

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. XII, No. 9

JUNE, 1948

TEKAKWITHA IN A NEWSPAPER, 1835

How persistent and how widespread has been the tradition of the holiness of Tekakwitha appears from a St. Louis newspaper, *Shepherd of the Valley*, January 10, 1835, kindly sent by the Librarian of St. Louis University.

"Some details respecting a young Iroquois Savage
"who was called the Saint Genevieve.

"NEW FRANCE

"All the French who inhabit the colonies of Canada with the Savages, says the missionary Cholonec, hold in particular veneration this young girl who was called Tegah Kouita; they come from a great distance to pray at her tomb. She was born in 1658 in a small town of the lower Iroquois, her father was an Iroquois and a heathen, her mother Aldonguina was a Christian; she had been baptised in the town of three rivers where she was brought up by the French; at the time they were waging war against the Iroquois, she was taken prisoner by these savages and carried to their country where she preserved her faith to the last moment of her life. Two children were the fruits of her marriage; a boy and the little girl the subject of this memoir: but the grief of dying was considerably increased in her not having it in her power to obtain for them the grace of baptism. Tegah Kouita thus becoming an orphan at four years of age was adopted by her aunts and her uncle who was head man of the village.

"The small pox of which her mother and brother died, and with which she was seized at the same time, had greatly weakened her sight; this misfortune preventing her from exposing herself to the sun's rays, she remained in her hut whole days; she gradually became fond of retirement, and finally she preferred that mode of life to which in the first instance she was compelled to submit from necessity. This longing after a life of privacy so contrary to the disposition of the Iroquois youth was a circumstance which chiefly tended to preserve her in a state of innocence, even in the very hotbed of corruption.

"When she was somewhat advanced in years, she endeavored to render her aunts all the attention of which she was capable; she beat corn, brought water and wood, and passed the remainder of her time in doing other small services in which she exhibited a peculiar address. Mr. de Tracy having received orders to chastise the Iroquois nation which had carried desolation among our colonies, burned three villages of the lower Iroquois; this expedition spread so great a terror among these savages that they sued for peace, which was granted them to

the mutual advantage of both nations. They availed themselves of this opportunity to send missionaries to the Iroquois who had previously received from Father Joque some slight knowledge of the gospel, Fathers Fremin, Bruyas and Perron, who were acquainted with the language of the country, were selected to accompany their deputies on their return, to ratify on the part of France the peace which had just been concluded; they took with them presents to smooth their reception in these barbarous countries; they arrived there at a time when the savages were in the habit of indulging themselves in all kinds of debauchery, so that there was no one in a fit state to receive them. This unlooked for disappointment, procured for Tegah Kouita the acquaintance of those whom God intended to conduct her to a high state of perfection: ordered to lodge the missionaries and tend to all their wants, she fulfilled this duty with a modesty and affability that delighted them, at the same time she was struck with the mildness of their manners and the pious exercises in which they spent the day.

"She, about this time, attained the age of Puberty, and her relations were much interested in finding for her a husband, because according to the custom of the county, the game which the husband killed in the chase, belonged to his wife and the members of her family; but when they made the proposition that she should establish herself, she evaded the affair by alledging her extreme youth and the disinclination which she had for the marriage state; her relations appeared to be convinced by her reasons, but a short time afterwards they concluded the affair, without advising with her, with a young man, who entered her cabin one evening and took a seat near her, for this constituted the sole ceremony of marriage among the Iroquois; completely disconcerted, and blushing at seeing him so near her, she rose up in great haste and went out of the cabin, and would not re-enter it, until the young man had taken his departure. This firmness irritated her relations, who devised new stratagems which only served more fully to display the firmness of their niece; they then had recourse to violence, they showered upon her all kind of evil treatment to effect a change in her resolution; she suffered their abuse with the most unconquerable patience, and she performed with a readiness far above her strength all the services which they exacted of her; her relations finally relented, and they did not make any further attempts to alter her determination. . . ."

ABLE TO WALK AGAIN

"We are sending you a contribution (\$100.00) to help erect the Tekakwitha Shrine at Auriesville. I believe due to the prayers of my friends through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha I am able to walk again."

—New York.

SURPRISING

"I had the pleasure to say the novena to the Lily of the Mohawks, Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, with surprising results, and I mean surprising, for which I am sending a small contribution for the Cause of her canonization. I sure hope to have the opportunity to turn to her prayer whenever possible for thanks and grace." —Union Mills, Ind.

A REGULAR HELPER

"My little girl, who will be seven years old Monday, March 29, was named for her, as she helped me in my troubles before Mary Catherine was born. It seems she is always beside me ready to help me. Mary Catherine's teeth were very crooked, so I asked Catherine Tekakwitha's help and about a month later a neighbor said, 'Mary Catherine has very nice teeth and they used to be so very uneven and crooked.'" —St. Louis.

