

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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KATERI AND THE BARONESS

Everyone will be acquainted with the spectacular work of the Baroness Catherine de Hauck Doherty, introduced to the reading public by her husband, Eddie Doherty, in *TUMBLEWEED*. Mr. Doherty's writings have since multiplied, and the Baroness continues with her works of apostolic zeal. We were delighted to read about her meeting Tekakwitha along the way. The account below appeared in *KATERI*, the quarterly magazine published by the Canadian Vice-Postulator, Father Henri Béchar, S.J., to promote her cause.

Indian and Russian

"I met Kateri for the first time in Auriesville, N.Y., quite a long time ago, somewhere in the twenties, while on a pilgrimage to the Jesuit Martyrs' Shrine. I met her by picking up a picture of her, lying of all places, on soft pine needles, between the eleventh and twelfth outdoor Stations of the Cross that I was quietly making in that beautiful and hallowed spot.

The picture intrigued me. I had never heard of her. Perhaps because I knew so little about the Indians, coming as I did from Russia—yet I felt a strange affinity to this Indian Maiden. She bore the same name I did, to begin with, and then there was in her face that repose that I had met so often amongst my own people.

I wanted to find out the secret of that repose, wanted to know more about an Indian girl that is up for canonization. It was quite a task—there was so little written about her. But I persevered, from little tiny pamphlets, to fatter ones, until I finally found a rather old-fashioned life of her. Yet the old time sentences could not hide the beauty of that soul that flowered in a wilderness."

Challenge

"I began to pray to her. First for little things... a key mislaid—a job to get, a difficulty to overcome. She helped me each time.

Then came the fateful day when, I had made up my mind, I would answer God's strange call to me—to sell all that I possessed—give the proceeds to the poor... take up my cross, and follow Christ into the slums of a big city, to work, live, and pray with the masses that slowly were leaving the Church, and listening ever more attentively to the all-infiltrating Communist propaganda.

At times it truly looked as if Kateri of America was explaining many things to Catherine from Russia. For things that were unclear, became clear... Things that were hard became easy, and the first Friendship House in Toronto, Ont., was founded in 1930. Since that day a picture of Kateri was always in my room and on my desk... She and I became fast friends.

Again, I prayed to her often; I did not know at the time any Negro Saint. When we got an invitation to cross the border (she did too) and open a Friendship House in Har-

lem, she cleared the path of my will, mind, and heart. And I went there. All through my stay in our Interracial apostolate from 1938 to 1947, she was at my side.

When cash was nonexistent and we had to be content with a dreary mess of tea and cornflakes, mixed or unmixed—she was there, reminding me that she existed days at a time on a little water and some herbs... When bedbugs became so bad that the hard floor was more inviting, she lulled me to sleep on it, by recounting a few of her harsh penances done for the love of God... Yes... she made hard things easy — Kateri of America did... for Catherine from Russia.

In 1947 I crossed the border back again to Canada, and to the founding of Madonna House, Combermere, Ont., our first Rural Apostolate of Catholic Action in the bush country of the lovely Ottawa Valley. Of course Kateri went along."

Kateri Takes Over

"Here she really took things over. This was her habitat. Amongst the Algonquin Indians whose reservation is but a few miles away, she must have felt completely at home. Anyhow, she was a wonderful guide, when on rainy, sunny, cold, hot, winter, or summer days or nights, I was trying to find the road—the trail—to some little tarpaper shack lost in the "bush" to which I was called, to nurse someone... With Kateri "at the wheel" as it were, I somehow always found the place.

Then one day, Mission Sunday, 1953, a Bishop from the Yukon Territory — Bishop J. L. Coudert came to visit Madonna House.

The purpose of his visit was to invite us, to found a branch of our Apostolate in Whitehorse, Yukon. To work (you guessed it!) with the Indians there!

He went on to say too, that there was a ready made Mission House dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe waiting for us. Now I ask you... who but Kateri, would arrange this whole thing?

There was another strange thing too. A year before that I had contracted to go on a Western Canada lecture tour in the Spring of 1953. But everything went wrong that Spring... and the whole thing had to be postponed till the Fall. I was to start at the end of October... AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT MONTH THE BISHOP CAME TO INVITE US... Well! That was remarkable to say the least.

For of course I could not decide the accepting of that invitation, or the rejection of it, UNTIL I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES THE PLACE, ITS NEEDS — the whole set up. And how, pray, could I (a poor Lay Apostle of Catholic Action, Friendship House style, who — like all of us — lived the life of the Counsels of Perfection, which includes holy poverty) how could I get to Whitehorse, Yukon... unless there was something like a lecture tour to pay my traveling expenses?

But the lecture trip had been postponed—and was to begin at the end of October. The timetables were just too perfect! I felt sure that Kateri had made it impossible for me to go in the spring, simply because she knew that the Bishop of Yukon was going to visit us in October and that I had to go to White-

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horse, and that my last lecture stop would be Edmonton . . . and from there on just fly to Whitehorse. Yes, she knew for sure.

