

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. VII, No. 3

DECEMBER, 1942

FROM A DIRECTOR OF VENERABLE KATERI TEKAKWITHA WRITING TWO YEARS AFTER HER DEATH

"We are in a very high and beautiful location, with a fine view, sixty leagues distant from Quebec, which is called "The Iroquois Mission." It is the finest mission in Canada, and as regards piety and devotion, resembles one of the best churches in France. The river St. Lawrence here forms a lake two leagues wide; and the place where we are is so high that the waters of this great river fall here with a loud roar, and roll over many cascades, which frighten one to look at. The water foams as you see it do under a mill-wheel.

"We have a chapel twenty-five feet wide, and nearly sixty feet long. We have three bells, with which we produce a very agreeable carillon; and the savages will soon have another bell, weighing two hundred *livres*, to complete the harmony. The usual exercises of our mission are as follows:

"In the early morning, the bell is rung at four o'clock, the hour at which we rise, as in our houses in France. Many of our savages, through a spirit of devotion, come at once to the church, to adore the Blessed Sacrament; and they remain until the first Mass, which is said in winter at a quarter to seven, and in mid-summer at five o'clock. While they are saying their prayers, I withdraw to

my room, which is six feet long and five feet wide, to make my meditation; after this, I say the first Mass, at which many are present although the bell is not rung for it.

"The second, which is the Mass for the savages, is said at half past five. I am present at it; the whole village also attends it every day, without a single person being absent; and the prayers are said aloud. Afterward the third Mass, which is for the children, begins, at which also I am present. We make them pray all together, after which I give them a short instruction on the catechism. Such is my daily occupation. In addition to this, the savages come frequently during the day to visit the Blessed Sacrament, when they go to the fields and when they return from them.

"From eight o'clock until eleven, which is the hour for our repast, my occupation is visiting the savages, or working to make books for them (because, as their nature is very fickle, of which they themselves complain, they must be often visited, either to give them suitable encouragement, prevent and appease their disputes, or to prepare the newcomers for receiving the Sacraments).

"There are sixty cabins, that is to say, from 120 to 150 families, as there are at

least two in each cabin. To perform these visits with profit demands all the time of one missionary; another would be required for the children, and one for those who are more advanced, who need to be instructed in virtue.

"My work is made easier in this way: I sketch upon paper the truths of the Gospel and the practices of virtue invented by Monsieur de Nobletz. Another book contains colored pictures of the ceremonies of the Mass applied to the Passion of Our Lord; another contains pictures showing the torments of hell; another the creation of the world. The savages read these with pleasure and profit, and these books are their mute teachers. One of our catechists, with the assistance of these books, preaches long sermons; and I experienced much pleasure yesterday when I found a band of savages at the door of a cabin learning to read in books of this kind.

"You will be pleased to hear from me respecting the austerities practiced by certain savage women, although there may be some indiscretion in their doing so; but it will show you their fervor. More than five years ago some of them learned, I know not how, of the pious practices followed by the nuns in Montreal who are hospital sisters.

"This religious life began to please them very much, and three of them formed an association, in order to commence a sort of convent; but we stopped them, because we did not think that the time had yet come for this. However, even if they were not cloistered, they at least observed chastity; and one died with the reputation of sanctity, three years ago this spring. They, and some others who imitated them, would be admired in France, if what they do were known there. There have been several other contrivances for similar mortifications, which men and women have discovered for the purpose of tormenting themselves and which

constitute their usual exercise of penance. But we have made them give up whatever was excessive.

"During the past two years, their fervor was greatly augmented since God has removed from this world one of these devout savage women who live like nuns, and she died with the reputation of sanctity. We cease not to say Masses to thank God for the graces that we believe we receive, every day, through her intercession."

BRAVERY WELL REWARDED

"God, I am sure, never will turn a deaf ear to Catherine of the Mohawks. This I know to be true in my own case. Fully recovered after an illness of seven years, I had to begin school. This I found very difficult, but by constant petition to Little Catherine Tekakwitha, I completed my education by receiving 100 per cent. in my grades, being thus exempt from final examinations.

"This was the first hurdle Little Catherine helped me jump, but the next step was a position. Beseeching her aid, I took a Civil Service Examination and, passing very high, was appointed almost immediately to a very fine position. These two very great favors seem as miracles to me and indeed were, and they are so highly appreciated. But these are only insignificant compared to the marvellous favors our Lord grants to the clients of little Catherine, for how can He refuse his Little Lily of the Mohawks."—San Francisco, Cal.

"I am enclosing herewith a check for \$6.00 towards the Tekakwitha League. This donation is in thanksgiving for favors received recently by several of my friends, and also by myself from our little Indian friend."

—Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

"The enclosed check represents a thanksgiving offering from the parents of the little sick baby for whom I asked your prayers during the Summer. When they asked me how they could thank me for bringing the Kateri relic to bless the baby, I suggested they thank Kateri by helping to defray the expenses for the continuation of her Process. They liked the idea very much. Here is a digest of their letter:

"Our little Robert is six months old—October 25, today. Shortly after his birth, when he was but two weeks old, his little body was wracked by convulsions and the doctors diagnosed pyloric stenosis and calcium deficiency. He could not retain food. Diet was constantly changed with very little success. Twice he was rushed back to the hospital apparently near death. Then a Jesuit priest, hearing of our case, brought some water from the birthplace of Kateri at Auriesville and the relic of God's little American 'Flower'—Kateri. He blessed the baby with the relic—and almost immediately his little body, tossing restlessly in convulsions, quieted and the baby slept. Again and again on frequent visits, little Kateri came to bless our baby and each time with wonderful results. Our little heavenly 'Nurse' still comes to see the baby, but now it is visits of thanksgiving, our thanksgiving to her for a happy, strong, well baby. He weighs over sixteen pounds, laughs and coos, looks forward to his feeding time and reminds us if we are late. We can never thank Venerable Kateri enough or sing her praises properly. The enclosed small offering in thanksgiving must be judged, not by the face of the bill, but by the amount of sacrifice necessary to save and send it, for we have not much of this world's goods. But she, who had not much herself; she who took pity on a distracted mother and father, and guarded for them their precious treasure will understand. May our little gift help some way to defray

some little expense of her Process. We are happy to be able to call our baby's wonderful 'Nurse'—'Venerable Kateri.' We constantly pray the day will soon come when we may say, 'Again and again we thank you—Saint Kateri.'"—Reported by Rev. L. E. S., New York.

"Enclosed is offering towards the Cause of Tekakwitha's Beatification in thanksgiving for a parish financial favor received. An almost impossible obstacle was mastered in less than six months once I placed the cause in Tekakwitha's hands."

—Pastor, Cheboygan, Mich.

"I started the Freshman Class in Mercyhurst College (girls) with sixty pamphlets about Kateri. The Sisters and girls are much interested and should spread the good work over many states. I have three good cures so far and the help she has given me is simply supernatural. I thank God and Kateri from the bottom of my heart."

—Pastor, Erie, Pa.

"We have implored her intercession on several occasions and have been favored through her intercession. Just now I shall ask her to induce some of the delinquent physicians to complete some histories. This is an occasional problem. Rev. A. K., S.J., of Creighton University, was instrumental in making my acquaintance with her intercession. The entire community participated in a novena to her, so that we may be able to meet the interest and a payment on the capital. On the third day we received some payments from sources we anticipated for many months. We felt convinced that Tekakwitha was solely responsible."

—Boonville, Mo.

And now come requests for prayers for men and women in the service and for the missing in action.

"Grace of a happy death for one who had been recreant eighteen years or more."

—Kansas City, Kan.

"Please find enclosed check for \$10.00 from the parish in gratitude for a successful carnival and \$10.00 from myself."

—Pastor, Lawton, Okla.

"Find enclosed our check for \$2.50 in thanksgiving for a favor received from Kateri Tekakwitha. Apply it, please, towards her canonization."

—San Antonio, Tex.

"I made a novena to St. Kateri and obtained the favor I asked. I am a widow with five girls and very good girls. Will you please think of us in your prayers?"

—Adams, Mass.

"The Venerable Kateri has never ceased helping us. Just now we are in the midst of remodeling our home and have been fortunate through her intercession to obtain 'critical' material without any difficulty."

—Fostoria, O.

"Enclosed please find check which I promised to send if Tekakwitha helped me to have a safe delivery of my baby in spite of a kidney stone I have. I had a beautiful baby girl last Saturday morning."

—Rye, N. Y.

"Now I must tell you of the wonderful work the Holy Martyrs have done for us this year—nineteen vocations since September, 1941. Isn't that glorious? Please publish this favor and accept the enclosed check for ten dollars as honoraria for ten Masses in

their honor with the petition for more and more good vocations for our work."

—Cornwells Heights, Pa.

"Some time ago I had promised the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha I would send a thanksgiving if she would help me in a certain need. I was in need of a good housekeeper, and the prospects were not so good. I turned to Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha, and I must say she helped me."

—Pastor, Richmond, Minn.

"Mrs. Juana E. de Z. gives thanks to our Lord that through the intercession of Tekakwitha her husband got a very good harvest. They thought the crop would be lost because for a long time rain was falling and the corn-fields were spoilt. The lady asked Tekakwitha to help them and with surprise they saw that their wheat-field was not hurt and was in very good condition."

"Mrs. Carmen de C. gives thanks to our Lord that through the intercession of Tekakwitha she received a special grace."

—Irapuato, Gto., Mex.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	7	Property Sale	1
Financial Aid	5	Relief in Distress	3
Employment	5	Not Specified	43

PETITIONS

Cures	10	Relief in Distress	5
Financial Aid	5	Rent Rooms	1
Employment	3	Spiritual and Temporal	1
Sell Property	3	Not Specified	61

Obituary

Most Rev. Francis J. Monaghan, D.D., Ogdensburg, N. Y.

Rev. N. A. Marnell, West Orange, N. J.

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