

THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

VOL. VI, No. 5

FEBRUARY, 1942

## TEKAKWITHA—VENERABLE

When announcing in this message for February the Holy Father has approved of the favorable decision of the Congregation of Rites that the virtues of Tekakwitha were heroic, and that he would soon declare this formally, we had no reason to believe he would do this so very soon. On January 8 the Associated Press reported that this will happen on February 6. This means that from that day we shall be authorized to speak of Tekakwitha as Venerable. It is a great step forward, one that should thrill us with devotion and gratitude.

'Our Holy Mother the Church' is a conse-

crated expression. How very apt it is in this case! To think of the Vicar of Christ declaring that an Indian Maiden who died two hundred and sixty-two years ago was a heroine for the virtuous manner in which she lived and died, as a child of our Holy Mother the Church, distinguished for her faith, her hope and her love of God and man; prudent and just, self-denying and valiant to a sublime degree. A long and loving memory is that of our Holy Church, the memory of a mother fond of her children whom she inspires to live as children of God.

Venerable Tekakwitha, pray for us.

## HEROISM

There are many heroisms: heroism in war, in danger and calamity of every sort: in storm, flood, fire, by land, sea and air. Although such heroism is in great measure physical, it would not be possible without the spiritual element of concern for others, of unselfish regard for their welfare. Such heroism is necessarily spectacular, witnessed and applauded by others and always well rewarded by the admiration of the onlooker, and other tokens of esteem.

There are unseen heroines and, thank God, humanity abounds in them, heroism in the home and among friends—the heroism of

patience, devotion to those who suffer, giving up, if not life itself, much that makes life happy for love of one's own or of one's friend. Yes, in these heroisms humanity abounds. Though not spectacular, not seen by the world, such heroism always has an object which is visible and tangible—a father or mother, sister or brother, husband or wife, friend, whom one aids and who shows appreciation.

Then there is the heroism of the soul which does noble things in the service and love of the unseen God, seeking and doing His Will at every moment, no matter how

difficult, what sacrifices it may require, humiliation, disgrace, even persecution, and all this readily and with joy. This is the hero-

ism of the saint, of Tekakwitha. Though not in any way spectacular, it was manifest to all who knew her: now it is plain to all the world.

## VENERABLE

The term venerable may be applied to things as well as to persons. The birthplace of a Shakespeare is venerable, and many a building is such not only for its years, but also for the fame of those who had lived in it. We speak of venerable ruins, of venerable documents, constitutions, laws, customs, traditions. Then we speak of venerating holy places, shrines, tombs, images, relics.

When the term is applied to persons it commonly means that they have attained to an advanced age, but, as Scripture reminds us, they become venerable not so much by length of years as by wisdom: "The understanding of a man is grey hairs. And a spotless life is old age." (Wisdom 4, 8.)

Tekakwitha was gifted with understanding, and her life was spotless. To adapt the lines of the Book of Wisdom: She pleased

God and was beloved and living among sinners she was translated; taken away lest wickedness should alter her understanding, or deceit beguile her soul.

So Tekakwitha is now Venerable in the eyes of the Church of Christ, and we venerate her in our thought, action and word, in the shrine of our heart.

We may not yet hold public devotions in her honor, erect chapels or altars in her name; but as the prayer of the Church has it for the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, patron of her Mission: "We who venerate her merits, may imitate also her example," if not to the heroic degree of her virtues, imitate at least to some extent her love of the Cross, of the Altar, of the Blessed Sacrament, of the Blessed Virgin, and her kindly disposition, patience, and self-denial.

## A GREAT WORK

Take four big volumes, large quarto, sixteen by twelve inches square and three inches thick, containing in all 3,130 pages, and you have a treatise on the process followed with a view to declaring that a Servant of God is worthy to be declared a Saint, and to be honored as such on our altars.

These great volumes are the work of Benedict XIV before he became Pope, two hundred years ago, 1740 to 1758. For these two centuries they have been the guide for the Congregation of Rites in determining if one of the faithful led a holy life in such a manner as to win the veneration of others while on earth, and the belief that Almighty God favors this veneration by remarkable, even

miraculous, answers to prayer in the name of His Servant in question.

This remarkable Pope first reviews all that has been written on this subject from the earliest ages of the Church. In full detail he tells how to examine, through witnesses or historical documents, the life and death of a Martyr, the virtues of a Confessor of the Faith, of Virgin and Widow, their renown for holiness, and the marks of miraculous answers to prayer as attributed to the one whose Cause is under consideration.

Gazing on these volumes and examining what they contain, one can appreciate why it requires so much time, labor and expenditure to bring about the declaration that a Servant of God is Blessed or Saint, and why the declaration leaves no room for doubt.

## ONE OF KATERI'S OWN

"Am of her race myself, partially, and very proud of it. If I can help 'her Cause' I'll be honored indeed."—Newburgh, N. Y.

