

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. IX, No. 3

DECEMBER, 1944

DOCUMENTS OF LASTING VALUE

When the precious documents concerning Tekakwitha, mentioned in this message for November, were deposited with the Congregation of Rites in June, 1932, they were immediately submitted to the Consultors of the Congregation for intensive study and scrutiny. This took nearly six years until March, 1938, when the Relator General of the Congregation gave his decision that the documents were complete, genuine, trustworthy and ample as a source of knowledge of the life and degree of virtue practised by the Servant of God Catherine Tekakwitha.

With the approval of the Congregation of Rites the documents in question were published, with historical and critical notes and a summary of the life and virtues of Catherine, evidences of signal favors attributed to her intercession, and of her renown for holiness. So all we know about this holy child of the forest up to the time of her death and since is fact and not invention or legend.

The facts of Catherine's life were known not only to the missionaries who witnessed and wrote about them. They were known to her companions, to the French colonists and the French at home—so well and fondly known as to create a tradition. This tradition was not confined to Canada. It became known in the West Indies; it was known in the United States well enough to be used against the British when they won Canadian

Catholics to their side by the Quebec Act, which according to some fanatics here favored "the superstitious rites and fantastic trumperies of popery"; and one of these trumperies was "canonizing a squaw by the name of Saint Catherine which piece of jesuitical craft greatly endeared the Romish faith to the pagans."

This was in 1759. Then there was the mysterious Eleazar Williams, supposed to be the young prince Bourbon, Louis XVII, saved from the French Revolutionists, brought here clandestinely, and confided to a Caughnawaga chieftain, who adopted him and kept him at the settlement.

Caughnawaga was much in the limelight. Its Indians were known and respected for their better way of living and trading. French and English vied not only for their trade but for military assistance. Historians knew of them through Charlevoix as early as 1705-21; De La Potherie, 1722; scientists through Lafitan, 1712.

That a Protestant Episcopal Bishop Kip should have thought it worth-while translating the *Life of Tekakwitha* by Cholenec into English, shows that Tekakwitha and Caughnawaga were known not to Catholics only but to many who are not usually acquainted with Catholic examples of heroic virtue, especially those who lived in far-off times and in distant places.

FAVORING MISSIONS AMONG HER PEOPLE

"They had a marvelous instance of Tekakwitha's power lately at De Smet, Idaho. The forest fires were bad, and one evening were reported near the mission's wood section where the winter's supply of fire-wood was waiting in many cord lots to be hauled to the mission. The Sister Superior and another Sister hurried to the scene and found a real threat. The men from all the ranches nearby were fighting the fire, but as night advanced, the hazard became more and more serious. Finally, in desperation, the Sister sprinkled dust from Kateri's grave in the path of the fire, and wonder of wonders, the mission's forest strip was saved."

—Great Falls, Mont.

TEKAKWITHA SEWING CLUB AND BUILDING

"At the recent fair held at Fort Totten by the Indians, there was an exhibit of fancy work. Little Flower School had a considerable number of pieces on display, made by members of Kateri Tekakwitha Sewing Club during the course of the last school year. Nor were the children disappointed in their ambition to win the blue and red ribbons.

"The following have joined the club by expressly donating \$5.00 or more toward the building for our teen age boys, or, by pledging a certain amount at certain times. Every Sunday Holy Mass will be offered for our benefactors. The names follow."

—Indian Mission, St. Michael, N. D.

WITH A GENEROUS OFFERING

"Accept this check for the furtherance of Venerable Tekakwitha's Cause toward canonization as an act of gratitude for her continued favors to me, spiritual and material in nature. May she soon be elevated by the Holy Father to Sainthood. I treasure with unspeakable appreciation the intimate relic which you forwarded to me."

—Ludington, Mich.

KATERI ALWAYS HUMAN

"I also acknowledge a very great favor received on the seventh day of my novena to her and the American Martyrs. We have a boy on the Italian fighting front—5th Army. His name is John and every second word from his mouth was 'Mom.' Recently he has been writing to all the relations but not to 'Mom'; in fact, he seemed to write all around 'Mom.' So we were worried for fear he had a shock or something resulting from a slight wound for which he received the Purple Heart. Today I put a picture of Venerable Katherine in the mail box and received a lovely card and message from Johnny, dated October 26. So you see we have lots to be thankful for and wish you heaps of success."

—Bristol, Pa.

AND ALWAYS THOROUGH

"... in thanksgiving for the help I received from and through the intercession of the 'Lily of the Mohawks.' A year ago, November 1, my husband met with a serious accident at work, a heavy roll falling on him, all one side badly injured and his right leg broken two inches from the hip. The nurse at the plant explained to me and she feared he would walk with a limp if it didn't mend properly. He was given a six-month leave of absence from work. At that time I wrote and asked you to pray for him. I offered his case especially to the Lily of the Mohawks and went to Confession and Holy Communion every week. I prayed every night and morning for that intention. The first X-ray the doctor took showed the break very plainly; the second, where it was joining together. Then one evening the plant nurse told us she had very good news for us; the break had set and in such a way that it couldn't even be noticed, and the rest was up to nature. My husband told me that the hospital doctors could hardly believe it. Today, thank God, he is back and works as well as ever, but I feel sure, Father, that it was

entirely through the intercession of the Lily of the Mohawks. I am sending a small offering and promise you will hear from me oftener."

