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TEKAKWITHA IN THE NEWS

Many letters have come to us from all parts of the country asking verification of, or comment on the recent news items about the present state of Tekakwitha's Cause. We were as surprised as everybody else to read the NC story radioed to this country by their Rome bureau:

Vatican City, June 14 (Radio, NC)—Officials at the Sacred Congregation of Rites denied that a new miracle has been submitted to that body to further the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha, Indian maid who died in 1680.

Officials at the Congregation — which is the Vatican body that studies and pronounces on cases of sanctity — stated that a medical commission had examined two alleged miracles wrought through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha. One of these miracles was accepted by the commission and the other rejected, it was pointed out. Except in cases of martyrdom there must be absolute proof of at least two miracles through the intercession of a candidate before the Vatican proceeds with beatification.

OUR OWN COMMENT

No formal presentation of evidence in the case of any purported miracle has been made by this office in recent years. Upon being

asked to discuss the news item by the NC, we sent them the following data about the status of the Cause at this time.

PRESENT POSITION OF KATERI

Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, daughter of a captive Christian Algonquin mother and a pagan Mohawk father, was born 1656 at Ossernenon, now Auriesville, New York, baptized Easter 1676 at Caughnawaga, now Fonda, New York, and died April 17, 1680 in Canada. Her relics are preserved at Caughnawaga, Province of Quebec.

Her Cause of Beatification and Canonization was introduced at Rome May 19, 1939. The Decree declaring her virtues heroic was

issued January 3, 1943. This Decree entitles her to be called Venerable.

Present status of the Cause: a search is being made for the two miracles attributable, under God, to her intercession, which are required before further steps towards Beatification are made.

All matters relating to Tekakwitha's Cause at this stage are presented to the consideration of the Sacred Congregation of Rites at Rome by the Postulator for her

Cause, the Rev. Charles Miccinelli, S.J. Two Vice-Postulators have been delegated to further her Cause in North America; for the United States, the Rev. Thomas J. Coffey,

S.J., with office at 30 West 16th Street, New York City, N. Y.; and for Canada, the Rev. Henri Bechard, S.J., with office at Caughnawaga, Province of Quebec.

THE WORK BEING DONE

All the activities of the Vice-Postulator's office at this time are directed to the encouragement of devotion to Tekakwitha, the dissemination of information, and particularly to fact-finding, sifting of evidence, and the preparation for ecclesiastical tribunals all under the direction of the Congregation of Rites, to take the evidence of eye-witnesses and others regarding purported cures.

It devolves upon the Postulator at Rome to present such evidence to the Congregation, and upon the Congregation to appraise and interpret the evidence and to draw appropriate conclusions.

The files of the New York office contain numerous reports of alleged instantaneous physical cures which their narrators relate to the intercession of Tekakwitha. Several of these, at first glance, seem to have the miraculous stature required for presentation to the Congregation. Two such events are being thoroughly examined on the local level in the United States, and there is a constant sifting and gathering of pertinent data,—but none, to the knowledge of the American Vice-Postulator, has been formally presented to the Congregation in recent years.

THE LONG WAIT

There is a constant flow of letters into the office of Tekakwitha League in New York from devotees of Kateri attesting to their faith that miracles of grace and healing have come through her. Clear, unshakeable proof of the latter is required by Rome to show that a servant of God proposed for beatification has been the instrument used by divine Providence to bring about the "something wonderful" which is considered a miracle. Inquiry is long, painstaking and searching.

Diagnosis, prognosis, medical chart, etc. all must be declared in detail. State of the person cured before, during and after the supposed event, and the relationship of the cure to positive intercession of Tekakwitha alone, are patiently probed. Medical experts are called in, but they are not asked to express their opinion as to whether the cure was miraculous or not. That is a matter for the Congregation to decide.

It takes almost a miracle to prove a miracle.

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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Thanksgivings

"Donation is to help the League, in thanksgiving for Kateri's aid in the safe delivery of our third little girl. Doctors had told us not to count on anything, that our baby may be deformed. She was perfect, thanks to God and Kateri. We also invoked her to help sell our property which up to that time we could not seem to sell. Again Kateri came to our aid. The property is now sold and we are most grateful for her intercession."

—E. Liverpool, Ohio

"I wish to acknowledge an answer to my prayers through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha. I truly believe it was through her that our little boy's recent surgery has done much to improve the use of his leg which was weakened as a result of polio."

—Louisville, Ky.

"Three weeks after my fifth child was born, I developed a blood clot in my leg. I prayed to Kateri Tekakwitha and promised her if everything came out all right I would send five dollars for her Cause. My leg is completely cured, and I believe I owe it to her. She has obtained many favors for us."

