

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. VI, No. 8

MAY, 1942

TEKAKWITHA'S MEMORIAL DAY

There is no record of the date of Tekakwitha's birth, but there is a record of the date of her death. This is not surprising. Even in our day, except for baptismal or family records, very many would look in vain for the date on which they came into the world.

The date of our saintly heroine's departure from this life is established by the fact that it occurred on Wednesday in Holy Week, 1680. That was enough for Father G. M. Searle, of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle; as an astronomer he computed that the date was April 17. His letter containing the computation is in our possession and we never refer to it without a fervent blessing on his memory. As all truly great men, he was like one of those of whom Our Lord said: "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

This is important. It has already helped to make certain the pious circumstances of her death, and it will help, when, as we devoutly hope, she will be declared Blessed, to designate the day of the Feast for her special commemoration and honor.

That this honor will be her's, is now evident from the manner in which her clients observe this day. For a month past, reminders of the day have been coming in the mail. A faithful priest client chose the day for a pilgrimage to her tomb at Caughnawaga, Canada. A Memorial Mass was celebrated in a prominent church, at which several received Holy Communion. "This year," writes an ardent promoter of the Cause, "because it is such a banner year, and because the registered intentions are so many, there will be Indian groups in five towns making the novena, plus dozens of white devotees from Washington, D. C., to Los Angeles, Cal. My mother is having five Masses offered for the intentions of those making it, especially for my father's recovery."

For an unusual observance of the day, the V. Postulator for the Cause sent to Kateri's birthplace, at Ossernenon (Auriesville), a case of memorials of her to be displayed in a cabin specially devoted to her. Because of their dwelling in houses of their own device, her people were known as the Cabin Indians.

REMISSORIAL LETTERS

By a good fortune, in spite of difficult communications owing to the war, these Letters are here, and devotees of Kateri are requested to pray that the examination of miracles attributed to her intercession may now proceed favorably.

ALL BELIEVE IN HER

"Although I am, as yet, a Protestant, I wish to make a novena to our Lily of the Mohawks for recovery of my health, and when relief from financial stress comes, I should like to send an offering to be used toward the Beatification of Tekakwitha."

—Tucson, Ariz.

PRIESTS BELIEVE IN HER

"Your letter arrived here March 25, anniversary of Catherine's vow of virginity. It is a pleasure for me to remember and relive the principal events of her life. Thank you for the information concerning the date of her Baptism. Easter, this year, will mean more, because it falls again on the day of Catherine's Baptism."—Pastor, Adams, Mass.

PRIESTS HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE

"When I was at Bloodvein I used to write to you some times when I received some favor through Kateri Tekakwitha. Last fall I was changed; they sent me to Berens River, Manitoba. Here I am not the superior but, as we say, the second fiddle. Kateri did not abandon me. We have here a little hospital, some old people died, and Kateri helped me for the conversion of all the dying. Last week especially, an old pagan was dying, and he did not want to become a Christian; he was believing only in the God of the Indians. At last I was discouraged and I told Kateri that I would tell you if that man be converted before he died. After that I went to see him again, and how glad I was to find the man changed, willing now to pray and be baptized. That same night I baptized him. On the next day I gave him Extreme Unction, and the next morning he died very peacefully." — Missionary, Berens River, Manitoba, Canada.

THEIR BELIEF WELL FOUNDED

"About seven weeks ago, a pin, point blank, penetrated the center of my left eye,

causing me to lose not only the sight, but also a portion of the eye itself. The thing which gives this accident an air of mystery is that I was wearing my glasses at the time and the lens, covering said eye, shows no evidence of having been touched by the pin. The infection which followed endangered the sight of my right eye. I promised Almighty God that if He spared it and would make it strong enough, so that I could continue my priestly duties, I would give the sum of \$25.00 to some worthy cause. The eye is still weak, and, no doubt, will be for some time to come. His Excellency, my good bishop, Bishop Bona, suggested the Cause of Catherine Tekakwitha. Gladly do I accept His Excellency's suggestion. Hence, the enclosed P. O. M. O., not for \$25.00, but for \$30.00. May God, in His infinite goodness and mercy, grant me the favors I humbly ask for through the intercession of Catherine, the 'Lily of the Mohawks.' God grant that she may soon be elevated to the dignity of our altars.

"When sorrows come, and the future looks dark,

Let's picture Our Lord in Peter's birque;
In their distress they thought Him asleep,
Who sleepeth not, but watch doth keep.

"Psst (whisper): A little prayer to Kateri, in whose Cause you are wholeheartedly interested, will be deeply appreciated. God bless you." —Pastor, Gothenburg, Neb.

HER PEOPLE BELIEVE MOST OF ALL

"I, too, am an Indian. My great grandfather, a Canadian Frenchman, married my great grandmother, an Iroquois Indian woman of St. Regis Band. They had four sons and a daughter. My grandfather was Peter Prud'homme; settled in St. Louis, then in Kansas City where he married my grandmother, an Osage Indian. I lived most of my life on the reservation; educated in Philadelphia, Pa., and St. Teresa's Academy,

Kansas City. In 1924 I made a trip or pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome. While in Rome I heard special Mass said by Holy Father and was blessed by him. Now you see why I'm interested in the Little Indian Flower, so tell me how I can help the cause. I have written the Shrine at Ontario; when I had money I wanted to donate chalice, but received no answer. Would appreciate your writing or sending me all information you can. I have the book published a few years ago. I am ill, have arthritis; with body crippled; I can scarcely walk, just up and down, three years this month. I'm so shut in—if you wish to know anything about me write Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. I know, Reverend Father, you are busy, but I would appreciate hearing from you. I'm praying for you and will ask Tekakwitha to pray, too. I'm not sure I have correct address. I will ask St. Anthony to send it to you. God bless you for all your work for an Indian maiden's Cause. I will pray for you and say one little prayer for another Indian maiden, an Osage." —San Antonio, Tex.

