

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever.



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. VII, No. 9

JUNE, 1943

DEVOTION TO TEKAKWITHA

Devotion to Tekakwitha has increased greatly since the Holy Father has approved of styling her Venerable. Letters reporting favors received through her intercession now tell of making her known as an act of thanksgiving. Some of these are reprinted on page 35 of this issue of THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS.

This form of thanksgiving suggests that devotees of the Venerable Servant of God should 1° send us names of others who might become interested in her; 2° induce friends to subscribe for this official monthly message about her and the Cause for her beatification, only 60 cents a year, or two subscriptions for one dollar.

Just about two hundred and sixty-three years ago the following letter was written by one who had been adviser of Tekakwitha. Gradually the form of prayer suggested in her honor became popular among the Indians who formed the Tekakwitha League, then among the French colonists in Canada, and very soon among patrons of the missions in France. Now it is repeated everywhere, in China, South Africa, Mexico, South America, and, of course, in Canada and the United States.

"I beg the Reverend Father Rector of the Novitiate to have his novices say a *Pater*, and *Ave* and the *Gloria Patri* three times for me. This is a devotion practised here among the savages and the French, who go to the

tomb of Katharine, who is interred in the church of the Sault, when they wish to obtain some favor from God. I began it on the very day of her burial; and I have always believed that it was she who at the end of the year saved me, when our chapel was blown down by the storm. Then, in the opinion of all, I was miraculously saved; and I believed that this virtuous savage repaid me on that occasion for the services that I rendered her during her illness."

DEVOUTLY TO BE WISHED

"Here please find enclosed check. I had gripe (intestinal). I promised this to Catherine. It stopped at once. Of course I remained feeble for a week or two, but I kept improving since.

"In your last letter you mentioned the *Song of Bernadette* and its providential influence. I agree with you. Today I just received a confirmation of this: A young girl writes to me from New York saying that Jewish girls, having read the *Song*, are very interested since in going to Mass and ask all kinds of questions about the Catholic faith. Is it not written that the Jews (who are still the chosen people of God) will be converted? For my part I believe that the Blessed Virgin will have a great part in their conversion, and they will become the apostles of Mary's devotion. Lourdes was a preparation to this. It is not for the bodies that Mary appeared, it is mostly for the souls: Pray for sinners, she said." —Pastor, Lafargeville, N. Y.

A SCRUPULOUS LIFE WRITER

How those who wrote the Life of Tekakwitha studied and prayed over their work appears from the following Preface of Father Chaubetière to his Life:

The honor and respect I owe to the memory of Reverend Father de Brebeuf and the other Jesuit Fathers, who began the Iroquois missions, have made me break a silence of five years (now 1685) which I kept concerning the events that took place at the death and after the burial of her whose Life I am writing.

The pressing reasons for keeping silence were the slight disposition which I saw in the spirit of the French to believe such great marvels; perhaps I was led too much by my own feelings, as I had great difficulty in believing things which I saw before my eyes every day, or because I attributed to all the French what may be said of some, who doubt that there is faith among the savages. The principal reason was certain difficulties which the Reverend Father Superior of Quebec had in believing these things when he saw them written out in a small notebook which I had prepared during 1680, in order to give an exact account of them, in order to ascertain what was in them divine and what was not.

The reasons I had for speaking were a powerful inclination and a very strong inspiration now to set forth and no longer withhold in obscurity and silence a fact which deserved to be made known all over the land and one which God Himself was the first to make known by the ordinary signs He uses in order to reveal to the living the merit and glory of the dead, namely, cures of the afflicted, revelations, visions, and public approbations in the course of the years, and such testimonies as are found in the processes for the canonization of the saints—the same as those which today may be found exemplified in my subject. One of the reasons was

that I should not deprive the missionaries of the recompense God gave to their labors, by making the virtue and Christianity of the savages, so often attacked by slanderous tongues appear as extraordinary. This is why I have undertaken some special works, similar to this, of the annals related in two notebooks, concerning the perseverance of the savages who fought the Iroquois and who gave their lives for the faith at the stake or by the tomahawk.

In order to put these two opposite sentiments into one, I decided to take a second course that seemed to me an idea of Katharine herself, who, in a vision, enlightened me to paint pictures for the instruction of the savages, and to use them for exhorting those whom she wanted to draw after her to heaven, and at the same time to write journals which could serve for my own use. I therefore commenced this work with incredible difficulty, wishing at times to give it all up; but having abandoned it, I would get strange scruples which would not allow me to live in peace or find any rest; so that I had to obey Katharine's request. . . . The fact that a picture I painted was generally approved gave me courage to attempt a portrait of Katharine which was the one painting I wished to make. I undertook it after her death, since there was no one but myself to do it. I painted some which many possess in the form of leaflets, but these were too small and not suitable to be seen at a distance, if exposed in a large place, and if they were placed in the lodges they would immediately become smoke-stained. I decided to work on that great picture that portrays the life and customs of Katharine and which at present is still in the church of the Sault for the instruction of the savages. It was placed there with paintings of the four ends of man, along with the mural paintings of M. le Nobletz.

