

THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

VOL. VII, No. 11

AUGUST, 1943

## NAMES THAT LAST FOREVER

Naming schools, libraries and various institutions after men and women who have done something worthwhile, is a time-honored custom. Its purpose is to keep them in grateful memory.

It is somewhat startling to think of Indians doing this over two centuries and a half ago, when they named a society after Tekakwitha, **Tekakwitha's Band**; and it is more startling still to reflect that they had in mind not merely to cherish her memory, but to venerate her, imitate her virtues and invoke her for all manner of blessings.

Most startling of all is the contrast between the endurance of the **Band** named after her and the short-lived memory of those after whom so many places and institutions are named. **Tekakwitha's Band**, or **League** as it is styled, is not only still in existence, but knowledge of her keeps growing and developing a devotion such as it inspired in the days immediately after her death. She will still be held in honor and affection when names now illustrious will be only vaguely remembered or forgotten. Here is the story of the formation of the **Tekakwitha League** as written by one who witnessed the Indian Maiden's death:

"France has honored her for some years in many places, and missionaries of the American islands (West Indies) have invoked her.

What is still more remarkable is the fact that often several people had the same thought of invoking her without having spoken of their thought with one another, and that when the desired favors were granted, they discovered that the same spirit had prompted them all. One of the reasons for her renown is the exemplary life that Katharine's band, which was formed at her death at the Sault, has led from that time forward and still leads there today. There are some who have really imitated her, who died as if predestined, and whose lives have been written. Those who are still living sanctify themselves by imitating Katharine, whose example they keep before them in living as good Christians. When they die the relation between their lives and that of Katharine will be evident. The men as well as the women take part in this imitation and several maidens have gone to heaven bearing the precious jewel of virginity."

### DECREE ON THE VIRTUES

The *Decree* on the virtues of Tekakwitha has been issued and it is published in the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis* of May 18, the official organ of the Holy See. Due to war conditions, this periodical comes to very few in the United States, and it is very slow coming, but we hope to have a copy of the *Decree* in the next issue of THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS.

## BIRTH OF KATHARINE

As told by one of the Missionaries

Before Katharine Tekakwitha came to the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier of the Sault, where the Iroquois had professed the Christian religion for not more than twenty-five or thirty years, Our Lord seemed to prepare the place for a maiden so virtuous. This preparation began in 1670, when He inspired Father Peter Rafeix to found a new establishment at Prairie de la Madeleine, where three or four lodges of savages, who wintered there with the French, became the foundation of the mission which is now the Sault. We learn from the *Annals* that they left Laprairie only because the land was not fertile enough to support them.

It took seven years to establish this new church in which may be seen Christians as faithful as those of the primitive Church. This may be observed from their lives which are given at the end and in the course of the *Annals*. By the goodness of God I was sent to this holy mission in 1677 and three or four months after my arrival, He allowed Katharine to come here from the land of the Mohawks, where she was born.

Katharine's mother was a devout Christian Algonquin woman, who had been taken by the Iroquois at Three Rivers during the wars waged against the Hurons and the Algonquins under the rule of M. de Tracy and M. de Courcelles. It was the lot of this poor captured Algonquin to be married to an Iroquois. From this marriage between a Christian woman and a pagan, our Katharine was born. The woman, whose baptismal name I do not know, lived with her husband and children at Gandaouague, a small village of the Mohawks (now Auriesville).

An epidemic of smallpox caused the death of many adults and children and perhaps this obliged the savages to make peace with the French. Katharine's mother died and left two small children, regretting only that she had to leave them unbaptized. It was said

that she was a good Christian, that she prayed until her death, and that perhaps her prayer obtained the grace of Baptism for her daughter, and, for us, the grace of possessing a saint. The other child died and only Katharine remained. It was thought that she, too, would die at the age of four, because she had an attack of smallpox. This, in the course of time, obtained for her the blessing of virginity. Her face, which was formerly pretty, became ugly; she almost lost her eyesight, and her eyes were so hurt by this disease that she could not bear a strong light. This obliged her to remain wrapped in her blanket, and favored her wish to remain unknown. She often thanked Our Lord for this favor, calling her affliction a blessing, for if she had been pretty she would have been more sought by the young men, and so might have abandoned herself to sin as did the other girls in the country of the Iroquois.

This child never did anything that might be said to offend God, since from the age of six or seven she began to have a certain natural modesty, which is the guardian of chastity. Her good nature and the care her mother took of her while she was still living, that is until she was four or five years old, went far to make her grow in age and wisdom. Nevertheless, during her life she considered herself a great sinner, because it seemed as if she had a stain on her body (pock marks) which she was very careful to hide.

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The above account of the birth of Tekakwitha was written by one of her spiritual advisers, Father Chauchetière. More than others who wrote her Life, he stresses the signs of the smallpox with which she had been afflicted. Near her when she died, he witnessed the transformation of her features, the absence of any facial deformity and a remarkable beauty.

"I want to distribute leaflets in thanksgiving for favors received."—Jersey City, N. J.

"Father, I will send for some more leaflets; I have got some of the favor I asked for."  
—Pittsburgh, Pa.

"To obtain the help of Kateri Tekakwitha in and for a successful sale, I will try and help to make her better known."

—Washington, Mo.

"During a severe illness two years ago, I promised this great Saint that I would spread devotion to her when and if I regained my health. Thanks to her powerful intercession to Our Lord in my behalf, I shall return to work this fall."

