

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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APRIL, 1944

A MOST IMPORTANT MOVE

The Most Reverend Joseph Francis Rummel, S.T.D., Archbishop of New Orleans, always a strong supporter of the Cause for the canonization of Venerable Tekakwitha, has addressed to Rev. Vernon P. Aleman, Director of his Archdiocesan Union of Parish Sodalities, the following letter:

"Herewith I am enclosing a communication from Reverend John J. Wynne, S.J., Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks. It occurs to me that her Cause would be a worthy undertaking for the Sodality Union of our Archdiocese, in fact for our Sodalists throughout the country. Her life is revealed as one of exceptional purity, piety and heroic courage. She may well serve as a source of inspiration and emulation to our Catholic girls of America, whose prayers, devotion and enthusiasm may become the elements that are necessary to determine the outcome of the process of her beatification.

"May I, therefore, recommend this Cause to you for promotion among the Sodalists. Father Wynne will gladly co-operate with you by supplying whatever leaflets and other materials you may need. You can also count on me for assistance when the occasion arises."

This is a most important move for bringing the Cause of this saintly Indian Maiden to the attention of the entire United States, eventually of Canada and, as communication today is so easily widespread, to the world generally.

Our first reflexion is that very properly this suggestion comes from New Orleans, for two reasons: first, that when Tekakwitha lived, the territory now so gracefully occupied by this archdiocese was under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Monsignor Laval, the Bishop of the diocese in which she lived, Quebec; and, secondly, because this saintly bishop had founded the first Sodality north of Mexico, known as the Confraternity of the Holy Family, of which Tekakwitha became a member soon after her arrival at La Prairie in Canada.

Very truly does His Excellency recommend Tekakwitha to the veneration of Sodalists for her purity, piety and heroic courage, and to Catholic girls generally as a source of inspiration and emulation. The main object of membership in a Sodality, and the great need of Catholic girls, is good companionship, and the benefit of good companionship is edification, mutual encouragement in overcoming evil, and emulation in good works.

So great was the edification she gave her companions while living, and so powerful was the memory of it after her death, that the missionaries among her people actually had to restrain those who would imitate her purity and penance from going to excess. What the men of God had preached and taught for years now became easy for their fierce wards to practice because one of their own race had shown the way. After Tekakwitha's death her close associates in the Confraternity formed a group named after her which lasts to this day, known as *Tekakwitha League*.

Now to be practical:

1° The great thing is to know and to make Venerable Tekakwitha known to as many as possible, and this means to recommend her as a source of heavenly blessings and as an example of virtues which are easy to imitate.

2° To know and make her known, there is a brief Life of her and there are leaflets also which contain the prayer for her canonization. It is a simple process. Let each Sodalist distribute leaflets among her friends, men and women, Protestant as well as Catholic, for it is surprising how many good Protestants invoke Venerable Tekakwitha and even contribute to her Cause.

3° For those who wish to know more about this chosen Servant of God, there is the Tekakwitha League with its spiritual benefits, remembrance in the Holy Sacrifice daily and in the Divine Office recited by the priest. This is a union of prayer for the progress of the Cause of the saintly Indian Maiden, so that the impediments of war may not unreasonably delay her canonization, and that God may grant graces, even miracles to those who invoke her.

We need the example of her faith, of her purity among a degraded people, of her heroic courage.

"I've just finished reading *The Song of Tekakwitha*. I enjoyed the book very much. Father Holland deserves a great deal of credit for this and I'm glad to have this book among my collection." —M. R. R.

"My brother-in-law has been very ill for some time and we have all offered prayers that he would be converted to our Holy Faith. He was baptized last week. I had promised this if our prayers were answered. With deepest gratitude to God for the answer to our prayer." —Indianapolis.

"This little girl had been ailing for a month, running a very high fever. The doctor said it was nothing to worry about—only the measles working on her. Finally she broke out with them and by that time pneumonia had set in, that in itself was serious, but more was yet to come. The next day sleeping sickness had set in. You can imagine the torture her adopting mother was going through. As her mother said to me later, 'I was resigned to the Will of God for He had seen fit not to send us children and maybe I wasn't supposed to have her anyway.' That night I heard that she had sleeping sickness I put her under the protection of Tekakwitha and the Blessed Mother to intercede to the Sacred Heart for her recovery or what was God's Holy Will. When the doctor came the next morning about 10 o'clock he had about three doctors lined up for a consultation for noon. When he said, 'I have seen a miracle happen for she has completely come out of sleeping sickness,' and he said also, 'I had expected her to be in a stupor for six months.' Her recovery has been rapid. In less than a week later she was on her feet." —Chicago, Ill.

The diocese whose debt has been greatly reduced by the aid of Tekakwitha still reports further reductions and contributes generously for her Cause.

"Please send these articles as soon as possible as I am sending them to the South Pacific."
—South Covington.