—Chester, Pa.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

"I had written you that my mother was paralyzed and could not lift her arm; she opened my letter and touched the dust which had sifted into the large envelope and at once was able to lift her arm and bless herself. She has not completely recovered the use of her hand, but continues to improve. I have had a Mass offered in thanksgiving to Catherine. I have several friends interested in devotion to Catherine and would like to have cards for them. I am enclosing a small donation to partly cover the expense of cards and mailing."

—Kansas City.

"We have exhausted our supply of relics of Venerable Kateri. One of the last relics went to a girl. She had gone crazy and had to be taken for treatment to the local State institution. Her parents prayed to Kateri and now after a year at home she came to give her thanks to our Venerable Kateri. They are poor folks and had nothing more than thanks to give. Their thanks took a characteristic form in helping to spread the devotion and with their zeal the only relic went to aid their acquaintances in their needs. So far we pray to Venerable Kateri to aid us with our finances and we have not given up hope. We are sure that she will help."

—San Antonio.

"In summer I broke a blood vessel in my leg. The doctor ordered me off my feet. Furthermore I was told I might be an invalid for the rest of my life unless it healed. I was in bed four weeks. I prayed Tekakwitha to help me so I might again resume my routine. I am writing this in thanksgiving. Doctor said last night I was doing fine. Another: my son's business was very low, but thanks to Tekakwitha's intercession it has improved

greatly. I am sending you a clipping from the *Chicago Tribune*. My daughter-in-law was looking through the 'Personal' ads and came across this: 'In thanksgiving to Catherine Tekakwitha for favor received.—A. S.'; she showed it to me."

—Chicago.

TOUCHING

"Enclosed please find \$6.00—\$5.00 from Mrs. R., who is 84 years old and goes out to daily Mass always asking the Lily of the Mohawks to help her and she feels that she has received this special help. Her eyes are not so good, had four operations but, thank God, can see out of one eye. Will you please say special prayers for her? She needs them very much."

—Brooklyn, N. Y.

"I want to distribute leaflets to my friends as I have received many favors from our Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, 'Lily of the Mohawks,' and want all my friends to get help from her also."

—New Orleans.

A NOTABLE JUBILEE

The Reverend Charles Miccinelli of the Society of Jesus is Postulator for the beatification and canonization of the members of his Society who have lived and died practicing virtue to a heroic degree.

Because Tekakwitha was a protégée of missionaries of the Society he has volunteered to act as Postulator of the Cause for her canonization and has succeeded in having her declared Venerable.

Father Miccinelli celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of becoming a Jesuit on October 29 last. He is still hale and hearty. He has had the satisfaction of bringing about the canonization of Andrew Bobola and John de Britto of the Society. There are still 141 Blessed of the Society awaiting canonization. May God spare and enable him to obtain that glory for many of them and for our own Kateri!

"This is in thanksgiving for temporal favors received through her intercession."

—Columbus, O.

"The enclosed offering is in thanksgiving for favor received and to further the Cause of Tekakwitha."

—Elwood, Ind.

"Enclosed find check for furthering the Cause of Venerable Tekakwitha in acknowledgment and thanksgiving of favors obtained."

—Johnstown, Pa.

"The enclosed dollar is to continue my membership in the League. Right now the only favor I want for myself is the restoration of my daughter's health, so that she may go back to school."

—Pawhuska, Okla.

"For a special favor received from Venerable Tekakwitha."

—Baltimore, Md.

"I make this offering in thanksgiving for all favors already received."

"Little Tekakwitha has been very good to me in obtaining my petitions. Enclosed is a small offering for her Cause."

—Bangor, Me.

"I am sure that I have received countless favors in the past through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha, and I pray for the repose of my father's soul."

—Brooklyn, N. Y.

"I promised Kateri Tekakwitha I would send an offering to the Tekakwitha League if my son's X-ray would show that he did not have any serious trouble. Thanks to

God and Kateri Tekakwitha for her intercession."

—New Orleans.

"I offered a household appliance for sale but did not meet with success. I offered the enclosed dollar if we could sell the article at a certain price. It was sold in less than an hour."

—Kansas City.

"Some time ago I took to drinking a lot and then I asked our Kateri to help me. Now, I have no desire to drink any more. I thank our Venerable Indian. I am enclosing this for thanksgiving."

—Cheboygan, Mich.

"Enclosed please find offering for favors received through Kateri Tekakwitha. Will you kindly remember in your good prayers my sister, who through help from our Venerable little Indian is regaining her health."

—Hartford.

"I am very grateful for Tekakwitha's help last spring when it seemed one of my daughters wouldn't pass her grade. After a novena to Kateri, both girls passed their grades. When my prayers are answered I'll send an offering in thanksgiving."

—Duluth.

"... She and her daughter made a novena to Kateri that the mother might obtain day work; on the third day of the novena the postmaster called her into his office and told her she was to take over the vacancy at the money order window—day work—a direct answer to prayer."

—Xavier, Kan.

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—lithograph in color, 12½ x 8½ inches,
mounted so as to need no frame; for
class or private room 50c.

Prices include postage
Reduction on quantity

REV. JOHN J. WYNNE, S.J., V. Postulator for Her Canonization
317 EAST FORDHAM ROAD, NEW YORK 58, N. Y.