—Salix, Iowa

"I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving for one of many favors received from Venerable Kateri. For several months, my visits to the doctor averaged about one a week. Finally I promised Kateri I would send one dollar for each week I would not have to go to the doctor. At my last visit the doctor discharged me and told me to return in two months for a routine check-up. I am very grateful for this favor."

—West Englewood, N. J.

"My son and I were operated, and we came out fine through prayers to Venerable Tekakwitha. A friend of mine, her legs

became very swollen and with Kateri's reliquary she was very much relieved. A lady to whom I gave a reliquary, tells me that her granddaughter who is six years old, had a terrible attack of asthma, and with the reliquary she fell asleep after two or three days that were terrible."

—Vedado, Havana, Cuba

"My husband was very ill, did not know if he would ever recover. The doctors did not give me much hope, but I know Kateri helped me and I promised her I would make it known. He has recovered nearly completely, thanks to her."

—Rochester, N. Y.

"Having had terrible pains in my eyes for two days, I applied the Tekakwitha medal directly on my eyes and asked for just a few minutes relief. In an hour's time, the pain was gone and I was able to attend Mass."

—New Orleans, La.

"Enclosed thanksgiving to Catherine Tekakwitha is for sparing child and mother at birth. Also for the blessings I receive."

—Torrance, Calif.

"I had my first attack in the summer of 1941, and they continued to get more severe as time went on. I started medical care immediately but with no success. I had a thyroid operation in December 1941, and met the lady who acquainted me with the wonderful help that I was to receive from Tekakwitha. Knowing that I was not a Catholic but that I certainly needed help besides the medical care I was getting, she told me to pray and make novenas at home. I started but lost hope too soon. In 1942 I had to have the second operation and the doctors still were baffled about the whole case. After numerous

tests and x-rays, the case was diagnosed as stomach spasms. I continued along this line till 1943 when I was expecting my second child. I stopped taking medicine and started praying to Tekakwitha again for relief and a safe delivery. She answered both. My relief has been slow but it has been a definite relief. I would not say I am cured one hundred percent, but surely ninety percent is a great help and I am very, very grateful. I will continue my prayers and even if I never get wholly cured of these seizures, I will always be thankful for the help she sent me. Please accept this small token for the Cause of Venerable Tekakwitha."

—Cincinnati, Ohio

"The blessings showered upon us are legion. Kateri has 'moved all things before her', and 'put all things in order' for us in ways we consider miraculous. Our lifetime ambition has been to own a vacation resort. Through Kateri's help we recently completed the purchase of one, and renamed it Tekakwitha Park in her honor. Although we realize it will be an upgrage struggle for years to come, with Kateri as our patroness and guide, we face the future with confidence. We pledge to further her Cause to the best of our means."

—Roscommon, Mich.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	3	Property Sold.....	2
Employment	2	Relief in Distress.....	5
Financial Aid.....	4	Safe Trip.....	2
Home	1	Temporal	2
Not Specified.....		102	

PETITIONS

Cures	73	Safe Delivery	6
Apartments	4	Safe Trip	5
Conversions	6	Sale of Property.....	6
Employment	12	Spiritual & Temporal	5
Financial Aid.....	13	Studies	3
Peace of Mind.....	3	Successful Operation	3
Relief in Distress.....	22	Not Specified	71

Obituary

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward F. Crowley, Boston, Mass.
 Rev. James Conroy, S.J., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
 Rev. Francis B. Hargadon, S.J., Reading, Pa.
 Rev. John J. Murphy, S.J., Washington, D. C.
 Rev. Thomas F. Prendergast, Yonkers, N. Y.
 Rev. Joseph H. Sheehan, Dunwoodie, Yonkers, N. Y.
 Rev. John J. Toohey, S.J., Washington, D. C.
 Rev. Henry Verst, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Mother M. Clotilde, O.S.U., New Rochelle, N. Y.
 Sister Mary Adele, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Sister M. Alexandrine, O.P., Melville, N. Y.
 Sister Mary Catherine, Cincinnati, Ohio
 Sister M. Klenita, New York, N. Y.
 Sister M. Leona, Peekskill, N. Y.
 Sister Mary Norbert, C.S.J., Brentwood, L.I., N. Y.
 Miss Sarah Donay, Hays, Mont.
 Miss Lilla Finnegan, Waltham, Mass.
 Mrs. Rose D. McDonnell, Beardsley, Minn.
 Mr. William P. Maher, Lexington, Ky.
 Mrs. Mary Metzger, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Mr. A. F. J. Remy, New York, N. Y.
 Mrs. Clara Saduske, Denver, Colo.
 Mrs. Josephine Schwietering, Cincinnati, Ohio
 Miss Cornelia Weikel, Cleveland, Ohio

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