* * *

"I just got my glasses and hope to be able to do a little more class work. The retina and part of the left eyeball have sloughed away from high blood pressure. On Sunday, February 20, after children's Mass, I got a hemorrhage from the nose that lasted a full hour, and when the doctor came he said this was the best thing that could have happened as it saved me from a stroke. The pressure was 240 to 260. I was very weak but taught school every day since."
—Sharon, Pa.

* * *

"Please send me three copies of the life of 'Catherine Tekakwitha.' I have just begun to know her—and so far have received minor wants. But am starting a new novena to her again this week for a MAJOR item, or two, and have real honest to goodness confidence in her, and I know that I will get what I am asking for if it is good for me.

"P.S.—I feel that I want to make her known further."
—Detroit.

* * *

"A boy was removed from a basketball team; the lad was reinstated, but the pastor refused to permit him to play in the game for the city championship. At this point one of the Sisters, who bears the name of Kateri, offered to ask her patron to intercede. One hour later the permission was granted. Another favor was immediately asked—if the boy were innocent that she would aid them to win and make the boy high scorer. The second favor was granted also."

—South Amboy, N. J.

* * *

"I am glad to say that I have found relief and consolation in her intercession. I was suffering from eye trouble and since I have asked you to pray to Ven. Kateri for me, my eyes are so much better, and I have con-

fidence that she will continue to favor me and bring further relief. Please accept this little token of appreciation and please continue to intercede for me. Could I ask you to please make a novena to Tekakwitha for another intention, we have been having very bad luck with our live stock and please have Ven. Kateri intercede for us so that we may not suffer too much in our earthly possessions, what little we have."

—Ville Platte, La.

* * *

"This is to fulfil a promise of publication for favors received through the intercession of Venerable Catherine of the Mohawks. I have been praying for the conversion of my brother-in-law. I learned recently that he is taking instructions regularly and expects to be baptized next summer by my brother who will by that time be ordained a Jesuit. I also was praying that my husband would receive a promotion and raise in salary, which he did, January first—there have been many factors playing against it. Part of a debt has been repaid to my husband and I hope the remainder will be forthcoming soon. Also, a friend of mine, who had not heard for some time from her friend who was in Alaska, had asked my prayers, so I petitioned Catherine and she again answered my prayers. Many smaller requests I made around Christmas time were all granted."

—Lake Mahopac, N. Y.

* * *

"This is just a note in thanksgiving to Tekakwitha for a favor I received through her intercession over a year ago. When I asked her intercession I was suffering with a soreness in my right breast which had been annoying me for some time. I was afraid that something serious was developing. But, thanks to Tekakwitha, when I was examined by the doctor no growth or any disease whatsoever was found there. I am a member of Tekakwitha League." —Washington, D. C.

"Through her intercession I have received numerous favors." —Sidney, Mont.

"Please list for me some time in your publication a note of thanksgiving for a very personal favor received through the intercession of Kateri." —Mt. St. Francis, Ind.

"Through the powerful intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha a friend has solved critical financial matter." —Scranton, Pa.

"I am enclosing a money order, my contribution to the Catherine Tekakwitha League, in thanksgiving for receiving a belated bonus check." —Cincinnati.

"This I promised for relief from a severe head cold or what I thought was a head cold—which almost choked me. After promising to send this offering I felt great relief and was able to sleep—thanks to her intercession." —Ada, Mich.

"Enclosed is a wee offering to express my thanks, as our suitcase was returned safe and sound and I am positive prayer is what did it. Was gone five weeks and though it contained many very valuable things all were safe. My thanks every day in prayers to 'Little Lily of Mohawks.'" —Rifle, Col.

"You may remember sending me some small relics with dust of Kateri's tomb. We used it with a friend of ours who had a com-

plicated birth recently. She survived thanks to Kateri's help, and now her large and lovely group of five children are joined by John Joseph, the biggest, healthiest boy you could find anywhere." —Denver.

"I am enclosing an offering to Kateri Tekakwitha for a great favor obtained. I was having difficulty finding suitable apartment at a reasonable rental, but the morning after I started a novena, promising an offering, I found a very satisfactory one." —New York.

"Many times I have asked for financial help from Katherine Tekakwitha and have received it. Once I had forgotten to pay my sick and accident insurance and discovered when I looked at the policy one evening that it should have been paid by noon that day. It happened to be a Sunday and next day was a holiday. I asked Katherine Tekakwitha to help me and the receipt came back all right. I mailed check that evening. I promised \$5.00 if all would be well." —Seattle.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	2	Promotions	2
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PETITIONS

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Financial Aid	3	Spiritual	2
Not Specified	27		

Obituary

Miss Anne C. Wynne, New York, N. Y.
Honorable Martin Conboy, New York, N. Y.
Most Rev. John B. Peterson, D.D., Manchester, N. H.
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