

VENERABLE

KATERI TEKAKWITHA



THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever

THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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NOTES ON THE CAUSE OF TEKAKWITHA

People who are in the least acquainted with the principal facts concerning the reputation for holiness which Tekakwitha enjoyed while still living, and more so after death — a reputation that spread rapidly over all Canada and soon reached even Europe, are led, naturally, to this question: If the reputation for holiness of this Iroquois maiden were really such, why was her Cause of Beatification so long delayed?

Reasons for Delay

One has to consider the location of the missions, and of the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, which at the time of Kateri's death was a little more than thirty years old, and which did not then have a definite and permanent site. Within forty years after her death it moved successively into three new localities, until it was established in 1719 at Caughanawaga, where it has flourished since.

Church and State

This fact, too, must be noted: the ecclesiastical organization of Canada was still in its elementary stages. It is sufficient to say that until 1836 the only episcopal see in the whole vast country of Canada was that of Quebec, which was many miles from the mission. Political conditions were anything but peaceful. There were the turbulent events that prepared and eventually led to Canada's passing from the French to the

English, an event ratified in the Peace of Paris in 1763. This transfer had for the missions in general long and painful consequences, which were owing to the more or less open hostility of the new government.

Society of Jesus Suppressed

The Jesuits had been entrusted with the mission where the remains of Kateri reposed. In 1783 they gave it up; in 1800 the last Jesuit living in Canada after the Suppression, died in Quebec. It was only in 1842 that the missionaries of the Society of Jesus re-entered Canada, and only in 1903 was the old Jesuit mission at St. Francis Xavier given into their hands.

Other Causes suffered also

Considering all these circumstances, it is not surprising to see that the missionaries could not bring about regular canonical processes while eye-witnesses were still available. This impossibility is confirmed in the fact that all other Canadian Causes suffered the same fate: the ordinary Process was made only in the second half of the last century, — and therefore their introduction at Rome is recent. This happened in the Cause of the Venerable Mary of the Incarnation (1672) which was introduced in 1877; to the Cause of Venerable Margaret Bourgeoys (1700) introduced in 1878; to the Cause of Father Montmorency Laval (1708) introduced in

1890, and to others. The Cause of our own Jesuit Martyrs of North America who died from 1642-1650 was introduced only in 1916, and their Canonization decreed in 1930.

Stages up to now

Apropos of these American Martyrs, we must note that when in 1884 the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore asked the Holy See to introduce their Cause, it asked also to have the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha introduced. The Cause of the Martyrs had precedence. Their Canonization having taken place in 1930, Tekakwitha's Cause was taken in hand after much waiting and well-wishing on the part of many. The Ordinary Process instituted at Albany, New York in 1931-32 was brought to Rome and opened on July 11, 1932. The Historical Session of the Congregation of Rites examined the material presented, made a critical study of the sources used, completed the researches. Then the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation reported to the Holy Father the decisions of

the Congregation, and his Holiness signed with his own hand the authorization for the Introduction of the Cause of the Servant of God Kateri Tekakwitha, on May 19, 1939. And on January 3, 1943, The Holy Father proclaimed this decree:

'It has been proved in this instance and for the purpose under consideration, that the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, Love of God and neighbor, and the cardinal virtues, Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude, and subordinate virtues of the Venerable Servant of God, Catherine Tekakwitha, were heroic.'

That is the status of Tekakwitha up to now. What next? Two miracles wrought by God through her intercession are needed in order to move towards the next step,—her Beatification. For this we need prayer and more prayer, and report to this office of any favors which seem to have the miraculous stature required in the case. We are confident that these will be forthcoming.

THE MONTH'S MAIL ABOUT TEKAKWITHA

"Due to illness, we were unable to put in readiness a house that had to be sold, for it was vacant one year, and expenses mounting each day. A large picture, one Father Wynne gave us, was placed in the sitting room and the same night a prospective buyer came and purchased it on the following night."

—New York, N. Y.

"Our son was entered in a district spelling bee, for which he was ill-prepared. We promised a novena to Tekakwitha if she would permit him to last long enough to bring honor to his school. He was able to last 10 rounds and was about the twenty-fifth contestant out of 75 to go down, thanks to Tekakwitha."

—El Paso, Texas.

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.

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"Last September we discovered our youngest child had a heart condition. I at once began a special novena to Kateri asking her help. We were to return with her at the end of six months for a check-up. I never missed a day of my novena for six months, asking only that the condition would remain the same as we never thought of an improvement because of the condition. We returned this week and found that there was a definite improvement which I could hardly believe. We do not have to return again until next January, and I promise I will continue my novena everyday in thanksgiving."