"Would like you to send me our saintly little one's prayer. Have given all mine away to other folks in need of help, and do hear they get their requests granted very shortly."

—Woodhaven, N. Y.

"I just talked to Sister Fidelis and she wishes to have me mention that she is doing something to further the Cause you are working for and will write you soon.

"Enclosed please find check for three dollars. Two for the publication and one for some novena leaflets which I wish to distribute to my friends. Please send one dozen, and a small picture which I can have framed."

—Ketchikan, Alaska.

"Enclosing a check for five dollars in thanksgiving for a favor received through the Lily of the Mohawks. I made the novena through my good friend, Mrs. Huffman, as she has perfect faith in the little Catherine and I shall be glad to spread her devotion and say the prayer every day."

—Hartford, Conn.

"April 10, 1943.

"There is a mission attached to this parish called St. Catherine's. The patron is Venerable Catherine.

"I thought the people would like to help so I read your letter to them. When I have 35 or 40 I have what might be called a good number. I had to wait until I got that number to take up the collection. You wanted it before the year was over. I hope you will find some use for the small contribution even though it is late.

"When I was teaching at our Preparatory Seminary in Newburgh, it was my privilege to visit the Shrine. I really enjoyed the visit.

"I hope the day will soon come when the 'Lily of the Mohawks' will become one of our great Saints."—JOHN M. MESKILL, S.S.J., Mission of St. Augustine, New Roads, La.

"For some years my husband has been in a run down condition and several weeks ago became very ill. The doctor said from all indications he had tuberculosis and advised him to go to the hospital. I immediately started the novena to the Lily of the Mohawks at the suggestion of a friend who handed me one of your pamphlets. On the tenth day my husband returned from the hospital with the verdict that there was nothing wrong with him—which had been my petition to Catherine Tekakwitha.

"In gratitude for this wonderful favor granted us through the intercession of the Lily of the Mohawks, I am enclosing my check for \$5.00, endorsed and payable to your order, to be added to the funds contributed for her canonization, of which, I understand, you are her apostolateur.

"Would it be possible for you to send me a few more of the Novena Prayers to be distributed among my friends who have faith in prayer?"

—Indianapolis, Ind.

"Both my husband and myself have experienced the favor of our 'Kateri' with our Divine Lord, and have told our friends of her power. The other day in singing her praises to an acquaintance I was informed that this lady had already learned of a very special favor granted by our Lord through petitioning Kateri. A friend of hers could not get about without a crutch and a cane, as well as aid from someone, but after making a novena at the Shrine of the little Indian Maid she was able to walk without assistance of any sort."—Great Neck, N. Y.

"Say a prayer for my sister, Mary M., who has recently passed away. She was quite interested in Tekakwitha and visited the Shrine in New York after a serious illness. During her illness we all prayed to the Indian Maiden to intercede that she might get better. She lived for six more years and said many prayers to Tekakwitha."—Arlington, Mass.

"She has responded to the extent of \$1,200 in our cause."
—Wheatfield, Ind.

"Had promised Kateri an offering if my husband obtained employment, which he has."
—Collingswood, N. J.

"Through her intercession I obtained position in 1922, which I still hold, and I ask her help each day ever since."
—New York City.

"I am enclosing five dollars for Kateri Tekakwitha for a favor obtained through prayers to her."
—Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"Kateri has sent us a dietitian who reported for duty on April 12. Inclosed is the offering I promised in my letter to you last month for her Cause."
—Boise, Idaho.

"I am enclosing \$5.00 which I had promised for favors granted in my petition to Kateri Tekakwitha. I am so grateful to her and I received a greater favor than I expected."
—Indianapolis, Ind.

"A few years ago a Charity Nun told me their community needed money so badly they made a novena to Catherine Tekakwitha and before it was ended someone sent them a check for a thousand dollars."
—West View, Pa.

"This is my first experience in praying to Blessed Catherine. I had asked for financial

assistance and on the seventh day I received a check from an unexpected source. I shall continue to pray for her canonization."
—Utica, N. Y.

"My child was ill with tonsilitis. She had a very high fever and was suffering very much. I prayed to Tekakwitha to bring her relief and in a few minutes she was much better."
—Newell, Cal.

"I promised my son I would send a dollar in thanksgiving for our Venerable Katherine's seeing him through the parachute training. I am happy to report that he received his Parachutist's wings on April 20. We (my family) have had so many blessings since I've known about our Venerable Katherine that I don't know what we would do without her help now."
—Pawhuska, Okla.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	3	Employment	1
Financial Aid	3	Safe Delivery	1
Not Specified	13		

PETITIONS

Cures	7	Relief in Distress	3
Financial Aid	4	Spiritual	3
Employment	3	Examination	1
Not Specified	18		

Obituary

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. McCabe, N. Y. C.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arthur J. Kenny, N.Y.C.
Rev. Thomas A. Ryan, N. Y. C.
Mr. Andrew T. Sullivan, Brooklyn, N. Y.

TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

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