

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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Protestants and Tekakwitha

All good people admire heroism; they even venerate it; and holiness is heroism unsurpassed. Catholics have many ways of paying this veneration for those whom the Church declares holy. Every year they celebrate the feast day of the saints who are more commonly known; they write and read lives of saints, invoke them in special prayers and litanies, sing hymns, and name churches and other monuments in their honor. This is devout Catholic belief and practice.

Individual protestants admire and venerate holiness, but the communion of saints is not an article of their faith, nor is veneration of saints an express protestant practice. There must be, therefore, something peculiar about Kateri Tekakwitha that leads so many who are not of our faith to admire and invoke her and desire to have her declared blessed and saint.

Readers of this monthly message will recall that we have frequently published communications from non-Catholics, members of various denominations, in thanksgiving for favors attributed to the Indian Maiden, and in petition for further favors, accompanied with money offerings to promote the Cause for her beatification and canonization. Some few of these communications are hesi-

tant, as if the writers were not sure of being entitled to offer them; but most of them take it as a matter of course that they should believe in the holiness of Kateri and honor her accordingly.

As a rule this is not true of others who are venerated by us as saints. Some well-known apostles and patrons like Augustine, Martin of Tours, Patrick, Boniface, Xavier, Lucy, Theresa, Elizabeth of Hungary, are admired, but the tribute stops there.

What then is the special attraction in Tekakwitha? Note first of all this attraction was active even before her virtues were declared heroic and she was thus proclaimed Venerable. Well, some would account for this attraction by the fact that Kateri was an Indian, that her life was romantic, even if savage. This, no doubt, does attract many to become interested in her, but the story of Pocahontas has the same attraction.

The special attraction of Tekakwitha is her purity of soul and body. While still a pagan growing up among a degraded people, she kept innocent, yearning in prayer for knowledge of the true God, and, when enlightened, she lived an angelic life in the light of His countenance. Romance is attractive; her life was a romance of grace.

CONFIRMING THE FORMER

"The L. child in Olean, N. Y., who had infantile paralysis so badly, is getting along beautifully. They sent a check to you after they received the medal I sent them. I was greatly pleased as neither of them are Catholics, and Mr. L. has never believed in anything. Mrs. L. seems to have a great deal of faith."

"When your letter arrived I was in Ann Arbor at the University Hospital where I had to remain twelve days because of my back. I was in a two-bed room for five days and my 'roommate' was a non-Catholic who had six months to live with cancer. I asked her if she would like the silver medal I had with me. She was terribly pleased and insisted on holding it whenever she went for treatments."

—Detroit 21, Mich.

A FURTHER CONFIRMATION

"I am enclosing an offering and ask your prayers to the 'Little Lily of the Mohawks' for a very dear lady friend of mine who is ill, suffering from a kidney and liver ailment. She is now too weak to go to work—has lost a lot of weight—and in general, is miserable. I am not a Catholic and neither is she, but a friend of mine and hers has given us a book to read on the life of the Little Lily of the Mohawks and we think she is beautiful and have devotion to her and ask her intercession at God's throne. She is wearing a medal of Kateri together with a relic of Blessed Martin of Porres given her by this friend of ours (a Catholic). Again please pray for her, Father. When I can send more funds, I shall gladly do so. Thank you—and if you could—I would like a medal or relic of Kateri, too."

—Milwaukee.

FROM THE SCHOOLS

"We, the members of the Tekakwitha Club of La Salette Academy, wish to purchase four dozen number two leaflets."

—Covington, Ky.

"I have great devotion to her and I tell my student nurses about her. One of our student dormitories is named for her. Each room is named for a saint or saint to be. They chose the ones they wanted and as I had talked most of our little Indian Maiden her name was among the ones chosen."

—Hutchinson, Kan.

"Sister Amanda, O.S.B., from St. Benedict's Convent in Erie, told us about the beautiful little medals you have of our little Katie. We pray to her every day. We like her so much because the eighth grade of our school had a play of Tekakwitha. The girl who took her part in the play went to Holy Communion every day for four weeks so she could take her part nice, and she did. Will you please send each one in the class a medal of Tekakwitha? Send them to Sister and we will give her the money to send to you."

—St. Joseph's, Sharon, Pa.

"I am captain of a group of girls called 'Children of Mary' at St. Michael's School, Pontiac. I would like to have some material to make Tekakwitha better known, as we are proud to have her as our patroness. There are 100 in our group."

"I find that our girls in Catholic groups are particularly interested in her because she was an Indian and as you might know the Camp Fire program has borrowed much of our American Indian Lore." —Troy, N. Y.

QUALITY

One of the remarkable things about veneration of Tekakwitha is the high quality of the tributes paid to her, and their great number. Like the "Song of Tekakwitha," a poem in her honor by Sister M. Fides, Mission Helper of the Sacred Heart, of Towson, Md., is highly praised; for ten cents those who wish may have a copy. It has life in it, and it is beautifully bound and printed.

