

THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among irue men*

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## THE PRINCIPAL VIRTUES OF VENERABLE TEKAKWITHA

*(From Fr. Chauchetiere's LIFE)*

### *Her Faith*

One cannot sufficiently marvel that a young Indian girl should have the lively faith in our mysteries that Katharine had. Though she lived but four years after she knew the faith, her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and her other practices are sufficient to prove this fact. She had a good and agile mind, learned her prayers in a short time, and made her profession of faith without fear. In her lodge where she was the only one baptized, although they treated her badly, because she wished to resemble the Indians of the Sault, and although they sometimes pointed her out as a sorceress, her faith did not slacken.

### *Her Hope*

It was said that she had had a positive promise which held the revelation of her eternal happiness. They were surprised that she readily promised prayers at the hour of death, not having wished to do so during her life, for she said she was too young in Christianity to be able to pray to God for others.

### *Her Love of God*

She spent her life saying these words, which she repeated three times, "Jesus, I love Thee." And this love which fortified her in her maladies, her work, and her harsh penances, finally gave her strength when she ex-

emplified herself wholly, with only a few hours to live. It was often said of her that she never lost sight of God, above all in the forest, where she supplied for the exterior graces which were to be had in the village, but not in the forest. This was said of her through admiration, for none could conceive that she could be so attached to God.

### *Her Love of Her Neighbor*

The vice of slander was never known to her and those who knew her never had cause to reproach her. Everyone loved her because she was blessed with charity. When slander twice assailed her and she had reason to complain of others, she never spoke ill at home or abroad of those who had unjustly accused her.

### *Her Prudence*

She shone gloriously in the various temptations she met. She kept from occasions of offending God and was always successful in them, even though she lived two years among the Iroquois in constant danger of offending Him. As for a third Indian maid, wishing to join her, partly to serve God but also partly through vanity, Katharine discerned between the spirit of her companion and that of the third young girl, for she mistrusted hypocrisy and vanity. She showed her good sense in her little exhortations. She was pru-

dent even in her excesses. These corresponded to the violent attacks made upon the savages by sin, of which she knew, or rather, from which she apprehended contamination. She went, therefore, to excess, not in obstinate persistence, but to seek for the intermediate course she observed after the priest had advised her.

### *Her Religion*

I will not attempt to recount here at length all her virtues, because the task would be too extensive. One can estimate her other virtues from those mentioned here. She had had an opportunity to love religion which others for the most part had not. As she had a well-balanced mind, she had never fallen prey to visions or to dreams, even before her Baptism. The respect which she had for all the ceremonies of the Church and for everything concerning Christianity was sufficient proof of the esteem in which she held her religion.

### *Her Devotion*

Her devotion was never capricious, nor inconstant, nor affected. It was very difficult for her because of her infirmities and because her body could not cope with her desires. She knelt a very long time in church and rarely supported herself even when she was very weak. She often repeated, "Who will teach me what is most agreeable to God, so that I may do it?" She was exact in all the practices of devotion established in the mission, both in the less and in the more important, and she had special devotions besides. Everyone observed her promptness in leaving everything when the bell sounded for prayers.

### *Her Penance*

In this particular, it was admirable that though having been always exempt from grave sin, she was throughout her life such a great penitent. Her confessors testify that she was an angel and her companion could

not express sufficient admiration of so pure a conscience as Katharine's, for she did not know what she had done against the law of God, either before or after her Baptism. The hatred of sin into which she had not fallen, or perhaps into which she feared to fall, was the cause of all her excess of penance. She so importuned Our Lord to take her from this corrupt world that she died in the flower of her age, for she could not live in a body steeped in the waters of penance. Furthermore, she showed the way to heaven to the young Indian girls who did not wish to succumb to temptations.

### *Her Chastity*

This is the most beautiful flower in all her crown. It is a miracle that she should have escaped the deluge of impurity which flooded the land inhabited by the savages. Men, God, and her conscience have testified to the truth that Katharine never committed a single sin of the flesh. When they questioned her at her Baptism, when they questioned her at her death, she replied in a firm tone that she did not fear to be damned for this sin. God wished her to appear after her death to two people who were in doubt of what they should think concerning her and her purity. God made the first cure of the sick in confirmation of Katharine's chastity. If someone had thought to have her make the vow, the vow of chastity would not have been wanting to her, who was not wanting to the vow; and this makes me believe that she had the merit of the vow. The priest was sorry after her death not to have let her make it. The experience of two inhabitants of Laprairie and that of two people in Montreal, manifests the power she has to preserve people from the demon of impurity.

### *Her Obedience*

A certain person admitted having previously refused to Katharine the honors due her, because of a fear that her conduct and



penances were an illusion. But after a complete examination, and after two very remarkable apparitions made at the same time to different people who admitted that they had had the same doubt (and who, without communicating with one another, prayed

God to know what they should think of Katharine's obedience and chastity), all changed their sentiments. And the more so, because some years after Katharine had appeared, some of them revealed their lights in the matter.

