



THE TREASURE

So Canada's Caughnawaga gained a treasure which the village on the Mohawk had lost deservedly. Even in that especially fervent community, Tekakwitha's single-minded love of God shone out. By an unusual privilege, she was one of very few converts allowed to make her first Holy Communion on Christmas Day, 1677.

You could find Kateri Tekakwitha every morning, even in the bitterness of winter, standing before the Chapel door till it opened at four o'clock—and she stayed till the last Mass was over. Christian gaiety shone from her eyes. She had never learned to read—but the high degree of her spirituality was remarkable. Docility to her director, and the illuminations of the Holy Spirit were all the education she needed.

THE LILY

But what marks off Catherine's holiness is the vow of virginity she made before her spiritual father. This was something new among these children of nature, who could barely learn the sacredness of marriage. With simple directness she told Father Cholenec of her desire to consecrate her virginity to God. And she wanted to do it forthwith—there was no need of deliberating on a thing she had long since irrevocably decided on.

During the winter moons of 1679 and 1680 Catherine preferred to remain at Caughnawaga, to be near Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and to lead a penitential life in private. In the middle of this last winter, she visibly sickened, most likely from an advanced tubercular condition. As the Iroquois returned gradually from their winter

hunt, they began to sense that they were fast losing their treasure.

HOLY WEEK AND HOME

It was Wednesday afternoon of Holy Week that the end came. She had received the last Sacraments. All the village knelt praying about her cabin. At three o'clock with almost divine calm, she quietly expired. Hardly had the soul left her wan and wasted body when her glory was revealed. Father Cholenec was leading the prayers for the dying, but stopped to cry in wonder at the new smoothness and beauty shining in the face that before had been pockmarked and shrunken.

Catherine won many graces for others during her short life as a Christian. But up to the last she thought herself unworthy. "I am only a neophyte," she would say, "and you must not ask *me* to pray for you." But at the last, just before she died, she pledged herself to help all who asked her, and promised to answer everybody's prayers when she reached heaven. She has done so more than generously. The pages of every issue of this MESSAGE bear witness to that.

APRIL ANNIVERSARY

Many and beautiful were the titles given her by Indians and French alike. But the name, "Lily of the Mohawks," is still the most popular—and the best summary of her twenty-four years on earth. It is carried over the inscription on her new tomb:

Kateri Tekakwitha

April 17, 1680

*Fairest Flower that ever Bloomed among
True Men*

Present subscribers are asked to renew their subscriptions at this time and to obtain new members.

Those who have already renewed their subscriptions are asked to ignore this request.

A Bi-Monthly Message, 60 Cents a Year; Two Copies, \$1.00

FAVORS ATTRIBUTED TO TEKAKWITHA

"My youngest daughter is now seventeen years old. After her birth my health began failing, and I had one operation after the other, five in all. Then I met a Sister where my oldest daughter was a student, and she gave me my first prayer card on Kateri and asked me to ask her to help me. We all prayed, and although things were slow to improve, I am now well. I have not had an operation since. I do all my own work, including laundry and baking, for a family of six.

"My children all feel they have received their five positions through her intercession and she always comes to their aid in financial matters.

"When one of my sons was overseas he had a serious accident. He was thrown through the windshield of his jeep, cutting his forehead badly. He was taken to the hospital unconscious. When he came to, his driver asked him who Catherine Tekakwitha was. He asked why. The driver replied, 'that is the last thing you called out as you went through the windshield.' My son said, 'she is a little Indian girl my mother prays to.' After that they both prayed to her, and I am sure she helped bring him home well to us.

"My father, 79 years old, underwent a very serious operation a month ago and thanks, through Kateri's intercession we have him back home safe and getting along beautifully now.

"We have been sent many trials, but with the help of our dear Lord and Kateri we have always seemed to solve our troubles. The children have a Mass said for her canonization each month, and I several during the year. I have sent her Life, medals, etc., to many, and now that the Sisters at our parish have put on a play, I am sure a great many of our parishioners will also have more love for her."

—Duluth, Minn.

