

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. XIII, No. 2

NOVEMBER, 1948

STARTLING, BUT BELIEVABLE

The following letter was written by an Oblate of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.) in Poland to an Oblate in charge of Oblate affairs in Rome, who transmitted it to the Postulator there for the canonization of Venerable Tekakwitha, who in turn sent it to us. The letter was in French and this is its translation:

MISSJONARZE OBLAEI MARYJI NIEPOKALANE

Poznan (Poland), June 24, 1948.

My Very Dear Reverend Father:

In my recent letter I omitted something rather important. No doubt you know—for how could you not know? Katherine Tekakwitha.

Could you give me some information, send me a Life, some pictures of this saintly Iroquois Maiden? This is why I ask of you this favor.

Some days ago one of our authors, whose writings I knew a long time before the war, came to see me and requested information about Tekakwitha; and he narrated what follows:

"I had never heard the name nor the story of Tekakwitha. Now, one evening in January or February, 1941, I, my wife, brother-in-law, and an elderly man of 75 years, were sitting on our bundles, awaiting the Gestapo which was coming to exile us. We were all dressed, as the emissaries of Hitler could come to seize us at any moment. I was the only one to fall asleep, and I slept 'jak sabity' (as if dead) until seven o'clock the next morning. The Angel of sleep transported my soul to Canada, to the environment of Caughnawaga, Montreal, on the banks of the Saint Lawrence River and Gulf. A grand drama unfolded itself before my astonished eyes: the life and customs of the Iroquois and Algonquins, and the introduction among them of the Christian faith mostly for the rest of the time. It was during this drama (that I saw in my dream) that I heard for the first time in my life this name, some (the actors) calling it Tekakwitha, the others 'Takadia.'

"Finally, in a voice very sweet and agreeable, she spoke in terms somewhat like these (Polish): 'I am Tekakwitha, called also Takadia. God has granted me heavenly beatitude;

at the foot of His Throne. I intercede for my fellow Indians and also for those who need the grace of God. Make me known in your country, Poland; that I dwell at the foot of the Throne of God, and that with your Patrons I intercede for you. Keep me in your memory and Our Savior Jesus and His Immaculate Mother in your hearts. God will console and relieve your country, but do not forsake Him, so that you may escape ruin. . . ."

He awoke very much consoled and assured of divine protection. In point of fact the family was not exiled. He wanted to know who could say truly that there was a holy Tekakwitha. No one could inform him. Some one advised him to write to the Bollandist Fathers in Brussels; but to write to Brussels in 1941! Impossible! Then he commenced to invoke his new patron, asking her to prompt him what to do to obtain information about her. Almost immediately, as if someone whispered in his ear: "Write to the House of Saint Boniface at Paderborn and to the Pustet Company at Ratisbonne." He sent two letters at once to these houses and within eight days he got notes, brief but precise, to the fact that in the seventeenth century this holy maiden had lived in Canada.

In January, 1942, he began the task of composing a drama entitled, "Tekakwitha, Flower of the Indians in Canada," in rhymed verse (after Boileau and others) under the title, "Tekakwitha, Flower of the Indians in Canada," a manuscript of 115 pages, copy-book form. He sent it to me most cordially, all that he had seen in his famous dream. It was finished in February, 1948. I have read it all. It is not a masterpiece, but it is beautiful.

Now, my dear Father, what can you do for us? I know a little about Tekakwitha. I know that our Father Nicolas Burtin wrote her Life (published in Quebec in 1894). I had it at Winnipeg, and I have read in the *Theological and Church Dictionary* (Herder, 1937) that a J. Lavergne has written a gracious *Life of Tekakwitha* (Montreal, 1934). I have heard it said that she was beatified by Pius XII during or after the war. If this be true it will be easy for you to send me her Life (the brochure which is distributed freely on the occasion of a beatification), two copies if possible and a package (100) of her pictures for which I shall be very grateful. The Life may be in French, English, German or even in Italian, which I read with some difficulty.

This is something grand; but I wish you would do for us whatever you can to satisfy our dreamer and me also, for I wish to compare the dream with the real story.

Thanking you in advance for this favor which you will do for us, I take pleasure in saying, my dear Father James,

Wholly yours in N. S. and M. I.

(Signed) FR. B. KOWALSKI, O.M.I.

To: REV. FATHER J. R. BRACKELAIRE, O.M.I.,
Director of l'A.R.O.M.I. (Agence Romaine O.M.I. "Roman News Service"),
Via Vittorino da Feltre 5,
(Italia) ROMA 102.

MAY THE CHILD IMITATE HER NAMESAKE!

"I promised to send this amount about a year ago when I began to pray to Venerable Kateri that I might have a child. If it were a girl, I also promised to name her Kathryn in honor of Kateri. I am happy to announce at this time that I gave birth to a baby daughter, July 30, who has been baptized Kathryn."

—Carteret, N. J.

SHE TAKES CARE OF MANY

"My request for Kateri's help being so constant, it is nice that something should be asked for her, and I am happy to enclose a donation in response to your appeal of August 26. I shall try to repeat this amount before too long. It was nice to learn from the little message that you are recovering from your eye operation. I am sure Kateri takes care of you."

—East Liverpool, O.

