

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. XI, No. 9

JUNE, 1947

A REMARKABLE LETTER

BISHOP'S HOUSE
1014 NORTH MESA AVENUE
EL PASO, TEXAS

March 24, 1947.

Reverend and dear Father:

Permit me to take this occasion to tell you briefly what has been accomplished toward the liquidation of the Diocesan Debt.

In June, 1942, the consolidated diocesan debt amounted to \$806,000. On this April 1, 1947, the diocesan debt is reduced to \$306,000. In other words, in less than five years we have paid exactly *one-half million dollars* on the principal and also interest amounting to approximately \$100,000.

These figures speak for themselves and if they represent a worthwhile achievement it is to be credited first of all to prayer. We must publicly acknowledge our gratitude to Kateri Tekakwitha, the "Lily of the Mohawks," whose intercession has drawn down God's blessing upon a task which in the beginning appeared well nigh impossible. For it must have been through her that we found so much help from other sources than our own. Your co-operation and generosity were no small factor in attaining what has been accomplished so far and I am deeply grateful.

Naturally, I feel very happy over the outcome so far and so should we all rejoice and thank God for being so good to us. We should also pray for the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha. Last, but by no means least, we should pray for benefactors whom God has sent to us.

Since we have accomplished so much there is a natural tendency to relax our efforts, which, however, would only retard the work of the Diocese. On the contrary, since God has so blessed our efforts thus far, we must show our appreciation by continuing to co-operate generously and to sacrifice ourselves until the task is done.

I desire particularly to avail myself of this opportunity to wish you and your flock a very Happy Easter and may the blessings of the Risen Saviour be bestowed upon you.

With kindest regards and blessings to all, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ S. M. METZGER,
Bishop of El Paso.

THE POWER OF THE INDIAN MAID—TEKAKWITHA

Through this prayer, on March 6, 1943, the following cure took place. On that day I was called to the Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Hospital to visit a 79-year-old business man of my Bena Mission. He was there for a rest and a check-up; fearing his condition might be due to his stomach ulcers, which the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota, had been treating him for 29 years. I gave him Holy Communion, and then went home.

To my surprise, three days later his relatives informed me of his serious condition. His attending physician, Dr. Binet, stated his X-rays showed he was with a very bad cancer. I then rushed to the hospital and administered Extreme Unction. As an encouragement I recommended him to Blessed Tekakwitha, I blessed one of her medals, and asked him to wear it on his person and say the prayer every day. Coming out of the room, I gave the relatives medals and copies of the prayer and asked them to make a novena for his recovery. At their request, I offered a novena of Masses.

Two days later Dr. Binet discharged him as a serious cancer patient. After three weeks at home, he was taken to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. After a check-up and X-raying by ten doctors, he was found with absolutely no trace of cancer or ulcers. He was even asked, "Why did you come here?" They sent him home with a building-up diet. (Five meals a day, containing three kinds of vitamins.) From then till now he enjoys life as the rest of us.

(REV.) DENIS PARNELL, O.S.B.,

Ball Club, Minn.

Wonders Never Cease

"She had an ailment which was very difficult to remedy. One medical center had failed to relieve her. A hospital with a very efficient staff of medical men was advising her relatives that nothing could be done for her. Then she was intractable, adverse to her doctor, to the sisters, nurses, priest and religious assistance in any form, throwing away pious pictures, etc.

"Along comes a priest as patient and right away he was urged to see and persuade her to change her attitude towards medical treatment and religion. After 57 years in the priesthood he knew something about human nature; so he did not act at once, but next morning he asked his nurse to bring her some snapdragon flowers his friends had sent him, and that changed the day. She was so moved that she allowed his nurse to apply a relic of Venerable Tekakwitha he carries with him, and then came the physical relief she needed, a kindly disposition toward doctor, nurses,

sisters, chaplain from whom she received Holy Communion the next Sunday.

"'Miracle!' all said, and it looked very much like one. It was a wonder. In a few weeks she was walking about, visiting her priest flower-giver and leaving the hospital a new woman; the sisters, nurses and doctor believers in Venerable Tekakwitha, patients asking for pictures and medals, and the priest realizing why he had come to the hospital as a patient."

What Next?

"After a brief stay at home this priest had pneumonia and back he was hurried to the hospital in an ambulance that broke down. His physician made short work of the pneumonia. The patient's room was flanked by two that were occupied by Jews, who knew well where to go when ill for fine rooms, best of food, cheerful nurses: everything a patient needs. Soon all three patients were hobnobbing and exchanging visits. One would not leave the hospital without bidding

good-bye to the priest. The other was too far gone to leave until he was well prepared for another life. A believer in God, a man of faith and prayer, calling as the end came for the picture of Tekakwitha, asking for a blessing with her relic, receiving it from the V. Postulator for her Cause, who requests her many devotees to thank Mother Schervier's Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis, the doctors and nurses of St. Francis Hospital in the Bronx, N. Y., for all they have been doing for him so kindly and so well."