"We have been praying to Kateri for my sister who has been ill with pulmonary tuberculosis for over a year. Two weeks ago she had a severe hemorrhage which lasted from four o'clock in the morning until six in the evening. I had to take her to my home in a private ambulance, trip taking about one and a half hours. I put a picture of Kateri in the pocket of my sister's robe and asked Kateri to stop the bleeding until I got her home and called the doctor. All the way in the ambulance she was fine and I promised Kateri I would send a substantial donation to further her Cause. We had a wonderful Christmas as my sister was able to take part in the festivities, although she is still very ill, but Christmas Day her temperature was normal. The little Indian, as I call her, has helped in so many ways. The doctor told me I would have to give her injections of streptomycin twice a day, as I couldn't afford to pay a private nurse to come in and do it. It took me several days to get the courage and I asked Kateri to help me. She did, and now I am able to do it without difficulty."

—New York.

"I had an ulcer on the eyeball, which had been cauterized eight times. After the medication wore off, the pain was terrific. I applied Kateri's relic and to me it was miraculous the way the pain disappeared. I feel that through her powerful intercession the vision has cleared in this eye."—New York, N. Y.

"Our high school and grade school students presented the drama of the 'Life of Kateri Tekakwitha.' This play we promised over a year ago at the completion of a novena in honor of Kateri whose intercession we asked for the complete recovery of one of the junior girls who suffered a serious attack of polio. Our request was granted."

—Defiance, Iowa.

"Due to a nervous breakdown I suffered much from a burning itch throughout my body. A short time after making a novena to the 'Little Lily' the itch completely disappeared. To her I owe sincere thanks and deep gratitude. The enclosed is a small offering for her Cause." —Burlington, Vt.

"I am enclosing a small contribution for the Cause of Venerable Tekakwitha in thanksgiving. I suffered for about three months with a growth on my right elbow. I prayed to the Lily of the Mohawks, and I feel that my prayers were answered as the growth has entirely disappeared."

—White Castle, La.

"I wish to express my thanks to Kateri Tekakwitha for the favor in regaining my voice. I had lost my voice in February through some disturbances in my throat. Praying fervently to Kateri, and using her picture and medal, I am very happy to say on March 3rd her intercession to God for me gave me a sudden relief in my throat and my voice back."

—Hamburg, N. Y.

"Enclosed is an offering for the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha who has healed me many times from sickness."

—Roanoke, Va.

"A small offering to thank Tekakwitha for helping my baby daughter to sleep well at night."

—Tiffin, O.

"I wish to thank 'Good Kateri' for a favor received. I have just been notified of my acceptance by a highly important government agency. An intensive investigation was conducted under the most discouraging circumstances. I know that it was Kateri's help that brought my success. We have also prayed to her for my little girl's eyes which had a bad cast. They are greatly improved. I told a friend about Kateri and gave her the relic picture and novena. She had an easy delivery and a healthy baby after previous difficulties and a miscarriage. I will continue to pray to Kateri and do everything in my power to spread her name and fame."

—Philadelphia, Pa.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	9	Relief in Distress	17
Apartment	1	Temporal	1
Financial Aid	14	Not Specified	92

PETITIONS

Cures	16	Financial Aid	19
Apartments	6	Relief in Distress	10
Employment	4	Not Specified	110

Obituary

Rev. Miles J. O'Mailia, S.J., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Rev. James J. Dolan, S.J., Jamaica, B. W. I.
 Rev. Hugh M. McCarron, S.J., Washington, D. C.
 Rev. Raymond McInnis, S.J., Pomfret Centre, Conn.
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Willaim Schmitt, Cincinnati, O.
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. C. McClary, Jersey City, N. J.
 Mr. Milton O. Countryman, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Mr. Albert F. Free, New York, N. Y.
 Hon. Joseph T. Ryan, New York, N. Y.
 Hon. Alfred J. Talley, New York, N. Y.
 Mr. Charles E. Dailey, Providence, R. I.

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TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

30 WEST 16TH STREET, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

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