

THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

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## THE MARVELOUS MAID OF AURIESVILLE\*

By RICARDO FERNANDEZ, S.J.

(Continued)

### Bride of Christ

With genuine concern for her young friend's material future, Anastasie again raised the old bugaboo of marriage. But Katharine had no intention of surrendering to mere argument the pearl she had guarded so jealously in the face of violence. As always, seeking the more perfect thing she consulted Father Cholenec for permission to make a vow of virginity once and for all. She wanted to give herself completely to Christ, her heavenly Spouse.

There is a lovable simplicity in the sequel. Father Cholenec advised three days of deliberation. Katharine obediently agreed and went away. Within fifteen minutes she was back to tell the priest that there was nothing to deliberate about. Her decision had been made for years and would never be altered. Accordingly, she took her vow on the feast of Our Lady's Annunciation, March 25, 1679.

The immediate result of Katharine's vow of virginity was remarkable. The Indians recognized the jewel of chastity with enthusiasm. A new fervor seized the village. Indian maidens and older women sought to follow her example. Her virtue received its highest compliment in their desire to imitate — not merely admire.

### Jesus, I Love Thee

God, Who had so marvelously singled Katharine out, was soon to claim her for His own. Her fragile health was almost spent, worn out by the rugged daily life of the Indians and her own enormous austerities.

She had never fully recovered from a grave illness of the year before. It left her with a slow fever, frequent nausea and severe stomach pains. For two months before her death it kept her on her cot. The last siege came during the hunting season. Most of the Indians at the Mission were far away, deep in the woods. There was no deliberate neglect, but their absence caused Katharine to be left alone for long hours. These she devoted to prayer.

She was never to see the ceremonies of Holy Week a second time. As the sacred days approached she grew steadily worse. She received Viaticum on Tuesday in her own cabin although the custom at the Mission was always to carry a dying person to the church. Her devotion was marked, and afterward, at the priest's suggestion, she did her weak best to exhort the Indians crowded about her bedside.

\*Note: This story is published—Courtesy of the *The Pilgrim*, The Voice of Ossernenon (now Auriesville, N. Y.), where Kateri was born.

The question of Extreme Unction naturally arose and she assured the Fathers that since she knew the hour of her death it could be safely postponed until the next day. She received the Sacrament on Wednesday and died at three in the afternoon saying, as she expired, "Jesus, I love Thee!" It was April 17, 1680, the eve of Holy Thursday, the feast of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist for which she had yearned so long and loved so well.

Katharine's life was a miracle of grace and the wonder did not cease with her death. As soon as she had drawn her last breath her pock-marked, dusky face was suffused with a heavenly beauty. A passerby, who had not known her in life, thought he had seen a beautiful Indian girl sleeping.

She appeared several times to her friends. So many cures resulted from prayers to her and application of her relics that the missionaries, burdened as they always were with their regular work, decided to stop recording them.

### Katharine's Cause

Katharine Tekakwitha was declared a Venerable Servant of God on January 3, 1943. The Cause of her beatification is well advanced. The following quotation is the latest published statement by the late Reverend John J. Wynne, S.J., Vice-Postulator of her Cause:

"Before a Servant of God is declared Blessed it is necessary to prove that two miracles are plainly due to the intercession of that Servant. Ordinarily the miracles required are cures for some human ailment which no known remedy can overcome.

"The cure must be instantaneous and complete, that is, the change from the incurable condition must occur immediately and the cure must not be partial or by stages, but complete. This does not mean that the person cured should regain full strength or activity, but that the change from a morbid to a healthy state should be an immediate answer to the prayer or whatever act is performed with a view to obtaining a cure, such as application of a relic of the Servant of God."

### Voice of the People

During her lifetime Katharine was irresistible to all who recognized and admired virtue. Her appeal has remained constant down through the years. Her life has been written in all the leading languages. She is revered in every state of the Union, in Alaska, Canada and Mexico. Katharine is loved in South America, Puerto Rico and the West Indies. She is known in England, Ireland and Australia, in India and China. Her fame is as wide as the world.

It is a moving experience to read the letters from grateful devotees of Tekakwitha who attribute cures and favors to her intercession. You will find among them the illegible and the illiterate. Some are polished and urbane. Others are simple or profound. They are written on everything from engraved stationery to wrapping paper. Nuns, priests, doctors, society matrons and charwomen sign them. The boy with an averted family scandal, the sick in body and the sick at heart, the maimed, the crippled and hundreds of just people — all are there, singing her praises as best they can. They constitute an undeniable spiritual pressure.

If our Holy Mother the Church should deem Katharine Tekakwitha worthy of the honors of the altar there will be a certain Providential fitness in the fact that the United States will at last possess a Saint all its own. For, though anthropologists call, them, too, immigrants, Katharine's forebears antedate by centuries any latter-day 100% Americans. The Mayflower was a crowded vessel, but it carried no recognized saints nor, thus far, ancestors of saints. Katharine seems likely to be our first *native* American saint.