From Kateri's Resting Place

From Caughnawaga, Canada, where Venerable Tekakwitha's relics remain in the sacristy of the church, come the following stories:

A Maryknoll missionary tells that he happened to be there when His Excellency The Most Reverend Edmund F. Gibbons, Bishop of Albany, was there to view the relics with his tribunal of priests who were conducting her Cause in Albany. Meeting a little Mohawk girl, who was in the hospital with tuberculosis, he asked how she prayed. Her answer came readily: "I pray every day to be like Tekakwitha."

The pastor there wished to give the Bishop a real Mohawk Reception, and he needed Chief Peter's aid to conduct it. The Chief was disgruntled about something and he bluntly refused to take part. To every plea of the pastor his answer was sharply: "No." Thinking his presence was confirming the Chief in his obstinacy, the Maryknoll priest withdrew. To his great surprise in a few minutes the pastor and Chief came out of the cabin shaking hands and smiling, the Chief stating: "I do this not for the Bishop, not for the Church nor for you, but for Kateri Tekakwitha"; and he made that Reception memorable to all.

Passing through Honolulu on his way back from an Eastern mission, the Maryknoll man was pleased to see our picture of Tekakwitha in the room of the parish priest there, a Father Logan.

Again From Caughnawaga

"Father, please pray that my examiners may know how to ask their questions."

And Again

"Father, I was bum on Algebra, so I did not hand in a paper on it, but somehow I got a very good mark."

"Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha has granted me very special favors. One of my aunts had to undergo a serious operation; and the doctors were worried as she was in a critical condition. I prayed to Tekakwitha, my aunt underwent the operation and was so well in such a short time that the doctors were astounded."

—Church Point, La.

"I had been praying for a particular favor for about three years. Finally, I heard of the 'Lily of the Mohawks' and started a novena to her. Before the novena was finished, my prayer was answered in a wonderful way. Feel that Kateri, through her prayers in my behalf, obtained this favor."

—Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

"We wanted to ask for unusual help for our school in this Indian territory and we thought that Katherine Tekakwitha would be interested in helping a school for young girls, who would at the same time be helping Katherine's Cause. We received an unsolicited check for \$100.00 a few days after we put up her picture, so we are encouraged to plead for our considerable extension."

—Tucson, Ariz.

"I am happy to tell of a novena I made to her during the depression in '29. I was living in 'The Sticks' in California, and the proceeds of the play at the close of school was our sustenance for the vacation. I asked my Superior if she would have a Mass said in Kateri's honor if we received \$500. To our great happiness, the proceeds were exactly \$501."

—Council Bluffs, Ia.

"I send this as I promised to Kateri Tekakwitha for a favor she did me."

—San Diego, Cal.

"This is just a small donation in thanks for favors I have asked Catherine Tekakwitha in the past few months."

—Bridgeport, Pa.

"Enclosed please find an offering towards your fund for Kateri's Cabin. She again has assisted me on her feast, April 17, in obtaining work for my brother."—Brooklyn, N. Y.

"I promised Catherine Tekakwitha I would have a Mass celebrated in her honor if my husband was given a raise in salary. The enclosed offering is for the Mass in thanksgiving."

—New York.

"Thanks to Venerable Catherine my mother sold her house at a good price without too much trouble. I am enclosing a donation as I promised."

—Buffalo.

"Enclosed please find an offering as thanksgiving to Catherine Tekakwitha for obtaining my health after my recent illness. I feel it was a miracle from her that spared my life. Myself and family will pray fervently for her canonization."

—Denver, Col.

"I am truly happy to report that I had an interest in a piece of property and prayed to her to help me sell it—as it looked as if it were impossible to do so. Believe it or not, three days later the property was sold."

—San Francisco, Cal.

"It is in thanksgiving as I promised a donation for each new member of our community. She seems to be 'holding out' on us though—as we are receiving fewer subjects since appealing to her intercession, than we did the year prior in which we had seven of the best."

—Wheeling, Ill.

"One of the requests asked Catherine was answered within nine days, and four more requests were answered within forty. She is wonderful and has never failed."

—New Orleans.

"I am writing to you in regards to a new devotee. A woman was quite ill with diabetes and had hemorrhages, and since I told her about Tekakwitha she has had great faith in her, has recovered a lot, the hemorrhages have ceased, and she has promised Tekakwitha if she gets her health back she is going to send her a nice offering. This woman has a store, and since she has prayed to Tekakwitha her business is picking up for the best. She also has promised her that if she makes good she won't forget."

—Houston, Tex.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

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