

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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APRIL, 1943

Alarums at Caughnawaga

For love or money one cannot buy an alarm clock these days. Very few people have the habit of fixing on the time they want to awake in the morning and of opening their eyes at that time without bell or buzzer.

There were no clocks at Caughnawaga in Tekakwitha's day, but there were bells in the belfry of the chapel, and rich-sounding bells they were, imported, of course, from France; and these bells were the timekeepers for the settlement, pealing "The Angelus" to summon all to chapel in the morning; ringing it again at noon and stopping the day's work for the mid-day meal; closing the day's labors with the same joyful rhythm and summoning all to their cabins until it was time to announce the evening devotions.

TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

The Tekakwitha League is one of the oldest pious associations in North America. It was formed in Tekakwitha's time, prior to 1680. It consisted of a few of her more intimate companions who were known as her band, though it has nothing to do with music. After her death the members continued their pious practices and gradually its numbers increased. It remained faithful to her memory, and gradually its religious practices were performed in her honor. The "Our Father," "Hail Mary" and "Glory be to the Father," three times, is its principal practice.

Processions at Caughnawaga

Processions were frequent for the Indians of La Prairie, later Caughnawaga. They were part of the religious ceremonies by which the missionaries taught their people to display their faith and love their religious practices. There was the procession on Candlemas Day in February; in March there was one in honor of St. Joseph, Patron of Canada. The Feast of Corpus Christi was not let pass, nor were the Rogation Days in supplication for a plentiful harvest.

The most unusual of all these solemn processions was that of the Blessed Sacrament, when the missionary carried the Sacred Host to the cabin of Tekakwitha where she lay dying on Wednesday of Holy Week, in 1680. The rule was to carry the dying person to the chapel for receiving the Viaticum. An exception was made in her case.

A LEAGUE SPIRITUAL BENEFIT

Members of the Tekakwitha League become entitled to a remembrance daily in the Divine Office. This is the prayer of the Church, recited by priests all over the world. Every day they read over thirty psalms, passages from other parts of the Scripture, a brief account of the Feast or Saint of the day, hymns, and various invocations.

In monasteries all this is done at set hours, the monks rising at night and interrupting their work seven times each day.

By an Eye-witness of Tekakwitha, 1684

So many persons were seen to commend themselves to the deceased Katharine Tega-kouita; so many good savages were seen to offer this devotion and found themselves in such necessity this year to address themselves to her, that we believed it was but paying a just tribute to her virtue to remove her from the cemetery—where a little monument had been erected to her honor a year before—in to the new church. All opinions were unanimous upon that. This transfer, however, was accomplished by night, in the presence of the most devout. Some savages have since been seen to go to pray at the place where she lies, who had begun to go to visit her on the very day when she was buried. We began this year to make some brief addresses upon the Passion of Our Lord, every Friday in Lent.

The captain of the Anies (Mohawks) has himself made a present to the chapel, worth four beavers—240 livres—in the money of

Orange (Fort Orange, or Albany) that is, a candlestick with eight branches, similar to the one which is in the Orange meeting-house. It is of bronze and was made in Holland. This captain, going to war, wished to leave a monument of his piety, after having given up his cabin, one year previously, to the service of God.

The chapel being finished, we placed therein the gifts which the savages made for it, or caused to be made—their robes, striped taffeta from China which some have left for it, and an altar-screen. They have decorated a beam, which is above the altar, with their collars—which they put about the heads of the warriors, like a crown—with their porcelain bracelets, with shields which the women wear to adorn their hair, and with belts, which are the savages' pearls. Several Masses have been said by way of thanksgiving for the favors which God has vouchsafed to Katharine of the Sault.

A GOOD WAY

"Enclosed please find one dollar for which send me six silver oxidized medals, fifteen cents each. This is my way of making Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha better known. I have received many favors from her, and in thanks have passed medals and leaflets among friends. I am enclosing two testimonials from one of these friends. I have given medals and leaflets to boys and girls in the armed forces."

—Duluth, Minn.

PROMOTING THE CAUSE

"Enclosed find one dollar for pictures and other little articles of devotion which will help to make Kateri Tekakwitha, 'Lily of the Mohawks,' better known. I will try to get promoters for her Cause."

—Erie, Pa.

"I say the prayer in leaflet, daily for her canonization, and this order is from a promise I owe her for some favors received. True,

this devotion has gone on for nine years, and now as she is so near a Saint, I want to strengthen, spread her name and send leaflets to many I know, who will be devoted to her."

—Philadelphia, Pa.

MAY IT BE COMPLETE

"We are watching most interestedly a possible major miracle by our little Kateri. A stranger to me, who was very ill and apparently dying, was brought our relic by the administering priest. From the moment she received the relic, she claimed to feel better, and although she is not wholly recovered yet, still she is vastly improved. She was most loathe to relinquish the relic, but it has been brought back to me. She wears the medal of Kateri and has all confidence in a complete cure; whether that is granted or not, at least a happy holiday season for herself and family was obtained."—Duluth, Minn.

DOCTORS BELIEVE IN HER

"A word of thanks to Kateri Tekakwitha whose intercession with God was helpful in the recovery of a prominent doctor from a dangerous illness." —St. Louis, Mo.