May God speed the day.

(The End)



## AT WORK IN KENTUCKY

"Kateri Tekakwitha has been wonderful to me over a period of years and I am greatly indebted to her. Within the past few weeks she has brought about what I deem a miracle. A ten months old baby, in the family of a beloved nephew, was desperately ill of a virus X infection and the parents were advised to prepare for the worst. In fact the doctors told them that science could do no more and it all depended on prayer. Several of us had begun novenas to Tekakwitha and on the ninth day of my novena the baby was very low and in fact on that day two doctors and four nurses worked with the child for one and one-half hours. She had been given two blood transfusions, but could not take any nourishment. The next day we began another novena and that morning the doctors announced that there was an improvement although no layman could see it. The improvement continued and in about one week the child was permitted to go home. She is well and we owe it to Kateri's help."

—Louisville, Ky.

## WORKING IN LOUISIANA

"I promised Kateri I would help make her favor with God better known, in thanksgiving for a very great favor granted through her intercession. My husband while undergoing a major operation collapsed during surgery, the doctors had little hope for his recovery. I became frantic with grief, praying and calling aloud to Kateri to help him for she had come to my aid many times before, and in less than two hours my husband was brought down to his bed. Complication after complication set in. Day and night I stayed by him fervently praying and placing the image of our Blessed Mother and Kateri upon him and when his condition began to improve the doctors, nurses and everyone

around him began to say I was favored by God and his recovery was a miracle."

—New Orleans, La.

## KATERI LOVES CHILDREN

"When I received your February monthly message and read that Tekakwitha needs more miracles in order to further her canonization, I was inspired to ask her to aid my sister in giving natural and normal birth to her third child, as her doctor had told her after the second birth that the next one would have to be a caesarean. I had a Mass said for this intention in March and on April 9 my sister went to the hospital at 8 a.m. and at 1.15 her third little girl was born. One of the Sisters, who had been in the maternity section for years, said it was one of the easiest births that ever took place at the hospital. We are all so happy. You have no idea how different my sister looked this time when we saw her about two hours after the little one was born. She was just radiant and the other two times she required almost constant assistance the first two days and had so many stitches that she was unable to walk for over a week. This time she went home in four days. I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving. We are telling everybody about this, in an effort to spread devotion to Kateri."

—Louisville, Ky.

## OHIO REPORTS

"I have been praying to Kateri for over fifteen years and I feel she always helps me. This last winter I know she did, and I promised you a letter and publication. I had a most miserable burning sensation in my chest, and I prayed to Kateri to relieve me. It disappeared in a few days, and it was miraculous in a way, as I thought I would have to give up coffee for one thing and I didn't know how I could ever do that. I also thought of other things I would have to deny myself and it would have been difficult, but after I asked her aid it was given in no time, without doing anything." —Toronto, O.

## FROM WASHINGTON

"Enclosed find a small offering for several favors received. My brother had been away from Church forty-five years. Took sick over a year ago. Still would not go back to Church. Had a stroke and cancer. Father at the hospital went to see him, anointed him and got him to repeat the Act of Contrition. Died a very calm death. I knew he would come back in time because everyone was praying for him.

"On March 1 we all received a written notice that we had to move from our apartment by June 1. I started a novena and had all my friends do the same. When I returned home from my brother's Mass I found a notice that we did not have to move. I will never give up praying for the Lily of the Mohawks. She has never refused me anything if God wished it for my own good."

—Seattle, Wash.

## MINNESOTA MESSAGE

"Recently it was necessary that I have a growth removed. I prayed to Catherine Tekakwitha and promised to make it known if the growth would be a 'non-malignant' one. The day following the surgery the surgeon came in and said, without my asking, that the biopsy showed that the lump was non-malignant. I consider that almost a miracle."

—Rochester, Minn.

## GENERAL

"I was fortunate enough to receive another great favor from Katherine. Again a marriage righted after forty-eight years."

—San Jose, Cal.

"Every time my nursing staff gets to a low ebb and I wonder where I may get relief, I turn to Tekakwitha and she has never failed to come through."

—Ellwood City, Pa.

"I am writing to you for myself and a few of my fellow-workers. I would like to tell you in a few words how we all happen to know 'The Lily of the Mohawks.' One day one of the girls in the office brought the little booklet that you publish and we all read of how wonderful she is and has been. The majority of us all wanted something special, so we all made a copy of the novena and placed our faith with Kateri. She is really answering our prayers to her."—New Orleans, La.

## ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	2	Financial Aid	6
Examination Success	1	Relief in Distress	1
Not Specified	34		

## PETITIONS

Cures	10	Financial Aid	8
Apartments	6	Employment	7
Not Specified	16		

## Obituary

Sister Carmelita, Seattle, Wash.

Mr. W. W. Kerr, New Orleans, La.

## 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,"  
 special metal, 15c.; silver, 60c.

## 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

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## TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

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

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