable favors to report as obtained through the intercession of Tekakwitha: employment, a good sum of money obtained, but most notable of all a cure which has such signs of being miraculous that it must be reported to Rome. Accounts of similar cases are frequent, but it is rare to have the facts so well substantiated as they are in this one.

From San Salvador comes a neatly typed copy, in Spanish, of Cholenec's *Life of Tekakwitha*. This *Life* is in the form of a letter to the writer's friend in France. He wrote her *Life* three times. This one from San Salvador was translated into English by the Protestant Episcopalian Bishop, Ingraham Kip of California, originally of New York, after whose family Kip's Bay was named. Kip's Bay is now mostly occupied by the famous Bellevue Hospital.

There is a new issue of No. I leaflet. Besides the prayer on page 1, it has the invocation for Kateri's canonization which has the imprimatur of Archbishop Spellman. Instead of devoting two pages to recording favors obtained through the intercession of the saintly Maiden, it records them in one page only, so that the other page is free for

a sketch of her and an account of the present status of her Cause.

"Rev. Dear Father Wynne, S.J.:

"For many years I have attended to St. Joseph's Church, Yakima, but old age (77) began to tell and so I have now the privilege of attending to the Sacred Heart Hospital here as Chaplain. You know the interest I have taken in promoting devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha in Yakima and I have not let up in this effort here at the hospital. Never do I visit the sick, especially in the Maternity Ward, without blessing them with a relic of our Kateri. Many a time I have told the story of Kateri and asked the sick to pray for her beatification.

"I am yours in the Heart of Jesus,

"CONRAD BRUSTON, S.J."

"From far-off Rhyl, Talacre, Prestatyn Abbey, Flints, in Wales, I received a note from Dame Mary Juliana Woods, O.S.B., the venerable sister of dear Father Henry Woods, S.J., of holy memory. She is easily 85 and now almost blind, but happy in her vocation. She had been, as you know, an Episcopalian Benedictine Nun for fifty years when the light came. She was professed by her brother.

"She is interested in your little Mohawk Saint, Kateri, and would like some relic of her. Kindly provide it and I will forward it to Dame Mary Juliana. In South Wales they are free from bombing.

"We are hoping for the speedy Beatification of Kateri." —San Francisco, Cal.

The Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis are everywhere among the most helpful in furthering the beatification of Tekakwitha. And now that the Cause for their own foundress, Mother Frances Schervier, is to be actively promoted in this country, a Vice Postulator has been designated to help advance it here, Rev. Roland J. Burke, O.F.M.

"Mother is getting well again, thanks to your prayers and mine, and I will always make Kateri known to all."—Pittsburgh, Pa.

"I promised this should Kateri obtain the entrance this month of a desirable candidate. The favor was received."—Ladysmith, Wis.

"About three months ago I began praying for a special favor for which I hardly dared hope. My prayers were answered."

—St. Louis, Mo.

"In thanksgiving for a favor received through her intercession I am enclosing a stipend to further her beatification."

—Cincinnati, O.

"Enclosed please find offering I promised for the Cause of Catherine Tekakwitha; she has aided me in financial matters several times."

—Enumclaw, Wash.

"I am sending \$5.00 for the Cause of the Beatification of the Lily of the Mohawks, Kateri Tekakwitha. My prayers to her have been wonderfully answered."

—Leitchfield, Ky.

"About three years ago, my husband became ill with lapse of memory. After a year he got well. The concern refused to take him back. I prayed to her and today he is back on his job."

—Adams, Mass.

"Just out of college, I was having a hard time finding employment. I was told to invoke her, and in about sixteen hours I re-

ceived a message telling me about a Civil Service job in Washington. Within two weeks I was on my way from San Antonio to a job."

—Washington, D. C.

"Discouraged after vainly seeking a position, my son had recourse to her. He got one in a Catholic goods store. The owner, a friend, whom we had not seen for years, on learning that the boy was in his employ advanced him. I promised I would send an offering to some orphans who are sheltered under Kateri's name."

—Philadelphia, Pa.

"About sixteen months ago my husband made a novena to Kateri that he would get a steady job in place of the one he then had which was a hat finisher. His work was not at all steady and a poor salary, so he prayed for a steady job. Not long after he got this job and though his salary is not very much, he got exactly what he prayed for, a steady job."

—St. Louis, Mo.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	4	Examination Success ..	1
Employment	9	Spiritual	1
Financial	5	Not Specified	39

PETITIONS

Cures	15	Examination Success ..	2
Employment	5	Relief in Distress	1
Financial	3	Not Specified	25

OBITUARY

Sister M. Gilbert, Schenectady, N. Y.
Mother M. Edmonda Prendergast, Merion, Pa.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John S. Gresser, Jamaica, L. I.
Rev. A. A. Vissers, O.Praem, West De Pere, Wis.

TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

Brief Life, by Wynne, 64 pages, 3 illustrations, 25 cents.

Leaflet I, with prayer and remarkable favors, 5 cents each, 25 cents a dozen.

Leaflet II, Novena for private devotion, 5 cents each, 25 cents a dozen.

Pictures—Small, 5 x 3¼ in., sepia ink, with sketch and prayer, 5 cents.

Small, 5 x 3¼ in., 4 colors, sketch and prayer, silk applied to relics, 15 cents.

Large, 13 x 10 in., 4 colors, mounted on heavy board, 40 cents.

(Prices include postage)

REV. JOHN J. WYNNE, S.J., V. Postulator for Her Canonization

400 EAST FORDHAM ROAD, NEW YORK