IN FAVORS ABOUNDING

"My son was very despondent as it seems all the girls he met were not of his faith, so I started praying to little Cathie. Well, soon after he met the girl who is now his wife, and so after I met her we were talking of different saints and she showed me a leaflet of this little Indian girl and told me she is her client, so I know little Cathie sent her to us. Then my boy was supposed to be inducted into the army last Good Friday. I was praying that he would not have to go and that they could get married. Wednesday of Holy Week he came down with pneumonia and was very sick and little Cathie came to our rescue again and he got better, but was deferred for six months; so they were married and when she was with child he was put in Class 3A—another favor granted." —River Rouge, Mich.

THE POINT IS IN THE LAST LINES

"Back in 1937, while living in Jefferson City, I wrote you about my Girl Scout Troop, and that we had decided to call it the Kateri Troop. Today many of those girls are Senior Scouts doing a good job and there are four other troops in St. Peter's School. I feel that Kateri has been the inspiration both to the leaders and girls. Father Vogelweid, pastor, visited her shrine and brought back a beautiful picture of her for their troop room. As a special petition to Kateri, I ask her for protection for my son now in camp—another to go in April—the third later."

—Kansas City, Mo.

A PRETTY STORY WELL TOLD

"'Twas on a Thursday, 26th of February, when the wife of Doctor K. told me that they wanted to adopt a two- or three-week-old baby girl; they had searched the hospitals, but there was none to be had. I said to her, with perfect assurance, that if she and doctor prayed to Tekakwitha, she would without fail get them a baby girl exactly as they'd like to have her. The women's mission was on in the parish that week and the next morning while Mrs. K. was making the Stations of the Cross, I slipped her a leaflet prayer to our Tekakwitha; this was February 27. Just eighteen days later, out of nowhere it seemed, on March 16, Dr. K. had a telephone call notifying them of the birth of a baby girl on that very day. Thirteen days later, March 29, Palm Sunday, this beautiful, healthy baby girl arrived at this home. Like myself, they consider this a miracle. She was baptized Sarah Ann that same afternoon. You see, Father, herein lies the miracle. There was no baby girl to be had, even in New York, Philadelphia, or locally; another thing is this, never is an infant 'let out' for adoption at such an early age. The minimum age is six months, and sometimes, but very rarely, are they given out at three months." —Kingston, Pa.

"A lawsuit won. My sister recovered after two major operations."—Chicago, Ill.

"I give heartfelt thanks for overcoming an obstacle which seemed insurmountable."
—San Francisco, Cal.

"In thanksgiving for a favor received, to further the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha."
—Columbus, O.

"In thanksgiving to Catherine Tekakwitha for increase in salary and reconciliation with a sweetheart after a nine-month separation."
—Cincinnati, O.

"I had, it seemed, taxed my mind and body to the utmost and when the break came I feared loss of my mind, even death. I prayed to Kateri, promising that if God, through her intercession, cured me, I would send this check in thanksgiving."

—Chaplain, Binghamton, N. Y.

"My uncle was suffering greatly and the doctors feared an operation would be necessary. I started a novena to the sweet 'Lily of the Mohawks,' and now before it is ended he is back at his work and feeling very well."

—Worcester, Mass.

"Trusting Kateri to help me which she did, and my arthritis has never returned. I used soil from her grave. Another favor was the reduction of varicose veins."

—Philadelphia, Pa.

"I wish to acknowledge favor through Kateri Tekakwitha — employment for my husband, with suitable salary for us to live all together near a Catholic school for the children."

—Portland, Ore.

"At last I have my ring. He is the most wonderful Catholic boy and I am so happy. I have to thank Tekakwitha and your prayers for this."
—Missoula, Mont.

"First Rose came down with the whooping cough, not a very severe case, but bad enough. It is usually worse at night and I didn't get much sleep for about six weeks. Rose is better and Peter hasn't come down yet. (Peter is the baby)."

—Indian Mother, Plummer, Idaho.

"I esteem it an honor to be asked to contribute to the Cause and to share in the benefits as a member of the Tekakwitha League. Since my recovery in St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener, Ont., in May, 1940, I have regained my former strength and am on duty here since September, 1940."

—Dundas, Ont., Canada.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	6	Spiritual	2
Financial Aid	5	Conversion	1
Relief in Distress	2	Employment	1
Not Specified		43	

PETITIONS

Cures	8	Employment	2
Financial Aid	3	Spiritual	1
Relief in Distress	4	Not Specified	34

Obituary

Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. A. Garand, Ogdensburg, N. Y.
Rt. Rev. Justus Wirth, O.S.B., Peru, Ill.
Sister M. Alacoque, R.S.M., Des Moines, Iowa.
Mother Teresa, Schenectady, N. Y.
Mother Mary Loyola, R.S.M., Dallas, Pa.
Sister M. Ildefonse, Washington, Pa.
Mrs. W. J. Ryan, Pomona, N. Y.
Mrs. M. M. Ambrose, Watertown, N. Y.
Mr. William Curtin, New York, N. Y.
Mr. Martin J. Condon, Memphis, Tenn.
Mrs. Helen Berling, Decatur, Ind.

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