—Syracuse, N. Y.

"Enclosed please find an offering of thanks to our Little Lily of the Mohawks. Have been through a very serious gall bladder operation and due to the state of my health the surgeon was not able to remove it, and said it would take months and then maybe he would operate again if it did not heal, but twelve days ago it stopped draining and yesterday it started to hurt but not drain. It was this afternoon that I called on Kateri and asked her to help me because I would not survive another operation. While in the doctors office waiting for my turn, I felt all damp on my side. This was the miracle I had been waiting for. Thank God Kateri has heard my pleas."

—Brooklyn, N. Y.

"I am enclosing an offering to help make this dear little Indian Girl better known. She has done so very much for me and my grandson. I visited her grave fifteen years ago and like others in our party, I picked up a small bag of dirt. When this boy had what our doctor thought polio, and he could not straighten his leg or stand up, we all prayed to Venerable Tekakwitha and I placed the dirt from the grave under his pillow. Next morning when the doctor called he was surprised to see him walking and happy.

I was not surprised. I expected him to be cured. Recently he was hurt and again cured through Kateri's intercession."

—Sherman Oaks, Calif.

"For about two years my sister's eyes have been under treatment by a specialist who advised there were hemorrhages back of the eye, causing a lessening of vision. Now after praying to the little Indian Maiden, the doctor advises there are no fresh hemorrhages, and the others have stopped, and that there will be better vision in her right eye."

—Cleveland, Ohio

"My daughter, mother of five children, underwent surgery and was thought to have cancer. The day after I started to pray to the Lily of the Mohawks the specialist said it was only a tumor."

—Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

"Everything turned out alright for my son's wife. They have a nice little girl. It was a very bad case, but again Tekakwitha came to our aid. She has never failed me, so I put everything in her care with God's blessing."

—Buffalo, N. Y.

"I am writing for a Protestant friend, who had a small cyst under her eye. She touched it with Tekakwitha's relic picture everyday, and it disappeared. She would like to have some of the pictures to give to her relatives who are ill."

—New Orleans, La.

"Through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha I have had two favors granted for one of my three daughters. Both cases involved stress because of medical and financial difficulties as well as the worry of the illness itself. I promised publication at the time of my prayers and was happy at the outcome. I have had many favors granted by praying to the Lily of the Mohawks as have those whom I have told about her."

—W. Roxbury, Mass.

"Owing to bad nerves, Tekakwitha surely helped me to shake off a dangerous choking spell from which I suffered for over two hours. She has been a good friend to me."

—Baltimore, Md.

"I prayed to Catherine Tekakwitha for success in my studies. I needed help very badly. To my surprise my report card was better than it had been so far this year. Surely it was Catherine that asked God to help me. Now I am praying for success in my final exams, they are hopeless too."

—Detroit, Mich.

"Last December when we did not know if we would be able to stay in business due to companies withdrawing from this territory we promised Tekakwitha for her Cause \$5.00 per month for the year 1954. She certainly kept us in business and we are fulfilling our promise."

—Adams, Mass.

"Enclosed donation is to help the League, in thanksgiving for Kateri's aid in a school project we sponsored last year to raise funds to improve badly needed repairs. The project was intended for a short period. It is still running and has made other improvements possible."

—Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

"My husband was given a new position, and I was very much alarmed as it meant moving to another city. An almost impossibility as I have an invalid brother who cannot be moved. I prayed to Venerable Tekakwitha for help and I had an answer to my prayer. My husband was given a position where he could still have his headquarters at home and be home over weekends and travel the other part of the week. We are very grateful."

—Pittsburgh, Pa.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	11	Relief in Distress	3
Conversions	1	Safe Delivery	1
Employment	2	Spiritual & Temporal	1
Examination Success	3	Successful Operation	1
Financial Aid	1	Not Specified	62

PETITIONS

Cures	59	Financial Aid	14
Conversions	7	Relief in Distress	15
Employment	9	Safe Delivery	4
Examination Success	6	Sale of Property	3
Not Specified		56	

Obituary

Rt. Rev. Abbot B. H. Pennings, O. Praem., West de Pere, Wis.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Daniel J. Donovan, Milton, Mass.

Rev. William J. Kelly, S.J., Scranton, Pa.

Rev. Paul A. McNally, S.J., Washington, D.C.

Rev. George B. Murphy, Long Island City, N. Y.

Rev. Thomas J. Reilly, S.J., New York, N. Y.

Mother Mary Katherine Drexel, Philadelphia, Pa.

Sister M. Antoinette, O.P., Amityville, N. Y.

Sister Domitilla, Rochester, Minn.

Mr. Fred Bagley, Cleveland, Ohio

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