I went, saw the needs, and accepted the foundation . . . That is how, on May 8, feast of St. Michael the Archangel, three of our group, and Kateri, (yes I most assuredly gave them a picture of her to travel with, she is so good on trail-making and finding) left Madonna House on their four thousand mile trek in a half-ton truck, and by the time you read this, they will be established in their Mission House, which we call MARY HOUSE."

Mary House

"They will be working with the Cree Indians. And Kateri will be there, I know, pitching, because fundamentally that is all her idea. Our lonely Lady of the Yukon must have told her about her loneliness . . . and that is the way Kateri decided to assuage it. . .

Are we glad? No. The word is too little for what we feel. That Our Lord, and Our Lady, and Kateri should bend so low, and pick members of our humble apostolate for this glorious task of being the first Catholic Lay Missionaries to go to the vast Arctic Land of Canada and work there with our beloved Indians . . . seems incredible to us . . . And all our astonished and overflowing hearts can do . . . is sing their joyous ALLELUIAS . . . But listen, Kateri . . . of America. Catherine from Russia implores you to stay with our little group of Staff Workers. They will need you any moment, every moment. Darling Indian Maid . . . be close to them . . . Guide them. Love them. Show them all the strange trails of the arctic that will bring them to souls they can help bring to God . . . but above all, show them the last trail, the most important one, which leads to Christ and Eternity." . . .

THE MONTH'S MAIL ABOUT TEKAKWITHA

"Here is letter I promised Kateri if she would bring my dear grandmother through her operation. I was called home to be with her because it was so serious. I placed my only reliquary of Kateri on her before the operation and with great faith I begged Kateri to help. Being God's will, she pulled through which was a surprise to many. The doctor told us later "it was only prayer." Kateri has answered many of my prayers. She helped me to receive my name in religion, healed my ear, and other requests."

—Columbus, Ohio.

"Once again the Lily of the Mohawks has answered our prayers and requests so quickly and thoroughly it was a miracle. A cyst removed by a doctor refused to heal in spite of being opened and restitched. Further surgery was in order by a specialist. Being unable to afford this, I requested Tekakwitha to help. Last week the doctor pronounced it in fine condition."

—El Paso, Texas.

"I wish to send my belated but sincere thanks to Venerable Catherine Tekakwitha for her help in obtaining relief from a very annoying cough I had for several years. I had been to several doctors including a specialist but with no relief until I prayed to Tekakwitha to help me."

—Cincinnati, Ohio.

"My sister and I both work and we desperately needed a housekeeper to be with our aged mother. We tried unsuccessfully for some time, and since I had to leave soon for my Fall teaching position we were much worried. I made the novena for Tekakwitha's beatification, using the prayer contained in your recent leaflet. Soon after the novena ended we obtained a good competent housekeeper. I have never failed to spread her devotion among my friends."

—Hanover, N. H.

"I have great confidence in Kateri Tekakwitha. A long story goes with the acquiring of property for a new parish which apparently looked as impossible to obtain. In the last year we obtained the property which had been sought for the last five years at least. When this new parish is established, which does not seem possible for two or three years, we will be bringing a church and school near a group of people who because of distance and also neglect do not go to Holy Mass. A medal of Kateri was planted on this property by myself and of course daily prayer asking her to intercede, finally accomplished what seemed almost impossible. I surely would like to have this new parish dedicated to Kateri. May her Cause bring about her beatification."

—Waterford, Wis.

"Donation is enclosed to help with the Cause of Kateri. My father had a stroke and was in bed six months. The doctors said he would never walk again. Unable to get help we had to put him in a nursing home, expecting that he would spend his last days there. Last month he came home on crutches, and is able to get around the house and help himself, which he hasn't been able to do for a year, thanks to "Little Katy" as we call her here."

—Corning, N. Y.

"Catherine for me has been a great help in jobs. Long ago, back in 1936 she obtained a good transfer. Twice since then she has secured raises when I asked her help."

—Long Beach, Calif.

"Little Catherine is one person I just cannot get along without. She has helped me numerous times when I have been down to my last penny, and did not know where the next one was coming from."—Boston, Mass.

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|---------------------|---|--------------------------|----|
| Cures | 5 | Property Sold | 1 |
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PETITIONS

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|--------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|
| Cures | 67 | Sale of Property | 3 |
| Conversions | 8 | Spiritual | 4 |
| Employment | 16 | Successful Operation | 3 |
| Financial Aid | 21 | Success in Studies | 2 |
| Relief in Distress | 16 | Vocations | 2 |
| Safe Delivery | 4 | Not Specified | 60 |

Obituary

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph V. S. McClancy, Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Rev. Thomas Egan, S.J., Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J., St. Louis, Mo.
 Rev. Thomas J. Love, S.J., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Rev. Dr. William D. O'Leary, S.J., New Orleans, La.
 Rev. Joseph Studzinski, C.M., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Rev. James F. Walsh, S.J., Denver, Colo.
 Sister M. Stanislaus, C.S.J., Jersey City, N. J.
 Mrs. James A. Farley, New York, N. Y.
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