QUICK WORK

"The enclosed offering is in answer to your recent letter. One-half of it I promised to send for the Cause of Tekakwitha if a needed part for our car could be obtained without the three weeks' wait that the service man threatened. Thanks to Tekakwitha's prompt intercession, a telephone call to a second supply house had the car in running order in four hours."

—Almont, Pa.

A FAVOR INDEED

"I am sending this in thanksgiving for a favor received from a friend of mine through the intercession of little Catherine and she says that more is coming for the canonization to sainthood for Kateri. This lady's daughter was told by her doctor that a sore she had was thought to be cancerous and needed an operation, but after one month's praying to little Catherine by them and me, she went back to the doctor and she did not have to be operated on, and it was not cancer."

—San Antonio.

THE FIVE OR MORE KATERI CLUBS

"You will be glad to know that T. I. has a steady organ position in St. Dominic's Church. He is also teaching voice, and this summer sang at the opera. Wednesday, September 8, is the opening date for the Grandmothers, and in the evening the Mothers' Club will hold its first meeting for the season. The Tekakwitha Junior Girls kept activities moving all summer with picnics, swimming parties and hikes, and what we had hoped for most—they have enrolled in our Catholic high school. The Tekakwitha Senior Group kept up with their music all summer, having a few engagements, etc. I have many plans for the coming season, but don't know just how to finance it. Raising the money alone with everything indefinite, is a big responsibility and a great worry. Will you please ask Kateri to direct me to the people I need? Also for new ideas to make our programs successful? Thank you!"

—Cincinnati.

MORE THINGS ARE WROUGHT BY PRAYER,
ETC.

"We moved here July 1 and are finally settled. Nothing but prayers is how we were fortunate enough to get this apartment. I recall writing you to offer some prayers as well as others; even my husband, who is not a Catholic, admitted it was our prayers that were answered and there is no doubt about it, and when people say how lucky we were, and how did you do it, I tell them it was *the* prayers. Of course you have to help yourself, too, but God guides us and brings it around in His own way. I haven't forgotten that piece of beadwork I promised you that the Sioux Indians made, but it has to have some sewing done to it, and I will get at it one of these days and send it to you. Have been anxious to know what progress has been made, and was pleased to receive your letter which you sent to Seattle and was forwarded to me here."

—St. Paul.

"Enclosing an offering in thanksgiving to Kateri for my continued good sight. I feel that it is due to her intercession that I have been so fortunate." —Gary, Ind.

"We asked the help of the Venerable Catherine Tekakwitha in a trying and painful matter and she answered and helped so quickly. The enclosed is for her Cause."

—Hunts Point, N. Y. City.

"Last winter several important letters and a sketch were lost for several months. I asked the Venerable Kateri to find them for me, and I am happy to report that she did."

—New York.

"Enclosing an offering in honor of Venerable Kateri in thanksgiving, as I feel that it is through her intercession that my friend has finally obtained the position he was seeking."

—Boston.

"Had been in ill-health for several weeks and after placing picture of Kateri with relic on my brow and begging her help was immediately relieved of the illness."

—Roanoke, Va.

"Enclosed please find a small pledge for the Tekakwitha League, as I have received an answer to a novena I made to the Venerable Catherine Tekakwitha. All I can say is that I am very grateful."

—Saugerties, N. Y.

"Enclosed is thanksgiving offering in honor of the Lily of the Mohawks. She helped me very much in a recent sale."

—Denver.

"I am donating the enclosed to help a little toward promoting the Cause of Catherine Tekakwitha, in thanksgiving for her help in settling a small claim over which I anticipated difficulty."

—Cincinnati.

"Enclosed is a small offering for the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha in thanksgiving for a favor received. My little daughter, who was troubled with spells of convulsions quite frequently has not had a spell since a year ago last July."

—Buffalo.

"I began praying for my baby to start walking three months ago, and as soon as I began praying to Tekakwitha I could see an improvement. He has been walking for a couple of weeks. I'm sending this check in thanks, and to help her Cause."

—Bowie, Tex.

"I have financial answers to my prayers and my husband found a job through Kateri Tekakwitha's intercession."

—Wapato, Wash.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	5	Examination Success ..	2
Financial Aid	3	Relief in Distress	2
Employment	5	Not Specified	37

PETITIONS

Cures	8	Apartments	5
Financial Aid	5	Not Specified	15

Obituary

Mrs. Bertha Van Der Hoeven, Richardson, N. D.
Mr. Edward J. Guilfoil, Rensselaer, N. Y.

TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

LEAFLETS

- I—Medallion, prayer, sketch, favors.
- II—Novena, with daily reflexion.
5c. for 2; 25c. a dozen

LIFE

By Wynne, 32 pages, illustrated, 12c.

MEDAL

Image and title "Lily of the Mohawks,"
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PICTURES

- Small—with sketch and prayer 5c.
- " lithograph, color, sketch and prayer 10c.
- " lithograph, color, silk applied to relics . 20c.
- Large—lithograph in color, 12½ x 8½ inches,
mounted so as to need no frame; for
class or private room 60c.

Prices include postage

Reduction on quantity

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

317 EAST FORDHAM ROAD, NEW YORK 58, N. Y.