"The 'Song of Tekakwitha' is most beautiful. Thank you, over and over, for this enchanting book.

"The doctor and I are reading it aloud—it is giving us the keenest pleasure."

—Utica, N. Y.

"The Song of Tekakwitha.' How musical! What a surprise. I love it. That book is exactly my idea of Kateri. Everything is just right. How delightful! I love the poem idea, the illustrations! The little cut on the cover. It is very attractive. To my mind it brings out the young Indian Maiden in the right atmosphere. The idea of the Kalevala meter immediately brings us back to the time in which she lived.

"I am happy to have a copy of it. It certainly was read with great interest by all members of the family. Mother thinks it is very sweet. Thank you very much. I shall always treasure it. I often look at my relic, and take good care of it. I indeed am very lucky. You have been generous to me and I appreciate it.

"The Christmas season is over now and I shall have more evenings to start thinking about finishing the statue of Kateri. There is nothing like the name 'Venerable' to make us want to hurry; is there?"

—Brookline, Mass.

SPIRITUAL FAVORS

"(1) Two successful eight-day missions conducted by me at Mt. Horeb, Wis., both ending with Holy Hour devotion. It was my first effort at mission work of this sort. I had no sermons prepared. I recommended the work to Kateri, made a novena in her honor, kept up prayers to her during the missions. At Christmas time the Reverend Pastor wrote as follows: 'The people are still talking and acting according to the fine retreat you gave them. It was solid.' He also stated that a parishioner who had made fourteen missions during his life said that two

had made a very deep impression on him, one given by a French missionary in Switzerland, and the one by me; and that the one by me was the most impressive. All credit to Kateri!

"(2) Recently I was temporary chaplain at the local hospital. The chaplain told me of two fallen-aways, hard to persuade to return. In fact one of the local priests used his influence for a whole hour one day without results. I made the rounds, met the two unfortunates, blessed them with the relic of Kateri (received from you), and recommended them to her. The next day, I reconciled the one, and the day following the other, both died reconciled to the Church. The Sisters, and the chaplain, as also the other priest were all astonished at the practically effortless action on my part in bringing about the conversions." —Madison, Ill.

FROM AN INDIAN MOTHER

"Writing to tell you the sad news, my only little girl passed away Christmas night. During Midnight Mass she asked for Father Byrns three times, after Mass Father brought Communion. She received little Jesus, as that is how she said it, and a few minutes later she died. She already told Father she was going to leave Mamma Christmas. Poor little girl, she sure must have suffered, but never a word of complaint. Once in a while, when sitting by her side, I would see little tears rolling down her cheeks and right away she would say, 'Excuse me, Mamma, I didn't mean to do that.' Sister, I know she is better off—she will be happy where she is, but still I will miss her. Sister, please pray for me."

—De Smet, Idaho.

"Our Sister has told us about Kateri Tekakwitha, the Indian girl who lived so holy a life. We are sending five dollars to help your work for her Canonization."

—Hartford, Conn.

"I enclose offering for favors received and anticipated for the Cause of Tekakwitha. I shall never forget her kindness."

—Norwich, Conn.

"For graces and favors received for me and mine through her intercession. I promise these Masses and publication."

—Niles, O.

"A client of Tekakwitha asked for a six-month deferment from being drafted into the Army and promised publication and the enclosed sum of money if petition was granted. The prayer was heard on the third day of the novena."

—Newport, R. I.

"Some time ago I needed some money for a trip and asked the intercession of Kateri Tegakwitha, and received the necessary amount, although I did not see how I could or the source. I promised an offering for her Cause of Beatification which is enclosed."

—Muskegon, Mich.

"I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Tekakwitha for keeping our babies well during the holidays when there was so much sickness around, and also for other favors. May she soon be raised to the honor of our altars. I wish there was some way that we could hurry this along."

—Cleveland, O.

"Hoping that you receive the offering I am sending. I have been praying for a year to the dear 'Saint' Kateri Tekakwitha to help me repair the house, which she did. I was in debt for eight hundred dollars and I continued praying to her to help me clear, which I did today."

—Lafayette, La.

"I daily pray to her and I feel she has so far answered my prayers. I sure love the saintly little Indian. I, myself, have been working here on this Indian Mission for the long space of fifty-three years. So you see I love the Indian, and I am sure my little Indian Tekakwitha hears my prayers. I hope we can soon put her statue on our altars. Pray for us. We have the Chippewa Indians on this reservation."

—Bayfield, Wis.

"Enclosed please find ten-dollar (\$10.00) express money order for thanksgiving for employment due to Catherine, Lily of the Mohawks, which enabled me to make an investment which with her help proved successful. A friend gave me, over a year ago, one of the Kateri leaflets as I had been convalescing from an accident and was discouraged about employment. So would appreciate a few to give to some Catholic friends in Trona."

—Trona, Cal.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|----|
| Relief in Distress | 2 | Cures | 2 |
| Financial Aid | 1 | Spiritual | 1 |
| Employment | 2 | Not Specified | 16 |

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LEAFLETS

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| | |
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