

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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COMMUNICATION WITH ROME AT LAST

Tekakwitha's clients are very numerous and they are all eager to have her beatified. Letter after letter from them expresses this eagerness and always in a prayerful tone. In every Cause for having a Servant of God raised to the honor of our altars, for having one styled Blessed or Saint, there are delays even in peacetime, but more naturally in wartime.

Much, nay most of the process depends on communication between those interested here and in Rome. Now think of it. The war has prevented the Postulator in Rome and the V. Postulator here from corresponding with one another three long years in spite of earnest endeavors on the part of each.

At last a letter from the Postulator has come through and it contains an important instruction on how to proceed in getting testimony of witnesses to apparent miracles who are in service in one camp or other here or overseas. Good news; the Apostolic Process on one miracle is before the Congregation of Rites.

Readers of this monthly message know how we have all been praying for this, and now that it has happened it calls for a fervent thanksgiving. The delay has not been wholly a misfortune; it has given time to develop a wider knowledge of the Venerable Tekakwitha, greater devotion to her, and to obtain more favors through her intercession.

THE HOLY FAMILY IN CANADA

Writing this on the Feast of the Holy Family, this year Sunday, January 7, one is impressed by the celerity with which the saintly Bishop Laval introduced devotion to the Holy Family among the French colonists in Canada by establishing among them the Confraternity of that name, and by the zeal of the missionaries among the Indians in forming branches of it for their charges. Members were not admitted easily; admission was a test of constancy in Christian belief and habit.

One of the proofs of Tekakwitha's holiness

was her admission to it soon after her arrival in her Canadian haven of refuge and the readiness of those who were already members to regard her as an example of the virtues required by its rules. Does not this devotion account for the honor of the Christian family in Canada?

TEKAKWITHA IN THE SODALITY

Just a year ago we were studying how to make Tekakwitha more widely known and loved, and the one medium we thought of for spreading this knowledge is the Sodality

of Our Lady. How to proceed was not easy, and we were praying for guidance. Just then the Most Reverend Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel of New Orleans, without any suggestion on our part, appointed one of his priests, Reverend Vernon P. Aleman, to introduce Tekakwitha and her Cause to the Sodalities of his archdiocese. The results are known to readers of *THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS*, and Father Vernon has engaged the editors of *The Queen's Work* as promoters of Sodalities to interest themselves in Venerable Tekakwitha and her Cause.

All this with no effort on our part we consider an answer to prayer, and it encourages us to plan for extending knowledge and love of Tekakwitha through other agencies.

A year ago also we planned to make Tekakwitha known to Girl Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls. Again it was not easy, but we invoked Kateri's aid. Very soon, to our astonishment, the Director of the Camp Fire Girls, without any suggestion from us, called to discuss how to make Tekakwitha known to the Camp Fire Girls. Next we began to receive letters from the Catholic Youth Organization of the Girl Scouts and from persons interested in them, all inquiring how to introduce Tekakwitha. When beatified, she must become patron to both organizations.

Favors received in answer to prayer invoking the intercession of Tekakwitha come to us not *from* but *through* her. God is wonderful in His holy ones. Their holiness shows the power of His grace in their lives and His power to make them channels of His gifts to others.

IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

We have always been studying how to make Tekakwitha known nationwide and even internationally known, so that when she is raised to the honor of our altars she will be a universal example of God's grace and a

medium of His blessings to her clients everywhere. We wish to introduce her to foreign countries, especially to Central and South America. She is known to her Indian peoples in this country, but the knowledge must be made more intimate and develop hearty devotion (see page 19). Strange how well known she is with beneficial knowledge in China, though war for the time has cut off her patrons here—in South Africa, too.

TEKAKWITHA IN ART

The number of paintings, statuettes, statues of Tekakwitha which have come to our notice would furnish a fair sized museum. It serves to show how popular she is and how her romantic life appeals to the artistic imagination.

Many of these images have some merit, but few of them depict or carve a lifelike reproduction of her. In some she is more white than Indian; in others the costume is not native and it is overdone; few come near catching the gentler traits of her character or childlike innocence as described by those who knew her; so far no one has attempted to portray the beautiful transformation of her features that occurred after her death. Perhaps one of her directors, Father Chaudetiere, had that in memory when he made his picture of her.

Of the very many attempts at producing her image, that of Mother Margaret Nealis is, in our opinion, far and away the best, and reproduced in lithograph in eight colors, it is most attractive. A religious of the Sacred Heart at the Sault near Montreal, she had ample opportunity to study the features of Indian maidens from Tekakwitha's own people at Caughnawaga. One of our chaplains writes that his men want copies of it; as many as five hundred. They must be genuine men to prefer the picture of Kateri to the common pin-ups.

