

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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GOD'S ALMONERS

And what are the Saints doing in heaven? To tell even a part of what they are doing would take a very long answer, but of one thing they do we can be certain, and certain also that they do it on a vast scale. They are mediators between God and ourselves, recommending to Him our prayers of praise, thanksgiving and our petitions. They are God's almoners obtaining and dispensing His blessings to all who invoke their aid.

The prayers of the Church abound in petitions addressed to the Saints and in thanksgivings for their supplication. These prayers are addressed to individual Saints by name and to groups, to Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Virgins, Holy Monks and Hermits. Witness the prayers of the Mass, the Divine Office, the Litany of the Saints. The aid of "All the Saints" is constantly invoked.

Now, therefore, we may regard the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha as one of God's Almoners and an active and unfailing one at that. Witness what was written in last month's LILY OF THE MOHAWKS by "An Eye-Witness at Tekakwitha's Home," and what is told by the same witness on the following page of this March message. Reading his testimony, one gathers that Tekakwitha was to those who had lived with her, not merely an intercessor in some far distant realm, but a Presence for long after her death.

KATERI AND THE WAR

It is not a pleasant topic, but it is one we cannot evade. We may say all we can about manpower and calculate it in numbers and in hourly production, but the grim fact that impurity is fatal to the efficiency and morale, i.e., spirit of our troops, stares us in the face and calls for more than physical remedy.

Not all our men in uniform are by any means the victims of the vice that brings its own sad retribution. One likes to believe that by far the great majority retain the habits of decency with which they entered camp, and recoil in disgust from the excesses in which their comrades indulge. The temptation is there, however, and to resist it prayer is needed as well as potent example and inspiration.

It is here Tekakwitha comes in. Her life is both potent example and inspiration. Living among her people who were shameless, nay proud, of their impurity, she shunned, not only the games and festivities that led young as well as old to orgies of licentiousness, but the idle and gossiping groups also that suggested lustful thoughts.

Kateri's example was a powerful incentive to her companions while she lived to overcome impure temptations, and after her death she became an inspiration for her people to emulate her own chaste and virginal manners.

By the Same Eye-witness Writing in the Year 1683

At last, all the monsters of hell, being powerless to do more, made a last effort in the month of August; and, joining at midnight with a whirlwind, blew down the chapel, a fall remarkable in all its circumstances. All the articles of sacred furniture were preserved entire, except five crosses, which were broken. The statue of the Blessed Virgin, which was at an elevation of eleven feet, was simply overturned. There were three Jesuit Fathers in the chapel, one below, who was ringing the bell, and two above.

All three were saved by a sort of miracle. The one who was below was saved, and carried away from his place, where a great hole was made by the beams, which broke in their fall the joists on which he was kneeling. He found himself in a place of safety, without fear, without wound, praying and kissing the relics which he wore about his neck. Another of the Fathers leaped into the air with the rafters, which formed a sort of cage for him. The last of the three Fathers also fell, but was much hurt. He nevertheless extricated himself from beneath the ruins, and soon recovered.

All three, without having communicated their devotions to one another, had gone to pray at Katharine's tomb in the evening, before going to bed; and one had said the Mass of the Holy Trinity, in order to thank God for the favors (graces) that He had granted Katharine during her life. The poor savages were much afflicted at the loss of their chapel, saying that God was driving them from the Church because they did not deserve to enter it. But they were inconsolable at seeing their Fathers wounded and sick; and said that these Fathers were suffering from the sins of their children, who were not willing to listen to them and live like good Christians.

They immediately proceeded to rebuild

the chapel, God having willed that there should then be an architect in the village, who had built five other chapels, very well constructed. But meanwhile the captain of the Anies (Mohawks), whom they name "the great anie" (a Mohawk chieftain called Kryn), who had built a fine cabin a fortnight previously, moved out of it in order to lodge Our Lord, who well recompensed His host.

In the first place, He did him the honor to see his cabin converted into a church; but, because God honored this cabin chapel with several wonders which occurred therein, many persons were seen to come to it, by way of devotion, who made novenas to Katharine of the Sault. They performed the same devotions there which were performed in the beautiful timber chapel—with all the more fervor in proportion as the inconvenience of the building, the severities of winter, the spring rains, and the summer heat, were the harder to endure for those who often went thither to visit the Blessed Sacrament.

SOMEWHAT TORTUOUS

"I had a growth on my cheek since several months. I did not pay any attention to it, but suddenly it began to expand. So I promised this to Catherine: I told her I would go and see the doctor, but asked her to permit that he would not be in. He was not. Then I asked her to make me well the next day so I would not have to see the doctor. She did. So here you are with my little offering to help the Cause of Beatification of Catherine Tekakwitha." —Pastor, —, N. Y.

KATERI ALWAYS FAVORED LIVE STOCK

"A dear old lady wrote me that her thoroughbred pullets were dying of pneumonia, that she had tried every known remedy, but to no avail. What should she do? I turned the case over to Catherine Tekakwitha, rushed

her out to the poor lady's poultry yard, dipped her blessed medal in the drinking water, hung one up in the infirmary and then prayed in honor of the Lily of the Mohawks. One pullet had made up her fowl-mind to die and would not partake of the water. She died that night. None died since—over two weeks.” —Xavier, Kan.

