

THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

Vol. XI, No. 3

DECEMBER, 1946

## THE CRIB AND KATERI

It is inconceivable that the Order of St. Francis should cease to exist. Even if, by any dread possibility, the last Franciscan, man or woman, should go to the great reward, the spirit created by the gentle founder would live on, the spirit of simplicity and gentleness, of courage and self-sacrifice, of the foolishness of the Cross, taking Christ at His word, rebuking pride and challenging luxury in human life.

If the Franciscans had never done more than give us the Crib, the Christmas bambino, they would have made Christian revelation clear and appealing to us all. As we read in the Epistle of the Mass, the third offered by priests on Christmas morning, from St. Paul to the Hebrews, first chapter:

"In old days, God spoke to our fathers in many ways and by many means, through the prophets: now at last in these times He has spoken to us, **with a Son to speak for Him**; a Son, Whom He has appointed to inherit all things, just as it was through Him that He created this world of time; a Son, Who is the radiance of His Father's splendor, and the full expression of His being; all creation depends, for its support, on His en-

abling word. Now, making atonement for our sins, He has taken His place on high, at the right hand of God's majesty, superior to the angels in that measure in which the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs."

What a sublime and, like everything sublime, a simple conception it was, so artistic of St. Francis to express this revelation in the form that all could comprehend, alike infant and veteran, believer and unbeliever! Who can resist the appeal of infancy, even of its image?

Full well our early missionaries appreciated this appeal, and we are told how at Christmas time their chapel had its crib and that Mohawks of every type, even those who hated the Prayer, were drawn to see the Infant amid such ornament as was possible, and came away awed by the devotion of the captive Christians among them. It was one of the first intimations for Kateri that the Supreme Being in Whom she had begun to believe had become Man to help us become like God. Franciscans are among the most ardent devotees of Venerable Tekakwitha.

## HIS HOLINESS AND AURIESVILLE

That was so apt and so like the Holy Father, when broadcasting to the Convention of the Archconfraternity of Christian Doctrine in Boston recently, to remind the bishops, clergy and laity in attendance that we

have been celebrating the Tercentenary of the martyrdom of missionaries who first taught the Christian Doctrine on our soil, and that at Auriesville, where Tekakwitha was born and where no doubt, though un-

baptized, she first, through her captive Christian mother, came to know and love the Prayer as our religion was known to her Indian people, pagan and Christian.

His Holiness has the extraordinary gift of keeping informed and interested in Catholic life all the world over, as we say beginning the Canon of the Mass, *totius orbis terrarum*. The Martyr Saints of three hundred years ago are for him, as for all of us, models as well as patrons in these days of trial and sacrifice.

### Strange Way Out

"I have a great favor that I should publish. Several years ago when I was in Auriesville I prayed for a young man who was in great trouble. He was given a quarter for a cup of coffee and he took a chance with it and won \$5,000. A few months later he married a good Catholic girl. I placed him in Kateri's care and she relieved him of his troubles."

—Boston.

### May It Be Complete

"My cousin's condition has shown a marked improvement since we made a novena to Kateri and applied the relic to the broken limb. The doctors now are hopeful that she will walk again as the x-ray shows that considerable calcium is forming around the broken bone. Her case was diagnosed as cancer of the bone and they feared the bones would not knit. We feel that it is through Kateri's help she is improving and I am enclosing a small offering in appreciation and to help further her Cause." —Pierre, S. D.

### By What Way Whatever

"Several years ago I received a favor through Tekakwitha, sent you an offering and then forgot about her. A few weeks ago I wanted to raise a little money and had some clothes which I thought maybe I could sell to raise it. I remembered that in some of the literature you had sent years ago it said she would help one to get money, so I promised if she'd let me sell them I'd have a Mass said

for the intention of helping to speed her canonization. It seemed odd to have your letter forwarded to me the next day from an address which I had left five years ago. I took it be an answer that she would help. I sold the clothes immediately and as I had more I grouped them and hung your letter on the hanger as before and promised another Mass for her Cause. They were sold immediately also; so I am enclosing this for you to say the two Masses for her speedy canonization."

—Snoqualmie, Wash.

### Told as if Casual!

"My mother died July 19. On one of the visits of our pastor, who is now in our parish, to my mother, he observed the picture of Kateri in her room and made the remark that he had had a number of favors granted through her intercession, one of which I thought was a great favor. He said he had just been sent to a parish when he learned of a young man in the parish whose stomach was covered with sores and the doctor had not been able to cure him. He asked the young man to make a novena to Kateri and Father also made it for him and the young man was cured.

"About four or five years ago I took a night course at College Misericordia. I had been out of school a number of years and while I have had my present position 29 years I have never given up reviewing my studies. The Sister of Mercy who taught me in one course at the college had been a classmate of mine when we graduated years ago. In her classroom was a clipping and picture of Kateri. I asked her if they could not afford a better picture. She then told me how much they revered that picture. One of the sisters had had a slight stroke and the side of her face was drawn out of shape and remained that way two weeks when the Community decided to petition Kateri Tekakwitha, and Sister was cured."

—Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

### **The Christmas Card**

The annual Christmas card is in evidence; some say it has been for over 1,000 years. That long ago it could not have been produced in such quantity as now; but, if the monks of that day employed their art and skill in illumination, the cards would have far excelled in beauty the best our shops offer these days. Some religious communities are furnishing Christmas cards, especially those who have their missions to support, and for one thing they are more than mere greetings: they illustrate the mystery of the day and they express the sentiment it should arouse in every human breast.

### **A Welcome Co-operation**

Not content with contributing generously for the Cabin to be erected in memory of Venerable Tekakwitha at her birthplace, some of her devotees have asked for letters of appeal to send to friends in their own name, and the result has been quite favorable. Copies of the appeal will be sent to any who may wish to follow this good example. A Christmas remembrance for the Cabin will be in order.

### **Boys' Town and Boys' Camp**

Camp Tekakwitha for boys, in the Adirondack region, extended its opportunities and added to its attractions during the past summer. To replenish its funds the choir from the famous Boys' Town came on to Albany to give it a benefit.

### **At Long Last**

"I have been praying for this intention ever since 1938 when I was a helpless cripple. I can walk well now, but still suffer much pain and am unable to work. I have been unemployed since 1936, consequently my purse is quite empty." —Medford, Mass.

### **Her Devoted Minister**

"Thank you very much for giving me the privilege of sending my small offering for the Cabin. Since I am still a patient in the sanatorium, it is not as much as I wish, but my prayers for Kateri's canonization go with it. I have been thinking of you in this happy year and offering my prayers in your behalf. I wish I could have greeted you in person and remembered you at the altar. Several most kind letters from priests of your society were sent to me, thanking me for my article on Tekakwitha. I want Anglicans to realize her great importance and the value of her prayers." —Tucson, Ariz.

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### **Converts Take to Kateri**

"I am writing to you to submit my offering for a thanksgiving Mass. I petitioned Kateri Tekakwitha in a novena for a special financial assistance which was granted to me through her intercession. I am a recent convert and the Kateri leaflets were given to me by my cousin who told me about the many financial and other assistances she had received through Kateri's intercession."

—Kalamazoo, Mich.

### **From Decree Declaring Her Venerable**

"In a special manner God appears wonderful in the Indian Virgin Catharine Tekakwitha, leading her by His grace amidst a people most corrupt and steeped in heathen errors; protecting her by His providence as by a strong shield. On her part grace was not idle, for with her co-operation it led her wondrously to acquire heroic virtues. In the life of this virgin this assuredly stands out vividly.

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"The reputation for holiness which Catharine had when living spread wonderfully after her death and keeps growing in our day, as appears by the very many letters from every group of the faithful, even from some of no faith, addressed to Pope Pius XI, of happy memory, petitioning that the honors of the blessed be conferred on this virgin, first among the forest peoples of North America."

"Many are the blessings and special favors I have received from her." —Jersey City.

"Enclosed find offering in thanksgiving to Kateri for two positions obtained." —Philadelphia.

"I asked the boss for my thirty-day leave of absence and he gave it to me in just one hour's time. I sure have Tekakwitha to thank for that." —St. Louis.

"Enclosed you will please find donation for the Cause of Catherine Tekakwitha in thanksgiving for a favor obtained through her intercession." —Willimansett, Mass.

"Enclosed please find offering which I promised if a favor was granted; you may use the money to further the Cause of the Lily of the Mohawks."—Bloomfield, Conn.

"I received an unexpected favor last week through her the day I sent you a donation just as an afterthought for the Cause. I thought nothing would happen from that small donation." —Leola, S. D.

"On two different occasions when I was in need her leaflets had been passed on to me. I prayed to her both times to help me. My prayers were answered." —Juneau, Alaska.

"I had a Mass said last week asking her for help and promising the enclosed if it were received. It is not the first time that she has

come to my aid when things seemed to be getting quite dark." —Boston

"Just another donation that I promised Kateri if she would help my feet to get better and also for my family; thanks to Kateri." —Cochran, Pa.

"I am enclosing herewith an offering as a contribution towards the Cause of Venerable Tekakwitha's canonization, and I wish to thank her for past favors, also ask for prayers for my health." —Laurium, Mich.

#### ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Spiritual .....	5	Safe Delivery .....	1
Financial Aid .....	6	Examination Success ..	2
Property Sale .....	1	Safety .....	3
Apartments .....	2	Relief in Distress .....	4
Not Specified .....	67		

#### PETITIONS

Cures .....	5	Temperance .....	4
Financial Aid .....	4	Employment .....	3
Apartments .....	2	Not Specified .....	16

#### Obituary

Most Rev. John B. Morris, Little Rock, Ark.  
 Rev. William J. Rafter, New York, N. Y.  
 Sister M. Aquin, San Antonio, Tex.  
 William McAleer, North Cambridge, Mass.  
 Miss Hannah M. Moriarty, Indianapolis, Ind.  
 Mr. John Wagner, Bethlehem, Pa.  
 Mrs. Mary E. Whitaker, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Miss Nellie E. McCarthy, Oswego, N. Y.  
 Mrs. Howard E. Willing, Irvington, Va.

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