

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. VII, No. 8

MAY, 1943

IMITATION AND INVOCATION

The chief merit of a Life of any person of renown is to narrate it briefly and incite the reader to imitation.

This the new brief Life of Tekakwitha does. One may not imitate her heroism, but, like her, all can love the Cross, the Eucharist, the Sacrifice of the Mass, the Blessed Virgin and the Saints.

Her new title *Venerable* has increased the desire to know her and make her known (see page 32). All the essentials of her Life are now in brief book form in only 32 pages, 8 pages each:

- I. Her Life on the Mohawk.
- II. Her regard for the Black Robe.
- III. Her days on the St. Lawrence.
- IV. Her renown for Holiness.

Twelve cents a copy, post-paid.

Quite frequently we are requested to invoke Tekakwitha for vocations to the religious life, and just as frequently we receive reports that vocations increase. For a third time in as many years we have received from the Venerable Superior of a Religious Community a letter like the following. It brings to mind that Tekakwitha herself once planned in her innocence to organize a community of sisters.

"I am pleased to tell you, Reverend Father, that since our last report to you, twenty-one have entered our novitiate, and we pray that

Kateri will continue to intercede in our behalf and obtain many good vocations for us."

—Cornwells Heights, Pa.

Another invocation and its favorable answer. A bishop appointed to a diocese found it alarmingly in debt. Advised by his Vicar General to have recourse to the Venerable Tekakwitha, he wrote to inform the V. Postulator announcing his intention to do so and, as token of his confidence, enclosed a generous offering for her Cause.

One month after came the following letter acknowledging Kateri's intervention:

"Rev. and dear Father:

"The influence of the Indian Maid, Kateri Tekakwitha, has been felt in the diocese from the day I asked through her intercession the solution of our financial difficulties. I am fully convinced that it is through her mediation that hearts have been moved to come to our help. We are not out of the woods yet, but our good Lord at times leads our steps to clearings where we can again see the light, breathe more freely, and renew our determination to continue working.

"The enclosed grateful offering is for the expenses of the Cause of the 'Lily of the Mohawks.'

"With very best wishes, I am

"Your Rev's. h.s. in Dno.,

(Signed) ———, Vicar General.

In 1688 the Second Bishop of Quebec Reported

One can judge of all the Missions in Canada by Saint Francis Xavier's, about nine miles from Montreal and 180 from Quebec. It was founded some years ago at Prairie de la Madeleine, where the French have a church and savages who began there have lived and died in the odor of sanctity.

NOT OUR CATHERINE

Even today they speak admiringly of a certain Katharine, an Iroquois, who was its principal foundation-stone and who from her Baptism maintained her Christian character by the great purity of her life. It seems that she had some presentiment of her death, for while still in perfect health, moved by some special inspiration of God, she went to the church to make an offering of her bracelets and necklaces, and to offer even her life, declaring that she was ready to die when it would please His Divine Majesty to call her. Her offering was accepted; she fell ill a few days later, and the eight days of her illness were for her, in a manner, a continual ecstasy which kept her eyes fixed on heaven until she expired.

OUR CATHARINE

The number of savage converts increasing from day to day, it became necessary to leave Prairie de la Madeleine and settle at the Sault (Caughnawaga). It is there one beheld in the person of Katharine, the first Christian virgin the Iroquois nation has given to the Church of Jesus Christ. She had been led there by the ministry of a famous chief of the Onneiouts (Oneidas) who himself had been won in a surprising manner; and God works many marvels at the tomb of this wonderful maiden.

✠ JEAN DE ST. VALLIER.

THEN THE MISSIONARY—

JOHN CHAUCHETIÈRE, S.J., 1694

I have admirable things to tell of the Sault mission. As regards our savages, they have continued this year as fervent as they are accustomed to be. Katharine's band—I wrote you her Life last year; I know not whether you have received it, because one of our ships was lost while returning to France, and those papers were perhaps on it, and you do not speak of it; I had placed her portrait therein.

Katharine's band continues in the practice of the most Christian virtues, and in the heroic exercises that they have undertaken. Last winter the most hardened were touched by God, and performed an act that deserves to be written down. It was called *hotowon-gannandi*, that is to say "public penance," because it was done in the name of all.

My occupation this year will be the same as during the last, namely, that of proto-regent of Villemarie, with 12 or 15 pupils; and I teach mathematics to some young men who are officers in the troops.

* * * unless God, Who preserves this country through an extraordinary providence, comes to our aid. We hope that He will do so, in response to the prayers of the good Christians of Sault Saint Xavier, our beloved mission, where the same fervor prevails; where God manifests Himself in the persons of those poor savages, who continue to embrace the best practices of a Christian and religious life. We count three or four martyrs there, who have been burned by their own kindred in their very cabins, because they refused to abandon the Faith and the French.

AMONG HER OWN

"I am enclosing twenty-five cents for the *Life of Kateri Tekakwitha* (Lily of the Mohawks). I am a descendant of the Mohawks on my mother's side. Have heard her story, but want it in my possession."

