

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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APRIL, 1947

A REMINISCENCE

Cardinal Sincero was the first of the Sacred College to present to the Congregation of Rites the Indian Maiden, Kateri Tekakwitha, as worthy of being declared a Saint. He was enthusiastic for her Cause. He died and was succeeded by Cardinal Cerretti, who was just as enthusiastic. After his death Cardinal Sarlotti assumed the duties of recommending the Cause and with him, as with his predecessors, it is a labor of love.

For many years bishops, clergy and laity had thought of the Cause as a desirable one. Indeed the Fathers assembled at the Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884 petitioned the Holy See for the Introduction of this Cause.

When finally, in 1925, the Postulator in Rome for Servants of God who had been

Jesuits was consulted, Rev. Jerome Fajella, he thought well of Tekakwitha's prospects for canonization, but he first consulted the Secretary of the Congregation of Rites on her merits. The Secretary, Monsignor Cerinci, at first considered that Kateri's penances had been excessive, but when he learned that her Indian people revelled in cruelty and that her penances were inspired by the desire, not only to atone for her sins, but also to atone for the torture which her tribesmen had inflicted on captives, such as Jogues, Goupil and Lalande, he changed his mind and one day said to the present writer: "She should be canonized, even, if it were permissible, canonized without miracles: her life was a miracle."

A FOND REMINISCENCE—MSGR. JOSEPH A. BRESLIN, R. I. P.

That was an encouraging expression from one in such a responsible position as Monsignor Cerinci, but, of course, it was not official: it was just an outspoken view of his admiration for Kateri. It meant merely that the Cause of Tekakwitha should be presented for consideration and that there was every likelihood of its being formally introduced and conducted successfully through the various scrutinizing processes required for having a Servant of God declared Blessed and Saint.

How to begin? That meant how to find a Postulator. The quest was not an easy one.

Few men, very few, are competent to assume the task, and those who are have, as a rule, more than enough to do. Fortunately there were in Rome men from the United States who could advise and among them notably the Vice Rector of the North-American College, Msgr. Joseph A. Breslin, who cheerfully agreed to act as Postulator.

It was fortunate. Here was an American to promote the Cause of a genuinely American Servant of God. She was little known in Rome at the time, but here was an American, welcome everywhere, eager to make her known, and well able to do so, with his en-

gaging smile and very intent manner. Faithfully he acted as Postulator for the Cause of Tekakwitha until he was recalled to the United States when the present Postulator, Rev. Charles Miccinelli, S.J., took his place; and never did the Monsignor lose interest. Now he has left us and no doubt part of his reward will be for what he has done for Venerable Tekakwitha.

A Pastor's Gratitude

"Enclosed is a check in honor of Kateri. It is in thanksgiving for favors received through her intercession."

A Convent's Gratitude

"Our entrances of last July and November brought us nineteen new postulants for our Novitiate—fourteen of these will receive the Holy Habit on the 18th of this month. In thanksgiving for this addition to our Novitiate, I am happy to send you a check as an offering towards the Cause of Venerable Tekakwitha."

—Seattle, Wash.

A Promise Kept

"Enclosed is a donation which I promised for the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha if my favor was granted. I started my novena Tuesday (after praying for almost two weeks) and on Tuesday night my prayers were answered, but continued my novena as a thanksgiving and prayer for her canonization."

—Baltimore.

Sport and Piety

"Enclosed please find check in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) from our athletic fund. I promised to make a donation to Catherine Tekakwitha if our basketball team had a successful season. My request has been granted. I am indeed very grateful to Catherine Tekakwitha for her many favors."

—Ambridge, Pa.

No Long Delay

"This money-order was made out a week ago, but just could not get to write to you. This is to help you with your great work for Venerable Tekakwitha. She has helped me a

lot and am still asking her help. I was hurt over a year ago and am not well yet, but made a settlement, for it was lasting too long."

—Pittsburgh.

"A few weeks ago I received a favor through the Indian Maiden, Tekakwitha. I have had a great deal of trouble with my head, ears and eyes. I promised to have a Holy Mass said in her honor for the Poor Souls and give a donation to the Cause for her Beatification if she heard my prayer. I did get some relief and so I am sending this offering. Will you kindly say a Holy Mass real soon for the above intention?"

—Oldenburg, Ind.

"At St. Patrick Academy there is held an annual card party for which the pupils must solicit ads and patrons. This year the seventh and eighth grades prayed to Catherine Tekakwitha to help us get in our set quota of ads. Catherine granted us this favor and we would like to have a few Masses said in her honor to help in the Cause of her canonization. Sister L. is our teacher."

—Chicago.

"My mother has been a firm believer in the workings of Kateri and I would like to inform you that she was praying for a home for me, my husband and three children. I did not pray for a home at this time as I knew we could never afford one at present prices. Still, my mother continued praying to Kateri and one week after she promised her offering we heard of the lovely home we now have, although it was terribly involved, trading our apartment with the people selling the house. The landlord agreed, the financial trouble straightened out wonderfully and within three weeks we were settled in a home bought for four thousand less than its market value."

—Cincinnati.

