

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. XII, No. 8

MAY, 1948

A VENERABLE TEKAKWITHAN

A venerable priest died in Albany on April 2, in the sixty-second year of his priesthood. Right Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Looney, pastor of St. Joseph's.

From the earliest days of his priesthood he was devoted to Tekakwitha and the Jesuit Martyrs of Auriesville, near where he was an assistant to the pastor of St. Mary's, Amsterdam. He was fond of the pilgrimages to their shrine, and it is a pleasure to recall how he sent a child of four years who had never walked to be carried in the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The young mother and father were overcome by their singular position, but they had faith, and next morning the good priest met the child walking without crutches near the church. The crutches are now at Auriesville.

A pastor forty-three years, he became an influence in the church and in the city. He was particularly interested in his school. When fire destroyed it, he made sure that at any sacrifice the schoolrooms were open for his little ones in September.

He was a member of the tribunal appointed by His Excellency the Most Reverend Edmund F. Gibbons to recommend the Introduction of the Cause for the canonization of Venerable Tekakwitha.

THE TEKAKWITHA STATUE

It has taken a long time to fashion a statue of Tekakwitha as near as possible worthy of her, but it was worth while waiting for the one we owe to the sculptress, Miss Adrienne Bouvier, of Brookline, Mass.

An ardent devotee of Tekakwitha, Miss Bouvier, has made an image of the Venerable Tekakwitha which will excite admiration and devotion.

Following the design of the picture of Mother Nealis of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she has infused into her material a pose and expression all her own. "She's come back," exclaimed a young, very young high school student; "I can't get over it." The gaze, as if into eternity is quite characteristic of Tekakwitha in her longing for knowledge of the Manitou of the Christians.

When Kateri will be beatified and statues of her will be allowed in our churches, it will be novel to see the image of a Servant of God so altogether different from those to which we are now accustomed, a figure about three feet high, standing in moccasins and leggings, with gracefully folded shawl, fringed blouse and beaded skirt; but the onlooker's eyes will go from the apparel to the heavenly expression of the face and repeat: "She's come back"—Kateri as we would expect her to look.

ANYTHING MORE TOUCHING?

"My husband is so good to me, Father, he says he doesn't care 'how long it takes as long as I find you here, darling, when I come home from work.' He is so happy that I can go to Mass on Sunday with him, even though I have to lean on his arm. Say a prayer for me, won't you, Father dear, that God will lift all this soon. Oh, there are days when I would have a good Irish cry, but, oh, our Faith and prayer, just what would we do without it!"

—From a Tekakwithan, Roslindale, Mass.

LIFE WITH AND THROUGH KATERI

"I have formed a new group from the Basin of the City, for the 'young fry,' as they call themselves. It's gratifying to watch them change from the careless, rowdy, over-all-clad girl, to the clean, ladylike, feminine in apparel girl. From the topic of the public high schools' advantage because of 'boys'—to the Catholic high schools with its spiritual advantages and the opportunities of meeting the Catholic boy under proper guidance.

"The Tekakwitha Girls (Senior Group) are diligently rehearsing the 'Seven Last Words' for Holy Week. I wish you could hear them sing. Their director, for whom I asked your prayers last December, has been a daily Communicant, plays the church organ whenever an opening presents itself—getting up as early as four a. m. to get to Covington, Ky., to play for the Forty Hours' Devotion at St. Elizabeth Hospital. He prays daily to Mathew Talbot, the prayer you sent, and he has not failed him. He does not touch a drop. Thanks for your prayers. Dr., too, has improved, but still has domestic trouble. Please pray for him.

"The Tekakwitha Grandmothers are out-doing themselves, rehearsing a minstrel. All the Grandmothers will be dressed colorfully like Aunt Jemima, blackface and all; the Tekakwitha Mothers are the end-men and interlocutors. The Grandmothers also play the Rhythm Band and have so much fun rehears-

ing. It is taking away years. One Grandmother, 75 years old, believed her time had come to die, because two of her friends had died and now she, too, was suffering with a heavy cold. I assured her there was not time for thoughts like that as she was cast for a solo number in the minstrel. 'Mighty Like a Rose'—she still has a beautiful, rich contralto voice. She toured the country with the 'first all-girl choir' when she was in her prime, having won five scholarships. It worked like magic—she's better and never misses a rehearsal. The rehearsal acts as a tonic. They really laugh when they sing about 'That Little Brown Jug.' I wish you weren't so far away so that you could run in and hear them—but still—I feel you are very close with your prayers." —Cincinnati.

THE TITHE — 10% — AN OLD CHURCH CUSTOM

"Am enclosing a check for \$28.00 to further the Cause of Tekakwitha, in thanksgiving for a very nice favor we received. She has been so generous to us and we have received countless blessings since we have had devotion to her and placed her picture in our living-room. A few months ago an oil company took an option on part of a farm (the same farm Kateri saved for us when we were about to lose it) and several others in same vicinity. However, they only closed the deal on our acreage. We have made it a practice to give ten per cent. of any financial favor to make her better known and in thanksgiving. This time we had received an appeal from the Jesuit Fathers here for the building fund so we sent the largest check to them. We had a double debt of gratitude there because of the wonderful training our boys received there in school. We also sent a check to the Jesuit Indian Mission in South Dakota. We hope we distributed the money in a way which would be pleasing to Kateri for how good she has been to us. We also want to thank Kateri for getting us a new car at a

most needed time. It was delivered on Saturday, too, the day she nearly always favors us. Thank you very much, Father, for the work you have done in her behalf. We are reading with interest the article about her shrine and hope we will be able to make a pilgrimage there before too long. We hope your health will continue to improve."