—Worcester, Mass.

"Enclosed please find a check for \$2.00. It is a part of an offering which I plan to send every two months in thanksgiving to little Catherine for helping me through a difficult illness last April. I received the leaflets and intend to spread the devotion."

—Plymouth, N. H.

"One of my customers sent me the prayer for the canonization and special favors to Kateri Tekakwitha, and I prayed faithfully every day for help in my business; in one month my prayers have been answered; only something like a miracle could help me, and I will have my friends know about this."

—New York, N. Y.

"A spinal operation, which probably would have been serious, was avoided. I attribute this favor to my faith in little Catherine and I am going to spread her devotion as much as possible."

—New Orleans, La.

"The dollar is from my sister. I recommended her to pray to little Tekakwitha for financial aid. She is a girl who is handicapped with very poor sight, also with very poor hearing. Since she invoked the Little Lily of the Mohawks she has had several little

jobs that helped her financially, and work she was capable of doing, thanks to little Catherine. Yesterday she gave me this dollar to send you to help her Cause; the other twenty-five cents is to have you send me a few of the pamphlets to give to some of my friends to spread her devotion."

—Worcester, Mass.

"I feel that I should spread devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha in thanksgiving for the many favors I have received through her intercession, among them cures of two bone infections. In one case the disease was not diagnosed until after the 'Lily of the Mohawks' was invoked. The second case is as follows: A little boy in my class, after an X-ray had been taken, was ordered to remain home from school because of a serious bone infection. I gave his mother Novena Leaflet No. 2. Much to my surprise, after three weeks she returned with him, stating that a second X-ray showed the infection had cleared up. The little boy shows no sign of a limp now."

—South Orange, N. J.

#### REMARKABLE

Mr. E. D., Ottawa, Ill., had been subject to very severe headaches. He had been treated unsuccessfully by a number of doctors, so he finally went to the Mayo Clinic. There they diagnosed his ailment as a tumor near the optic nerve, and he was advised of the seriousness of the operation because invariably a complete paralysis of the entire body is the result. Operated on, they found a tumor composed of a sandy and gritty deposit. As he was coming out of the anæsthetic he was asked to move his fingers, arms and feet, and he responded promptly. The doctors were amazed because they feared a complete paralysis. He recovered very rapidly and went home two weeks after the operation. The doctors at Mayo's proclaimed the operation and his rapid recovery to be miraculous."

—Peru, Ill.



"Enclosed is a thanks offering."

—East Liverpool, O.

"Offering in grateful appreciation of favor granted."

—Eunice, La.

"For the badly needed sale of a piece of property."

—Washington, D. C.

"Thanksgiving for improvement of a serious finger infection."

—Kansas City, Mo.

"Thanksgiving for cure of my son."

—Bronx, N. Y.

"Enclosed is thanksgiving to Venerable Tekakwitha for her Cause, for favors received. Kateri surely has taken care of me in my troubles."

—Chillicothe, O.

"I prayed to her so that we would get rain for our crop within a week, and before the week was over we got good rain."

—Victoria, Tex.

"Several injustices made me unhappy on my job. Now I've won two points out of three, so feel very grateful."

—New York.

"Enclosed you will find offering for her canonization; she has helped my husband to get well from pneumonia, and this is from his first pay after return to work."

—Cochran, Pa.

"Was happy to hear Tekakwitha is now declared Venerable. I still continue to pray to her, and she has obtained for me an im-

portant favor that will benefit members of the family, myself and others."

—Tampa, Fla.

"Cure of a very serious case of eczema. I gave her the relic of Kateri and she began to improve as soon as she used it. She is almost entirely healed and is so happy and so thankful to the Flower of the Mohawks, she is sending you a thanksgiving."

—Perry, Ill.

"Recently I lost a purse with money in it. I made a novena to Kateri for its recovery and although I did not get the purse, another favor was granted. On the fourth day of novena I received more than was in it from an unexpected source."

—Kansas City, Mo.

"Enclosed is offering to go toward the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, for favors she has granted me. This is the third time I have had worry and trouble, and always turned to Little Catherine, and received help at once."

#### ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures .....	3	Relief in Distress .....	4
Financial Aid .....	2	Spiritual .....	2
Finding Home .....	1	Not Specified .....	31

#### PETITIONS

Cures .....	5	Relief in Distress .....	10
Financial Aid .....	7	Not Specified .....	15

#### Obituary

Rev. E. A. Beyer, Potosi, Wis.

Rev. Francis J. Markee, Lansdowne, Pa.

Rev. J. T. Butler, East Stroudsburg, Pa.

### TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

#### LEAFLETS

I—Medallion, prayer, sketch, favors.

II—Novena, with daily reflexion.

5c. for 2; 25c. a dozen

#### LIFE

By Wynne, 32 pages, illustrated, 12c.

#### MEDAL

Image and title "Lily of the Mohawks," special metal, 15c.

#### PICTURES

Small—with sketch and prayer .....

5c.

" Color, sketch and prayer .....

10c.

" Color, silk applied to relics .....

20c.

Large—in color (13x10) inches, mounted so as to need no frame; for class or private room .....

40c.

Prices include postage

Reduction on quantity

REV. JOHN J. WYNNE, S.J., V. Postulator for Her Canonization

400 EAST FORDHAM ROAD, NEW YORK 58, N. Y.