"A short time ago my husband's aunt gave me a novena prayer of Kateri Tekakwitha as she had obtained many favors through her intercession. We have been having financial

difficulties and so I started the novena and asked Kateri's help. Last week my husband and I went to see about paying our income tax. We were greatly worried as to the amount it might be and our inability to pay it. All the time my husband talked to the collector I kept begging Kateri's help and when we came out my husband was overjoyed to tell me we not only didn't have to pay any, but would receive a refund later. That was nothing short of miraculous. I am saying the novena prayers every day and know Kateri will continue to help us out of our present difficulties and I wanted to say 'thank you' to you for making these novena prayers possible. Since then my husband has received a small raise in pay and I'm sure it was due to good Kateri." —Rochester.

"I am exceedingly grateful and give thanks to our Lord for having granted me the arrangement of a business through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha. From this business depended the future and comfort of my family. All human ways were exhausted, but not the divine help. At this same time I was suffering from the downfall of a ladder which was very dangerous and I promised Kateri Tekakwitha with all my heart that if I didn't have any complications and got well soon, I would publish this wonder for the acknowledgment of those suffering, either physical or mental. Since I am already out of danger I promptly send this to be published, thanking Kateri Tekakwitha for her intercession with Our Lord to protect me from serious consequences and also to make public my deep conviction that anyone who invokes her will obtain comfort in sufferance and afflictions." —Guadalajara, Mexico.

"The little pamphlet, *The Lily of the Mo-bawks*, came today, and is most interesting. Today I have other news—little Myrtle is with us no longer; about a week ago she left us. She was a faithful little Christian. Two

nights before she left this earth she told me she was dying—she could no longer say the 'Hail, Mary' completely, but to my great edification while she held my hand she sang in a beautiful voice, 'Nearer My God to Thee' completely, and then said, 'Jesus is very good and nice.' I have attended many a soul departing this life, but Myrtle had an implicit confidence in God which exceeded that of any I have witnessed so far. I think she felt Kateri went back on her, she so wanted to live; but I know Kateri welcomed her into eternity where she is much happier now. For several days I could not separate my mind from Myrtle. I cannot do so yet. I trust she and little Kateri will help me be good to the Indians here, they are so woefully sick and poor and withal so proud and reticent. Could you sometime, Father Wynne, send some encouraging message to Mrs. A. She is so very ill and homesick for her children. I know you have been ill yourself. Perhaps you need a vacation. It is not well to tire one's self too often without periods of relaxation in between. The next time I write I will order some of the colored pictures of Kateri. The priest who attended Myrtle so frequently was so surprised to find one on Myrtle's table. I think he would like a supply and I shall arrange to get them. Please pray for me." —Ah-gwah-ching, Minn.

April 17

Tekakwitha died April 17. It was Wednesday. This year it is Thursday. The day of death of children of God is the day of their birth, because on that day they enter immortal life, the life that never ends. Let all who read this ask God to hasten the time when April 17 may be Tekakwitha's Feast as well as Birthday.

"Enclosed please find a donation for a favor received through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha."
—Baltimore.

"I am grateful to Tekakwitha for my husband's recovery."—Bayview Wood, Toronto.

"I never yet have asked a favor of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha without receiving my wish."
—Philadelphia.

"I enclose an offering for a Mass of thanks to Little Catherine for a favor granted."
—Marrero, La.

"I am enclosing a donation in thanksgiving to Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha for favor received."
—Syracuse, N. Y.

"The enclosed is in thanksgiving to Little Catherine for an advancement in my husband's work."
—Toledo, O.

"Enclosed is an offering. Please have Mass said in honor of Catherine—my husband's job is steady."
—Hillside, Md.

"We have finally sold our house and are moving back to Brooklyn. I made many a novena and prayed for guidance."
—Brooklyn.

"Many grateful and prayerful thanks to the Lily of the Mohawks for settlement on our home. I promised fifty dollars if we didn't have a court case."
—Chester, Pa.

"Enclosed please find an offering towards the building of the Cabin in honor of Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks. Bless her for favor granted."
—New Orleans.

"I am enclosing a check to Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. I promised her, if she helped us sell our ranch, my husband and I would send her a thirty-five-dollar check, she being so good in helping us sell."
—Red Bluff, Cal.

"You will find herein a check to help the Cause of Venerable Tekakwitha as a mark of gratitude for a favor obtained through her intercession."
—Worcester, Mass.

"We have received many favors through the intercession of little Catherine. Among them the return to good health after two serious operations and also financial aid."
—Sioux Falls, S. D.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	3	Safe Delivery	1
Financial Aid	8	Property Sale	3
Spiritual	4	Employment	2
Relief in Distress	2	Not Specified	20

PETITIONS

Cures	4	Property Sale	4
Financial Aid	7	Relief in Distress	2
Apartments	5	Not Specified	10

Obituary

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Breslin, White Plains, N. Y.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael A. Reilly, New York, N. Y.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. W. A. Keyes, West New York, N. J.
Rt. Rev. Joseph V. Tracy, Brighton, Mass.
Miss Myrtle Maskewitt, Ah-gwah-ching, Minn.
Mrs. William Murphy, Kansas City, Mo.

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REV. JOHN J. WYNNE, S.J., V. Postulator for Her Canonization
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