—Kansas City, Mo.

AND ONLY ONE A CATHOLIC

"I was far away from home in Pennsylvania near an army camp where my husband was stationed. A nun at St. Michael's in Greenville told me of Venerable Katherine. I am the oldest of nine children and I am a convert, the only Catholic in my family. My mother and father have had a very hard time. They have always been very poor, far poorer than most people could imagine. They have worked very hard all their lives. They have never had any modern conveniences like electric lights, running water, bathroom or a washing machine, and they still do not have any one of these. They have always rented and moved and moved. They worked at such hard work that they seem older than some folks of their age. So when they began to grow old they needed a permanent place to live and were worn-out from moving from pillar to post. They are humble, thankful, honest and good. They have always been like this. I have a great-uncle, who is 85 years old. His wife died a few years ago from pneumonia. He needed someone to move in and care for him, so in his troubled mind he asked a distant relative and his family to move into his home. It was a big mistake as the man and family destroyed and stole much that he had. They treated him very badly, so he came and asked my mother and father to move in and care for him. Well, he couldn't get rid of these undesirable people. I started praying to Venerable Katherine. In a few months they were out and my mom and dad were in his

home. He told mom that he was going to will part of the farm and land to them. In a year he gave one-half of the farm to them. In another year he willed to them at his death the farm-house and all the rest of the farm to mom, dad and their heirs. The farm is large and is worth right much. They will never have to move again as long they live. Uncle William is so very happy with the arrangement as my brother and sisters and all are kind, considerate and good to him. Mom was always his favorite niece and he thinks as much of my dad. They are happy and thankful. Many times when I was far from home and needed funds while my husband was in the war I prayed to Venerable Katherine and received money. I was operated on for cancer and my operation was a major one. My husband was in the army and I had no place to go. I prayed to Venerable Katherine many times and received money and help in time. Many times I needed my fifty-dollar government check in time to meet bills. I prayed that it would arrive through the mail in time and it always did. I can't tell you how many more times that she has seen that my prayers were answered. Now my husband and I are buying a home and have lived in it for a year and a half. I think Venerable Katherine helped us get this home also. I pray each night that she will be canonized."

—Portsmouth, Va.

"Am sending this for you to use to help in her Cause. Sold by piano, asking fifty dollars for it; dealt with an honest man, he gave me seventy dollars, saying it was worth that. He made himself a few dollars also from the deal. He could have kept it all and gave me only what I asked for it. I felt I should share some of it with Tekakwitha. Am sending a dollar for the same Cause given to me by a non-Catholic friend to use as I saw fit, so I am sending it to Tekakwitha."

—Milwaukee.

"Enclosed is in thanksgiving for requests granted through her intercession."

—Laredo, Tex.

"Enclosed \$5.00, in honor of Catherine, I promised her if my husband got a job. He got it."

—Hillside, Md.

"This money order is for Tekakwitha's Cause. My husband made this promise to her if our prayers were answered, so again we are grateful for her help."

—Bellevue, Ky.

"Enclosed please find postal note for a favor I received through Catherine. I say a little prayer every day for her beatification, and I know she has been a great help to me."

—Roxbury, Mass.

"When I sent offering in thanksgiving, forgot to say that we were afraid of infection in lower jaw. Before X-ray I promised to make offering in thanksgiving if there was none. Well, the X-ray showed none."

—New Haven.

"Enclosed is a small offering for the Cause of Tekakwitha, for again she has answered my petition for a next-to-impossible request. It is simply incredible how she watches over our family, and I would be indeed happy if somehow I could better chances of canonization."

—Harrison, N. Y.

"Enclosed is in thanksgiving that my only sister is living. She went through an operation for adhesions and obstruction, and com-

plications set in. She was anointed and given oxygen; we all prayed and I'm sure Kateri helped her. She is going back to work."

—Green Bay, Wis.

"We had lots of worry with Denise so ill with diphtheria. We all feel that Tekakwitha saved her. She wore the relic all the time. The temperature so very high, and her throat so bad, the doctor was frightened. His wife said he couldn't sleep, he was so worried about her. He gave her 80,000 units of anti-toxin. Her recovery was remarkable. It usually takes three weeks to get a negative culture. Muriel had to get back to her job and Tekakwitha knew it and helped her. Denise said the first place she wanted to go was to church and Holy Communion."

—Great Falls, Mont.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	3	Relief in Distress	2
Financial Aid	4	Not Specified	30

PETITIONS

Cures	5	Employment	5
Financial Aid	6	Not Specified	25

Obituary

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Looney, Albany, N. Y.
Mr. John Rooney, New York, N. Y.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. F. J. Halloran, Wakefield, Mass.
Mr. Peter A. Schmitz, Hillpoint, Wis.
Sister Annunciata, Chicago, Ill.

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