—Lake Charles, La.

"Your announcements about the progress of Tekakwitha's Cause are always encouraging to me and my Chippewas. I repeat to them what you write. They long to hear about her Beatification, finding consolation in the meantime that they may now address her as Venerable."

—Rev. E. Lemire.

MAKING TEKAKWITHA KNOWN

"Will you kindly send me about four dozen of the Novena leaflets to the 'Lily of the Mohawks'? I would like to send these to various friends and thus make little Katherine better known. I am enclosing one dollar and some stamps to cover cost of mailing."

—Memphis, Tenn.

"We are glad to know that devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha is spreading as quickly as it is. I would appreciate it if you would send these articles as soon as possible."

—Baton Rouge, La.

"I have been praying to her for about three and one-half years. I have always received an answer to my prayers. If I can be of any further aid in this regard, please call upon me as I would love to see her canonized."

—Los Angeles, Cal.

"Enclosed please find thanksoffering in honor of Kateri Tekakwitha. I have placed my son, John, who is in the armed forces, under her special protection. And my daughter, who is in teachers' college, has been given a position in the library, which will help her financially. She says it is due to Kateri Tekakwitha. I am trying to further her Cause. So please send leaflets."—Dayton, O.

VERY REMARKABLE

"I wish to acknowledge a favor which I believe was granted as a manifestation of Kateri Tekakwitha's favor with God. On June 3, 1942, my mother had a severe attack of heart failure and the doctor told us that she would 'go in one of these attacks' and he could not tell us when. He also stated that there was nothing more we could do except to keep her in bed for the rest of her life, which he would not recommend because he did not believe it would help her due to her disposition and desire to be active. Having heard of Kateri Tekakwitha in an unusual way, I asked God, in my prayers, for my mother's recovery, that He make her well as a manifestation of Kateri Tekakwitha's favor with Him and in praying to Our Lady and some of the saints I asked them if God wished her canonization that they would ask Him to grant my mother a full recovery as an indication of His wish. I also wrote for some leaflets and when I received the little pictures I pinned the piece of silk from one of them on my mother and she is still wearing it. Forty-eight hours after I started these prayers the doctor advised us that the cardiograph showed no clot in her heart so that after some rest and care we 'could let her get out of bed.' My mother is now going about her life in practically her normal manner. She went through the holiday strain and excitement with no serious results and about five weeks ago the doctor told us that her heart was better than it had been in two years. While I did address some little prayers to Kateri Tekakwitha, my main petition was directed to God, His Holy Mother and the Saints whose aid I usually ask, in the manner I stated above so that I feel that God wanted to express His wishes regarding Kateri Tekakwitha."

—Philadelphia, Pa.

Make Tekakwitha Known and Loved

"My husband had an offer of a new job and was very undecided. I prayed and offered a donation to help decide correctly. He took the job about four weeks ago and seems very satisfied." —Newport, Ky.

"Am in a sanitarium, for a while, and dear Catherine is still helping me financially right along—she has been wonderful to me. I had a letter from my niece this evening and she said she just knows 'Catherine' got her the good job she has. She made a novena to her. I was so glad to hear it, as I didn't know she made novenas." —Kerrville, Tex.

"Enclosed please find check in thanksgiving (delayed) to Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha for her Cause for favor received; money due was the subject of my prayer and I have over a period of years received same, and last August final payment was received." —Joliet, Ill.

"We love her very much and I do owe her much. She has surely taken care of me in my financial troubles. Has seen that I have a position and the remuneration is very good. As time goes on, Dear Father, will do my best to send some little offering of thanksgiving to her. Reverses have come, but somehow she has seen me through."

—Toledo, O.

"For some time I had been quite perturbed because of a bill for sheet music which had

been overdue, and there seemed little hope if any, that it would be paid. I asked the children in my class to make the novena with me to Kateri Tekakwitha. On the third day of the novena, my Superior received the exact amount of the bill in a most extraordinary manner."

—Chambersburg, Pa.

"For the ten long months that my mother was confined to bed she prayed fervently to Kateri Tekakwitha, in fact the whole family prayed with her. We prayed for her recovery, but I'm pretty sure that she knew it was not to be, and she prayed for a happy death. I know that her prayers were answered because she did have a happy death, and I have continued to pray to Kateri ever since my mother's death."

—Fitchburg, Mass.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	5	Relief in Distress	2
Financial Aid	2	Scholarship Work	1
Not Specified			12

PETITIONS

Cures	6	Relief in Distress	4
Financial Aid	6	Examination Success	1
Not Specified			22

Obituary

Mrs. Katharine Hohmann, Baltimore, Md.
 Mrs. Frank C. Buckhout, New York City, N. Y.
 Mrs. Alfred Manning, Fitchburg, Mass.
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis X. Wastl, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. G. Bruder, New York City, N. Y.

TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

LEAFLETS

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