A DIAGNOSIS CORRECTED

"Will you kindly accept this small offering which I've promised to help promote the canonization of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha if my sister-in-law, who was rushed to the

hospital for an emergency operation, came through all right. It was an appendectomy which was starting to form an abscess and she was very ill or rather I should say extremely ill. Thank God, the doctors discovered her ailment as they had been treating her for something else." —Hazleton, Pa.

MORE THAN ONE FAVOR

"I am enclosing a money order in thanksgiving for the many favors my husband and I have received through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha. My husband has been reaccepted into night college and we have found an apartment. My husband has also been relieved of headaches which our doctor said could only be cured by a series of injections. We are very grateful to her for her many favors and pray that you will have speedy success in your great work."

—Brooklyn.

STRANGE PLACE FOR NOVENAS

"Several years ago when on a bus I found a novena to 'Lily of the Mohawks.' I read it; liked it very much. I put it in my purse and at the time someone very near me was in great trouble. I read the little novena, kept it faithfully and my request was granted. I had promised publication and so I put my thanks in the paper. Now once more a request has been granted. I am not of the Catholic Faith and giving money to the paper to publish thanks seems a waste. Your name appears on my novena so I decided to send the money to you."—New Orleans, La.

TWO MARVELOUS ANSWERS

"I had two great marvelous answers to prayer to Catherine. One for my sister who was very sick. The doctor said she was too far gone. I told him my sister would get well in spite of what he told me. I told him I had great faith in prayers. I prayed for two years to Catherine for her. My sister is home and completely cured. Thanks to Catherine also, another prayer was answered

through her for a man who worked in my son's place. Had tumor on brain operation, was blind, paralyzed and in a coma. When my son told me about him I said: 'I am going to pray to Catherine for him,' and in three or four months he was back to work completely cured. Thanks to Catherine the great wonder worker." —Forest Hills, N. Y.

TO ONE NINETY-ONE YEARS OLD

"Dad, ninety-one years of age, had a stroke on the 12th of last February. He suffered a concussion of the brain, lost control of his arms, lost his sight and was in a coma for several days. We prayed to Venerable Tekakwitha that his sight be restored. We applied Tekakwitha's picture. While reciting the second Rosary at Dad's bedside, he opened his eyes, looked at us and by his remark we knew our prayers were being answered. The second night the same thing occurred. It was a miracle to us and to those who knew Dad's case. Although he is still very ill, his sight is improving, thanks to our dear Lord and to Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha whom we believe is answering our prayers. May she soon be listed among God's Saints."

—Asbury Park, N. J.

AFTER NINE YEARS

"I am happy to send an offering to help meet the expense for erecting the Tekakwitha Cabin, as a slight token of my deep and abiding gratitude for all that she has done for me. I am gradually regaining my health after an illness of nine years, and am most confident that I owe every degree of improvement to the intercession of this saintly Indian maid. Her relic, which Father G. through your most kind permission, has permitted me to wear, has been a source of the greatest comfort and encouragement. At the present time we are also asking Kateri to cure my little niece, aged seven, a victim of polio several years, and I am sure that she will do much for her." —New York.

"Happy to report again that my girl friend Cathy has helped me, and some of my friends to whom I have given a pamphlet."

—Pittsburgh.

"I am enclosing an offering in honor of Venerable Kateri in thanksgiving, as I feel that it is through her intercession that I have had such good eyesight."

—Gary, Ind.

"This is a small donation promised for a safe delivery for myself and baby. We have a little girl, my fifth daughter, and we are going to call her Catherine."—Hollis, N. Y.

"I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving for a favor received through the intercession of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. A small business venture has been a real success. I hope to send you an offering often."

—Nashville, Tenn.

"I am enclosing a small donation which I feel is very insignificant, compared to the wonderful favors she has done for me and my family in helping us out of a very difficult financial condition. I hope later to send other donations for the Cause so dear to you."

—St. Louis.

"Enclosed please find money order in thanksgiving for another favor received through Venerable Tekakwitha regarding my health. You may use this money for the Cabin Fund. Will you kindly pray for a very special intention of mine."

—Norwich, Conn.

"Mr. R. has a store. He had to pay a big quantity of money in March. He thought he would not have success in the store and asked for the help of Kateri. Before the 27th of last March he was able to pay the money and for this he sends a donation to Kateri."

—Lagos de Moreno, Jal., Mexico.

"A friend gave me a novena prayer, so right away I began a novena to Catherine for my brother who drank and had no job. The day my novena ended my brother quit drinking and found a job. Many thanks to her for her help; I will spread her devotion. Enclosed find offering for a Mass."

—Church Point, La.

"My daughter had given birth to a fine baby boy—mother and baby in danger. Doctors worked on baby for half hour—it was pronounced safe. All this time I was praying to Catherine and prayed devoutly to her. Doctors came and said baby would live and mother was out of danger."

—Church Point, La.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	4	Relief in Distress	2
Financial Aid	3	Not Specified	41

PETITIONS

Cures	8	Employment	5
Financial Aid	5	Not Specified	20

Obituary

Most Rev. John J. Lawler, Rapid City, S. D.
Miss Loretta A. Kelly, East Liverpool, O.

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