"Recently I was very ill for about a week with an unusual condition which at its best carries a thirty-five per cent. mortality. A novena was started at once to 'The Lily' and in due time I made an unusually good recovery. For this I feel very grateful."

—An M.D., Eau Claire, Wis.

A SMART SECRETARY

"She is secretary of an A. A. A. club and the gas rationing has lessened their numbers considerably. Through the intercession of the Indian maid she had nineteen new members for January. She hopes this will go on each month so she will get funds to keep her office open."

—Uniontown, Pa.

FRESH HOPE

"I have mentioned receiving different sums of money from very unexpected sources always on Saturday, while making a novena. Last Saturday we received twenty-four dollars from an old investment. We were most grateful for it—it was most useful at this particular time. We will try to spread devotion to Kateri and appreciate the good you are doing in making her known. She gives fresh hope which is so badly needed at the present time."

—Kansas City, Mo.

A REAL THANKSGIVING

"In the fall (when Kateri was born), Mr. A. Barclay just about lost the farm. He would have, if Kateri Tekakwitha hadn't heard our prayers. Mr. Barclay needed \$5,000 to get the place. We made a novena to Tekakwitha, and tried very hard to get that money. On the last day of the novena, our neighbor came over and said we could borrow the money. We had promised we would name our first girl 'Kateri' if we got

the money, and we did. We're still praying every night for her canonization, and we're very proud to have a girl named after the first North-American saint-to-be."

—Mrs. M. B., Wibaux, Mont.

ONE OF HER OWN

"Mrs. Salcido is an Aztec Indian, and is having her daughter named, a lately arrived baby girl—Kateri." —Wilmington, Cal.

RELICS IN HOSPITAL

"Several months ago there was a lady admitted to our hospital for a thyroidectomy. According to the doctors, she had as much chance to die on the table as to live. However, she was in a state in which something had to be done for her so they decided to operate. She had had several relics, so I didn't offer my relic of Kateri. But as she continued to appear to be very restless several days after the operation I told her I should like to pin a first-class relic of Kateri on her, say the novena prayer, and if she improved we would tell Dr. Boyd. That night she had her first best night. The next day her family brought to her an old large picture of the 'Little King,' for she had great devotion to the Infant. However, she appeared to continue to improve from the time the relic of Kateri was pinned on her and she claimed she felt that Kateri had obtained help for her. Now she is home; has been for some time, and is feeling fine.

"A short time ago there was a patient admitted to our hospital for operation. There was a possibility of cancer. She was a Protestant, but her husband a Catholic. She, too, had several relics and appeared to have great devotion to the 'Little Flower.' Time was passing post-operative and she did not seem to be improving. She was obviously quite miserable. I let her have Kateri's relic and now she has improved and left the hospital."

—Scranton, Pa.

"The restoration of sanity."

—Greeley, Neb.

"Getting a financial loan for business. Little Catherine made it possible."

—Brooklyn, N. Y.

"A relative of mine was accused of arson and defrauding an insurance company and he was innocent. I made a novena to her and promised to tell you of it and he was acquitted although the circumstantial evidence was all against him."

—Arlington, Mass.

"The sale of my home with a good profit and the purchase of another house in a better location. Also the changing of positions for my husband."

—Baltimore, Md.

"As my husband long had the custom of drinking to excess every Sunday, I invoked Kateri Tekakwitha promising to publish if he would correct himself. As now for five years he has not resumed this habit, I gratefully fulfil my promise."

—Caracas, Venezuela.

"I received a favor which was nothing short of a miracle after making the novena to her and now wish to spread the devotion to her as much as I can."

—Creston, Ia.

"I hung the picture relic of Kateri Tekakwitha up in my business January 2, 1943, and everything seems under control. I hope Catherine Tekakwitha will continue her aid in many trials."

—Oakland, Cal.

"I was troubled with a skin disease for several years. The doctor did not seem to be able to do anything about it and it was spreading rapidly, so I turned to Kateri for help. After a novena, to my surprise it is gradually disappearing."

—Methuen, Mass.

"A city official was stricken; a number of doctors failed to diagnose his illness and paralysis was slowly creeping over his body. After the first novena to Tekakwitha, a doctor discovered a tumor at the base of the spine, and an operation was successful. Now he is walking without a cane. The doctors say it's a miracle—novena was made last July."

—Dayton, O.

Medals of Tekakwitha are more in demand than ever, and metal to make them, owing to war restrictions, is harder to get than ever. Thanks to Kateri's intercession metal has been found in a most unexpected way. So join with the V. Postulator in this thanksgiving.

—Tekakwitha League.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	6	Financial Aid	1
Employment	3	Relief in Distress	2
Not Specified	52		

PETITIONS

Cures	4	Financial Aid	6
Employment	3	Relief in Distress	3
Not Specified	15		

Obituary

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Delany, New York, N. Y.
Sister M. Berchmans, Cleveland, O.
Sister Mary Amanda, Orwigsburg, Pa.
Mrs. Nettie Conley, Philadelphia, Pa.

TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

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