

THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

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## TEKAKWITHA ON FIFTH AVENUE

We stood in the midst of the milling crowds on the sidewalk in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on Christmas Day. We were pushed around a bit, but we just *purred*, as proud as a whole parade of peacocks. For visitors from all over the land were stopping to gape at the new bronze doors of America's best-known church, and there, for all to see, immortalized in bronze, was our Kateri Tekakwitha, who has finally 'come into her own' as part of the metropolitan scene. She is in glorious company, as we shall see, enough to make her hide away in blushing confusion. But then, she should be used to honors by this time: didn't the learned Cardinals of the Congregation of Rites, and the Holy Father himself, in 1943, declare by decree that her virtues, all of them, were heroic!

We know you will be interested in the Cathedral's latest adornment. The sculptor, Mr. John Angel, wants us to consider the tympanum (the space within the arch above the doors) and the doors, as a *whole*, having seven dominant notes. The most important of these is Christ, represented in a sixty-three inch statue as Redeemer of the world, giving to His Apostles His supranational mandate: Go, teach all nations. The Blessed Virgin and St. John the Baptist are in the upper section of the composition, and the twelve Apostles below.

The other six dominant notes are made by the statuettes in the doors below. These figures are each thirty-seven inches high, standing in niches, one above the other, three to a door.

The two upper statuettes are St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, and especially dear to workmen, and St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland and of the New York Cathedral.

The middle figures are of St. Isaac Jogues (1607-46) and St. Frances Cabrini (1850-1917). Father Jogues, first priest in Manhattan, canonized June 30, 1930, as one of the eight *North-American Martyrs*, is represented in the habit of the Jesuit Order, preaching to the Mohawks, whose Apostle he was.

Mother Cabrini, canonized July 7, 1946, as the first United States citizen to be raised to the altars, is entitled *Mother of the Immigrant*, and is represented with a book, to denote her interest in religious teaching.

In the two lower niches there stand Kateri Tekakwitha, declared *Venerable* by Pope Pius XII January 3, 1943, and Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, whose Cause has been introduced.

Tekakwitha (1656-1680) is represented as attired in typical Indian dress, with a leather tunic and beads. She stands absorbed in perfect union with God in prayer.

Mother Seton, a native of New York, born at 7 State Street, married and was the mother of five children. Following the death of her husband, a New York merchant, she was received into the Church in 1805. When thirty-four years old, she established a religious community in Baltimore, Maryland, and is regarded as having laid the foundations of the parochial school system in the United States.

The choice of these six personalities, all related to the State and ecclesiastical Province of New York, typifies, in a way, the cosmopolitan character of the Church in New York. There is a Jew (St. Joseph), a Celt (St. Patrick), a Frenchman (St. Isaac Jogues), an Italian (Mother Cabrini), an aboriginal (Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha) and an Anglo-Saxon American (Mother Seton). They symbolize New York and America, the 'melting pot,' and project concretely the supranational character and message of the Church.

## THE LILY AND XAVIER

The new triumph of Tekakwitha described above somehow brings to mind the spectacular tour of the arm of St. Francis Xavier throughout Japan, our own land, and Ireland last year. They are both, more than anything else, clear proof that God glorifies after death those who were close to Him during their lifetime.

We miss the point entirely if we stress only the extraordinary character of the saints and holy people whom we admire. Xavier was spectacular, to be sure; a million baptisms in a brief ten years is a stupendous record. There was certainly romance in his facing the teeming millions of Burma and Ceylon and India, and in meeting the rajahs, the sultans, the ahkoons, the great moguls. But most of all his story shows us what a man can do if he listens to the whisper of grace and goes whither it beckons him.

Xavier is a *model* as well as a *marvel*. It is with Xavier as, I am afraid, it is with Christ and Our Lady. We put them beyond the reach of our imitation by spotlighting the *divine*, the *marvellous*, the *unattainable*, because we are afraid to face the actual picture of the difference between *what we are*, and *what we might be* if only we responded to the graces which come to us for imitation as well as admiration. It was Mary's correspondence with little graces that was her greatest grace, and made her finally mediatrix of all graces.

It was Xavier's heeding the everyday easy inspirations and gentle illuminations of grace that made him eventually a saint. And Tekakwitha, who is she, but a woman who did ordinary things in an extraordinary way, common things uncommonly? Yet she is honored above all others who walked across the North-American scene for the past two hundred and seventy years.

Gallant crusader for Christ, or little Mohawk maiden, Lily of the wildwood, it is all the same. The only thing that counts, and the only thing that will bring everlasting rewards, even to glorification, is correspondence with grace.

## DOWN MEXICO WAY

In our sister republic to the South, Tekakwitha's clients pray to the Most Holy Trinity for her Canonization in this beautiful way:

"Eternal Father, Creator of Heaven and earth, deign to grant us the Beatification of Thy servant, Katherine, who was made by Thee so beautiful as to be called 'the Lily of the Mohawks' and the 'fairest flower that ever bloomed among true men.'"

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .*

"O Lord, Jesus Christ, Redeemer of mankind, deign to grant us the Beatification of Thy servant, Katherine, who was a faithful lover of Thy Cross and of Thy sacramental Presence."