## THE LETTERS KEEP COMING

Our staff is kept busy sending material relating to the Cause out to all parts of the land whence we keep getting letters. The following is typical of our correspondence:

### PHYSICAL RELIEF

"Our baby fell from his bed and the doctor feared he had a concussion. A high fever followed and he was hospitalized. For two days this fever persisted. The baby just layed motionless during this time. His color was gray. He could not keep anything in his stomach, neither milk nor water, sometimes not even his medicine. My sister gave me a relic picture of Kateri Tekakwitha from whom she has received many favors. I placed the relic picture on our baby's head and said the necessary prayers fervently, promising Venerable Kateri acknowledgment of her intercession if my favor was granted. About five or ten minutes elapsed, when I heard the baby stir in his bed. I went to him and found his head cool and moist, he opened his eyes and looked at me for the first time in two and a half days, as though he really recognized me. The doctor said there was no appearance in the X-rays of a concussion. He began retaining his food, water and medicine. About two hours later he rolled over in his crib under his own power onto his stomach and having raised his head to look about gave all the appearances of recovering. Though he has been a very sick baby he has continued to improve steadily since I implored Kateri's help. I think Our Divine Lord granted me this favor through this lit-

tle Indian girl to instill even further my belief in her dearness to His Sacred Heart. I will be forever grateful to her for her aid in granting me this great joy."—Chicago, Ill.

### HEALTH RESTORED

"Sometime ago, my mother was suddenly taken ill. There was great concern as to the diagnosis of her condition as a serious outcome was suspected. I resorted to the intercession of Catherine Tekakwitha, promising a public announcement should mother's health be improved. Through God's grace she became better and is now enjoying comparatively good health. I shall always remember the graciousness of little Catherine and promise to propagate devotion to her whenever I can." —San Francisco, Cal.

### RELIEF IN DISTRESS

"I suffered a bad hip fracture over a year ago. I left the hospital after having a bone operation. Am still on crutches but get around very well at home and am able to go to church. I started saying the prayers on a leaflet given to me sometime in early summer every day for her canonization and for this favor. I am sure I have been helped and will continue praying for complete use of the side affected. I am enclosing an offering for a Mass and the other dollar you may use as you see fit." —St. Louis, Mo.

### MONEY MATTERS

"I received your letter of March 9 and began to renew my interest in Tekakwitha, which unfortunately I had let slip. For several years I have wanted to go to Ireland, my

mother's birthplace, but that was financially impossible. When our Holy Father announced this to be a Holy Year I longed more than ever to be able to go. But as before I did not have enough money to make such a journey. But when your letter came I began to pray again to Tekakwitha asking her to obtain the money for me. Where she would get it I did not know. But get it she did, for on March 25, Feast of the Annunciation, I received an air-mail letter from Switzerland saying that I had won first prize — an all expense tour to Switzerland, in a travel contest sponsored by the Golden Bridge Club of Lucerne, Switzerland. The Club is also arranging for me to go to Rome, Paris and Ireland, so thanks to God, Our Blessed Mother and Tekakwitha. Truly this is a miracle for I would never have gotten there otherwise." —Pittsburgh, Pa.

"Since our recent 'Social' was an unexpected great success and enabled us to pay an amount on our building which we were unable otherwise to meet, we ascribe the outcome to Venerable Tekakwitha. We prayed to her and had several Masses said in her honor, and tried to spread devotion to her. We wish, therefore, to make the enclosed offering toward her beatification, trusting that this happy event may soon be forthcoming." —Ferdinand, Ind.

## JOBS

"My youngest daughter, who has always been of a nervous disposition, was able to obtain a very nice position and with the self-confidence to persevere in the long hours and hard work that it means, all through the intercession of our friend, Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha." —East Liverpool, O.

## ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures .....	10	Relief in Distress .....	8
Employment .....	5	Temporal Favor .....	1
Financial Aid .....	5	Not Specified .....	111

## PETITIONS

Cures .....	18	Financial Aid .....	11
Apartments .....	6	Relief in Distress .....	15
Employment .....	10	Not Specified .....	80

## Obituary

Most Rev. Hugh C. Boyle, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Most Rev. Francis M. Kelly, Rochester, Minn.  
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Foley, Bronx, N. Y. C.  
 Rev. Hugh A. Dalton, S.J., Wernersville, Pa.  
 Rev. Paul Desaulniers, Nashua, N. H.  
 Rev. James A. Dollard, El Paso, Ill.  
 Rev. William J. Foley, Lowell, Mass.  
 Rev. Arnold J. Garvy, S.J., Chicago, Ill.  
 Mother Helen Mallon, Lake Ronkonkoma, N. Y.  
 Sister Mary Columba, Peekskill, N. Y.  
 Miss Elizabeth Barry, Lancaster, Pa.  
 Mr. J. C. Becker, Louisville, Ky.  
 Dr. Edward J. Brophy, Norwich, Conn.  
 Mr. William Cullen, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Miss Agnes Dettloff, Detroit, Mich.  
 Mr. George C. Gress, Lancaster, Pa.  
 Mrs. J. C. Haggarty, Wheeling, Ill.  
 Miss Mollie McDonough, Portland, Me.  
 Mrs. M. J. Scannell, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Mr. Thomas Graham, New York, N. Y.

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