TEKAKWITHA IN EVERY FIELD

"I am repeatedly conscious of your prayers. They bring miraculous graces to these Indians. A few instances during the past month may be of interest to you. A sixteen-year-old Sioux girl, Lucy Bad Heart Bull, traveling with her folks, was injured internally when their Indian team ran away, upsetting the wagon. Her condition became serious and she sent for her sectarian ministers. After three requests distributed over several weeks failed to obtain a response, she asked for me although I had never been in the home. I was gratefully welcomed. After prayers with her, in which parents, brothers and sisters seemed to take part, I talked with her about the holy Indian girl, Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, and showed her my crucifix which contains a relic of her. It has already won two deathbed converts. I said if she wished to keep it a while I would leave it, but that I must have it again and would not part with it at any price. She did not ask for it so I put it back into my pocket. As soon as I stepped out of the house she sent her brother to ask whether I could not leave the relic. In a few days I was called again. After the prayers I told her that if she were a Catholic I could do very much more for her because a priest has power to forgive sin and power to change bread into the living body of Jesus. Although many Indians have no confidence in hospitals, she soon sent again for me and asked whether I could arrange for her to go to the Sisters Hospital at Hot Springs, S. D. The doctors did not dare to operate on account of her weak heart. She took a turn for the worse and the Sisters, fearing she might die any moment and knowing that she intended to become a Catholic, asked if they should call the Chaplain. 'No,' she replied, 'Father Zimmerman will baptize me.' They tried frantically all Sunday afternoon to telephone me. The local exchange is

closed Sundays, yet for perhaps the first time in some years the message got through that evening. I started immediately, drove the sixty-five miles, taking along her parents and sister and at Lucy's earnest request and in the presence of them all I baptized her, gave her Extreme Unction and Viaticum. She was fully resigned and ready, but, Indian way, wished to die at home surrounded by her parents, brothers and sisters. She asked whether I could take her picture for the consolation of her parents when she would no longer be with them. Mother and sisters quickly brought out her Indian paraphernalia. On November 9 I gave her THE BREAD OF LIFE for the third time. *'Tuwa aguyapi kin be yute kin be oihanke wanil ni un kte.'* 'He who eats this Bread shall live forever.' (John 6, 59.) She promised to pray for me when she got to Heaven. The next day she peacefully went to her real home. One of her sisters told me that Lucy always wanted the Catholic prayers and in her last hours frequently asked my catechist, David Black Cat, to be near her bedside for when he prayed she felt no pain and could sleep. Pray that the rest of the large Bad Heart Bull family will also see the light." —Rev. Joseph A. Zimmerman, S.J., Pine Ridge, S. Dakota.

IN THE FIELD OF VOCATIONS

"Six dollars of this amount is a token of gratitude for the six postulants who entered our Novitiate in November. We are advancing ten dollars in the hope that Tekakwitha will send us ten more candidates for our February entrance. Should she send more than ten applicants, we have promised her that we will send you two dollars for each additional one. We have just finished reading *The Glory of the Mohawks* in the Refectory and the sisters all enjoyed the book. May this little Wonder Worker soon be honored on our altars!" —Seattle, Wash.

"At Kateri's tomb there seems to be a renewal of devotion to the Iroquois virgin. Although we do not see many busses on account of war restrictions, many schools, or institutions, and some parishes come in groups in private cars to pray and recommend their own needs temporal or spiritual. It is a little over fifty years that the cross and the granite monument of Monsignor Walworth of Albany have been erected and it is a part of the landscape here and nobody would dare touch it, except to consolidate the cross which shows at the foot a little decrepitude."

—La Prairie, Canada.

"I am eleven years old and in the sixth grade. I made the novena to the Lily of the Mohawks so my brother could come home for Christmas and on the 23d he came. Well, the way I got this leaflet? Every day I and another girl get our priest's mail, so one day he gave us each one of them. So every day we made a visit and this novena and it happened like I thought it would. And another thing the leaves were all froze so no one could go home. Where the novena came in was, they took it off just the day before he came home. So I am making it for my other brother who is in Italy."

—Bellevue, O.

"Kindly excuse the haste. Here is an offering for Catherine's Cause. She has helped us immensely."

—Tucson, Ariz.

"I have enclosed a check in part payment of my promise for the sale of our property.

Kateri has helped me obtain this favor and I am grateful for her assistance."

—St. Petersburg, Fla.

"Kateri sure saved my garden, the people just couldn't believe their eyes. Hoppers everywhere and our garden seemed not to have any; of course there were hoppers there, but they didn't seem to do any damage to amount to anything."

—Milesville, S. D.

"During a recent illness I asked the Lily of the Mohawks to obtain a favor for me, promising an offering to be used in any way you see fit towards her beatification—maybe printing of leaflets, etc. She granted my request permitting me to go up and downstairs."

—New Orleans, La.

"Some time ago when I was unemployed and required an operation, I said the little prayer to Kateri Tekakwitha, in what I must admit was a rather skeptical mood. Within two days I received an unexpected check from the company for which I had previously worked. It was a special bonus of which I had no knowledge and it covered all the operation expenses."

—Scranton, Pa.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cure	1	Relief in Distress	1
Financial Aid	2	Not Specified	17

PETITIONS

Cures	4	Safety	10
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Not Specified	15		

Obituary

Miss Eleanor A. Egan, Philadelphia, Pa.

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