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .*

"Holy Ghost, sanctifier of souls, deign to grant us the Beatification of Thy servant, Katherine, who was led sweetly and firmly by Thee to the heights of perfection."

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .*

## SICKNESS

"Enclosed please find an offering for Masses of thanksgiving. I asked for a cure of a bladder infection which I had and was quite bad. Each day I blessed myself with her picture while praying. On my last visit to my doctor he said it was completely gone."

—Alameda, Cal.

"I have been ill in bed for sixteen months and I promised this donation and the names on the attached if I received relief from pain. My request was granted and my sending leaflets to the people whose names I enclosed will spread devotion to the Lily of the Mohawks."

—Norwich, Conn.

"While on duty on the first of October about 3 a.m., one of our patients, suffering from a tumor of the brain, was in great pain. I did not have any of his medication; still the pain increased. The relic of Kateri was placed under his pillow, a few prayers were said, and he remained asleep until seven, the time to receive the Blessed Sacrament. He is doing well."

"Our friend, Kateri, has helped me in a number of things — exams, with my confrères, family — this of course is not important; for what she does for others means more to me."

—Los Angeles, Cal.

"Enclosed please find an offering in honor of Venerable Kateri. She has helped me a lot during illness for which I am grateful."

—Niagara, Wis.

## HOMES

"Enclosing an offering for a thanksgiving Mass to Tekakwitha for helping me to get a home. Many other prayers have also been answered."

—Wilkinsburg, Pa.

## LITTLE THINGS

"I am enclosing an offering. I owe this and more to Venerable Tekakwitha for favors obtained for me."

—Philadelphia, Pa.

"To thank Kateri Tekakwitha for many, many favors which we have received. We have prayed to her twelve years. Always she grants our request in one way or another. She is my constant guide when in difficulty. I ask her aid in my decisions and she always helps. We burn candles in her honor and let it be known in our own parish church."

—Church Point, La.

"Enclosed is a small offering to further Tekakwitha's Cause. I will always spread her devotion."

—Worcester, Mass.

"We prayed for a great favor to her and received a miraculous reply. I would like to give a few pictures to friends in order to spread the devotion to Kateri. I have prayed to her for special favors on a few recent occasions and have received favorable answers and help."

—Pawtucket, R. I.

"In thanksgiving for Venerable Kateri's intercession and for her Cause."—Tulsa, Okla.

"I hope to spread devotion to Kateri, in thanks for a favor received, and further hope that some of the names I send will bring renewal subscriptions."

—East Liverpool, O.

"Please accept and apply the enclosed offering towards the Cause of Tekakwitha as thanksgiving for favors received through her intercession."

—San Antonio, Tex.

"I have asked for many favors, large and small, and every one has been granted to me, and I have prayed to her and for her canonization for a long, long time."

—Aspenwall, Pa.

"During the past few years I have received many favors through the intercession of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. Although they were small favors they were important to me. My prayers to her are never unanswered and because of this I would like you to know that I pray to her often."

—Cleveland, O.



"Enclosed find an offering for financial help received and one dollar for pictures and medals to spread devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha."

—Indianapolis, Ind.

"Accept enclosed offering to further the Cause of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha's canonization in thanksgiving for having retrieved my pocketbook with contents."

—Dayton, O.

"I have received several favors from Tekakwitha. It never fails that when I want very much to sell something and it seems to be a difficult situation, I place her picture on the article and make her a promise of Masses or help in her Cause and say a few prayers, she invariably sends an unexpected purchaser along. We have just had another such experience and I promised her that if she would help my father sell some things so he could make a much needed move before the winter rains set in I would send an offering to you for her."

—Snoqualmie, Wash.

#### WORK

"I want to tell you of two favors I received from Catherine Tekakwitha. I was out of work. A friend gave me the novena. The day before the novena was ended I received a position. I made another novena in thanksgiving and also asked to receive more money. The day the novena ended I received a letter telling me I would get more money."

—Columbus, O.

"I received more favors through good Catherine Tekakwitha. A friend of mine who was out of work phoned me to say he found a position and he likes it. With the hours he has he is able to go to daily Mass, and he is very joyful."

—Toledo, O.

#### HEALTH

"Enclosed please find a little offering to Venerable Kateri. She has helped me a lot in illness, and saved me a lot of worry for which I am more than grateful."

—Niagara, Wis.

"Find enclosed an offering for you to use in your wonderful work for Kateri. She has helped me in so many ways, I am very grateful to her."

—Sunset, La.

#### ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures .....	3	Employment .....	2
Financial Aid .....	4	Relief in Distress .....	3
Not Specified .....	48		

#### PETITIONS

Cures .....	18	Employment .....	4
Apartments .....	3	Financial Aid .....	5
Not Specified .....	26		

#### Obituary

Most Rev. William A. Griffin, Trenton, N. J.  
 Rev. Denis A. O'Brien, Medford, Mass.  
 Rev. J. P. Kirby, Longmeadow, Mass.  
 Rev. William Ullrich, Rome, N. Y.  
 Rev. Joseph J. Pierron, Armstrong, Wis.  
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Tomchany, Trenton, N. J.  
 Miss Margaret O'Connell, St. James, Minn.

### 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 reflex ..... 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

### TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

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

REV. THOMAS J. COFFEY, S.J., V. Postulator for Her Canonization