KATERI TRUE TO HER OWN

“Kind Sir: I first heard of Kateri Tekakwitha two years ago. My husband is tubercular and had had two major operations. He was given up on last operation and things were in a pretty bad fix at home for me. I have two small Indian babies (age 10 and 8). We needed help desperately and a kind elderly lady told me of Kateri. So I prayed earnestly. In five days, out of a clear sky, I was given \$25.00 from a rich bachelor who does a lot of charity and at the same time two brothers sent \$10.00 and \$5.00, while two other friends sent \$3.00 and \$2.00. They had not heard of my needing help, and at this time I was given a small medal of Kateri and I rushed this to my husband. It was beyond belief—for he showed such sudden change. We hope he will recover soon with the blessed help of Kateri for he wears his medal always.” —Kansas City, Mo.

INDIANS TELL THEIR OWN STORY

“Father Forbes has just shown us your letter of January 11, and we, two Okanagan Indian girls, are writing to you because your letter spoke about us. First we will speak of Bertha Batiste. She was very ill and it did not look as if she would live. After her operation she did not know what she was saying. She kept bothering everybody for oranges and now she does not remember that she did so. She nearly died and the doctor expected her to die. It seemed so sure that she would die because she got a severe attack of pneumonia after her operation, that Father Forbes wrote to the missionary who goes

to her place, asking him if Bertha should be buried at the school or at home. Then Father made us pray to Catherine and he said two Masses in honor of Catherine for Bertha. We prayed hard and were glad when Bertha got well all of a sudden and stopped asking for oranges. The doctor and the Sisters in the hospital were surprised that Bertha got well. Now about me. During the holidays I cut my wrist very deeply and could not use my thumb. The doctor at home sewed it up. When I came back to school the doctor here noticed that I could not use my thumb and he said that he would have to cut my wrist open and sew the tendon. He did that and I was all right until two or three days later. Then my whole arm swelled up and was filled with pus. My temperature went up to 105 degrees and the doctor was scared. At the school, they prayed for me to Catherine and, although the doctor was afraid that I was going to purgatory or somewhere else, I got better quickly.

“One of the boys here fell from a high place and our nurse said that his leg was broken. In the hospital the doctor said that it was badly broken. We prayed to Catherine for that boy and the doctor was surprised next morning when the X-ray showed only a little sprain.

“We know that you will be glad to hear this from us because we know that you are working hard to have the Indian girl, Catherine, called a Saint.

“We are glad to write to you because you are a Jesuit and we are Okanagans and because the first priest to come to our people was a Jesuit Father called Father DeSmedt. There was another Jesuit Father called Father Nobili who came around here. We have seen his handwriting.

“We thank you for the books you wrote about Catherine and for sending us many copies of them. We will pray to Catherine for you.”—Tillie Louie and Bertha Batiste, Kottenay Indian School, Cranbrook, B. C.

"An offering of thanks for a favor granted to one of little Kateri's clients who has great faith in her."
—Gretna, La.

"Most fervently do I publish the sentiments of gratitude I have toward the Servant of God, Catherine, for helping me to find a sum of money which I lost in one of our missions."
—Nogales, Ariz.

"Last summer my aunt was very ill with dropsy. Naturally we prayed to many saints for her recovery, if it was God's Holy Will. We prayed also each day to Kateri Tekakwitha and I promised the 100 leaflets if she received help. She has made an excellent recovery considering her condition, so I am fulfilling my promise."
—Lewiston, Me.

"Over five years ago, at the death of my father, an elderly nun gave my mother a copy of a prayer to Kateri Tekakwitha. This nun said that if this prayer was said daily we would never be in want. And for five years Venerable Kateri has stood by us. In fact God has granted me the grace of a vocation, and my mother has been able to send me to college and now to the seminary."
—New Jersey.

"Some time ago I wrote you about a calamity threatening two innocent people and promised to send twenty dollars to further the canonization of Kateri. Am so happy to tell you that as far as it is possible to know the trouble has been completely avoided. We have received other favors through Kateri and in thanksgiving have distributed leaflets

and spread devotion to her. The first favor was peace of mind. A woman spread slander about my three boys, my husband and myself. The trouble practically stopped and I was able to accept it with better grace. The second favor was a farm bought during depression years was leased and we were able to get the deed after almost losing the farm. The lease I found most unexpectedly in the mail on Saturday of the first novena."
—Kansas City, Mo.

"Dear Father: I was about to lose my house. Now that I prayed to Kateri Tekakwitha my house is in my name and I have a way to pay \$30 a month on my mortgage of \$4,000. I had lots of trouble and I promised Little Catherine, as I call her, I would spread her devotion. Enclosed \$2.00 for leaflets, Nos. 1 and 2. My father, who was 80, suffered a stroke. We prayed to Our Lady and Kateri Tekakwitha. He received the Last Sacrament. The doctors gave him up. Our prayers were answered and he looked and was as strong as any man of sixty—lived like a saint for one and a half years."
—Lafayette, La.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cure	1	Employment	2
Financial Aid	2	Not Specified	38

PETITIONS

Cures	5	Relief in Distress	1
Financial Aid	1	Not Specified	19

Obituary

Rev. S. J. Gorka, C.S.C., South Bend, Ind.
Rev. F. J. Heaney, Mamaroneck, N. Y.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Timothy A. Hickey, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mr. Mills Evans, Washington, D. C.

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