## FROM AN ALLY IN CHINA

"She had a safe delivery and the baby girl, Danielle, is doing well. We shall pass on this devotion to all our friends who will write you when graces have been received."

—Shanghai.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

To Kateri many in all simplicity sent Christmas gifts, some in money offerings for her Cause; others in the form of spiritual bouquets of Masses, Communions, acts of self-denial, for all who are engaged in promoting it.

The Vice-Postulator requests the readers of this message to invoke Tekakwitha for a special intention.

"Twice daily the pupils have been reciting the prayer to our Indian intercessor and, if the Lord permits, we'll be doing the same in the New Year." —Donaldsonville, La.

## CATHOLIC AT HEART

"The last time you sent me a picture of Tekakwitha, I took it to her. She couldn't talk, she just looked at me and cried. She isn't a Catholic, but that picture is framed and hangs in her bedroom and is considered a treasure."

—Cincinnati, O.

## SERVANTS OF GOD IN RUSSIA

We are all servants of God. The title is used in a restricted sense to designate those who distinguish themselves as such and come under consideration as worthy to be declared Blessed. Thus we speak of Kateri as Servant of God. Strange to say, in Russia, where religion is suppressed, if not outlawed, there are groups of Christians, many of them

Catholic, who are known to one another by this name, who believe that they were born into this world to know, love and *serve* God.

## POPULAR AFTER THREE HUNDRED YEARS

Imagine the giant Martyr Brebeuf composing in the wilderness a Christmas anthem which was a Bell telephone number and part of the midnight programme in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York. Adapted to the Indian manner of life the shepherds are hunters and the kings are chiefs, as in the first and third stanzas.

## JESUS ANATONHIA

'Twas in the moon of the winter-time

When all the birds had fled,

That mighty Gitchi Manitou

Sent Angel Choirs instead.

Before their light the stars grew dim,

And wondering hunters heard the hymn:

Jesus, your King, is born.

Jesus is born;

In excelsis gloria.

\* \* \* \*

Earliest moon of winter-time

Is not so round and fair

As was the ring of glory on

The helpless Infant there,

While chiefs from far before Him knelt

With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

Jesus, your King, is born, etc.

"I asked her to pray for us that my husband would get a better position with more pay. At that time we didn't have much hope for this, but my prayers were answered in two months. My husband has had an advancement and we have been transferred to Kansas City, Mo."

## IN THE SCHOOLS

"The children pray for your intention." "My eighth grade is rehearsing 'The Lily of the Mohawks.'" "Our high school prize essay is on Tekakwitha."



## OF FAVORS ATTRIBUTED TO TEKAKWITHA

"Was able to get money I needed."

—Grand Rapids, Mich.

"On three occasions I received money from sources I never expected. One man did not even know my name." —Chicago, Ill.

"For steady employment for my husband on the fourth day of my novena."

—Covington, Ky.

"One of our mothers became so very ill that her life was despaired of. Her condition improved rapidly after we put Kateri's relic on her." —Convent, Elwood, Ind.

"I made a novena for a friend who was very sick, and she recovered. I gave the prayer to a friend whose husband was very ill, and he also recovered."—Detroit, Mich.

"Several months ago I had an awful cough that just hung on in spite of every remedy. I made a novena and had a Mass offered in her memory. I have been cured entirely."

—Seguin, Tex.

"I promised these offerings if we sold a piece of land and today we received a payment on same. I have received remarkable financial aid during the past year after invoking her when we were desperately in need."

—Sonora, Cal.

"I had just finished a prayer to her one day this summer when it was storming, and an electric line was struck, and burned the

kitchen ceiling light, and the ceiling; it filled the house with smoke. We live in the country and have no protection. She saved our home."

—Bloomington, Ill.

"My daughter had her application in the Carnegi-Illinois Co. for about a year. One Monday I asked Tekakwitha to intercede so she would be hired the following Wednesday and that very day things were started. She was promoted December 1. My son, too, started yesterday as an apprentice at the Westinghouse, thanks to Tekakwitha."

—Wilkesburg, Pa.

"I asked her to pray for us that my husband would get a better position with more pay. At that time, we were living in St. Louis, and didn't have much hope for this, but my prayers were answered in two months. My husband has had an advancement and we have been transferred to Kansas City, Mo."

## ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures .....	5	Sell Property .....	1
Financial Aid .....	4	Spiritual .....	1
Relief in Distress .....	1	Employment .....	2
Not Specified .....	43		

## PETITIONS

Cures .....	3	Sell Property .....	1
Financial Aid .....	3	Employment .....	2
Relief in Distress .....	2	Not Specified .....	17

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**Obituary**

Rev. Richard A. Kennedy, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Sister Mary Magdalen of St. Margaret Mary, Alberta, Canada.

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