

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. XIX, No. 4

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1955

KATERI'S MOTHER

"The training of a child," said Napoleon I, "begins twenty years before its birth, at the moment the mother's training begins."

Kateri's mother . . . ? The little that we know about her may help us to understand her famous daughter better. Her name is unrecorded. The late Father Robert Holland in his poetic work, *Song of Tekakwitha*, calls her *Kahenta* which is Iroquois for *Flower-of-the-Prairie*.

Not Iroquois by birth, but Algonquin, she came from Three Rivers. As far back as 1652 we find Father Buteaux admiring the deep faith of the Christian Algonquins which flowered in a truly extraordinary atmosphere of prayer. Kahenta's people had their faith strengthened by frequent contacts with the Montagnais, all excellent Christians. Strengthened too by the visits of itinerant Blackrobes on their way to far-off Mission fields.

Mother and Martyrs

It is quite certain that Kahenta in her teens met the mighty Brebeuf and some of his companion Saints. It is also probable that she even assisted as they offered the Holy Sacrifice before fanning out over the continent. And when the news of three brave deaths at Auriesville in 1642-46, and of the tragic Huron Holocaust several years later which reddened Canada's soil traveled back along the St. Lawrence, and

the remains of Brebeuf and Lalemant, on their way back to Quebec reposed in the Little Three Rivers church, Kahenta, in spite of her youth, understood once and for all what her Baptism and what her religion meant. And she was never to forget this.

The Captive

Algonquin and Iroquois were at each other's throats in those days, no less than the rival nations of Europe, and one day the fortunes of war made her a captive and she found herself transplanted to Ossernenon, now Auriesville, New York. After the shock of separation wore down, her youthful vivacity re-asserted itself. The time came when she could cheerfully hum snatches of old tribal songs to herself as she kneaded the golden maize into corn-bread. And then one day her anxiety completely disappeared. She felt the eyes of the young chieftain who was her master, upon her. He had courage, but he was fierce and haughty. He was a pagan, she a Christian. And her modesty and meekness, so unlike anything he ever knew before, drew her to him. As the shrill notes of a few tardy cicadas rent the air one late afternoon the chief (he has been called Kenhoronkwa by the poet) sat down beside Kahenta in the dim long-house, and asked for a bowl of food. She smilingly handed it to him, and thus they were wed in the manner of the Mohawks.

Destiny's Child

Two children were born of this marriage, Tekakwitha and a younger brother. The Lily of the Mohawks was only four years old when she was left alone in the world. A smallpox epidemic carried off the rest of this happy family. Did Kateri's mother influence the child in the short season of motherhood allotted her? Most certainly she did. Modern educators admit the first six years of a child's life are the most important of all. A child can be

'saved' or 'spoiled' before he enters kindergarten. Kahenta's strong faith wove about Kateri's young days a tapestry of love. How often she heard the sweet names of *Jesos*, *Wari* and *Sose*. How often did the bright-eyed girl smile up to her as she sang those hymns the Blackrobes had taught her as a child in Algonquinland. Often enough to mark this child of destiny — often enough to prepare her for long years undefiled among the pagans.

... Henri Bechard

UNUSUAL MUSIC

For your music library (and *everybody* has a record-player these days) we suggest you obtain a set of the quaint recordings of the famed *Iroquois Mixed Choir*, directed by Father M. Caron, S.J., and for many years well known for their radio, TV and other concerts in Canada and the States.

They may be obtained by writing directly to Kateri Tekakwitha Guild, Mission of St. Francis Xavier, Caughnawaga, Quebec, Canada. There are two '78' discs, at \$1.75 each, postpaid:

MB 1619: Hymn to Kateri Tekakwitha

Conrad M. Hauser, S.J. and Alfred Bernier, S.J.

MB 1620: Tekwanoronkwanions (Ave Verum Corpus) Mozart

MB 1621: Tekwanonweronnions (Introit of Midnight Mass) Gregorian Kristos Ronontiio (Hymn to Christ the King) Beethoven

MB 1622: Wari Jesonnakeraton, Areriiia (Hymn for Easter) Handel. Aetwawannakwekonhak (Lauda Sion Salvatorem) Choral XVIII Cent. Strasbourg)

A PLEA

As we approach 1956, the three hundredth anniversary of the death of Tekakwitha at Caughnawaga, may we hope that her many clients will pray harder to speed the day of her Beatification. To para-

phrase Tennyson's familiar lines:

"... More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

Wherefore, let thy voice rise like a fountain for her night and day..."

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

"This is a long over-due letter of thanks. For the past seventeen years, I have received so many favors from Kateri Tekakwitha that it is simply impossible to recount them all. From obtaining for me a fine position when my old firm went out of business to finding a room for me in a crowded hotel, Kateri has always answered my requests. In fact I can recall no single instance when a request made to Kateri has ever been declined. Not only have I been graciously favored by the wonderful Indian Princess, but friends and others to whom I have given medals and leaflets have received innumerable favors. Up in New Hampshire, a man of 73, successfully recovered from a major operation; a lady in Florida recovered the use of her faculties after her whole left side was paralyzed; a policeman in New York City whose skull was fractured in two places is now hale and hearty; eleven soldiers going overseas at the beginning of World War II were each given a medal, each soldier returned home safe and sound. And just yesterday, a lady to whom I had given a medal a while back tells me thankfully that her husband who was close to becoming a hopeless drunkard has now stopped drinking. A man 69 years old was out of a position for nearly a year. He started a devotion to Kateri and in one week he was offered four good positions. And I could continue indefinitely. Kateri is simply wonderful to those who invoke her and to those who carry on the devotion to her."

—New York, N. Y.

"I promised Catherine Tekakwitha the enclosed small offering for curing my three year old daughter of a very bad cold and ear infection."

—San Antonio, Texas

"This is the story I promised to tell about the help I experienced from Kateri. Our pastor, for whom I have worked many years, became very ill with a 106 fever from no apparent reason. I called one doctor after another but no one could diagnose his case, in spite of chills, sweats, and lapses into unconsciousness. Finally one doctor said he must be operated on — gall bladder. He went to Mayo Clinic, but I felt he was a goner if operated on. He became ill in early June and this was late July. I finally remembered how Kateri had helped once six years ago in a strange case. I promised \$25.00 if by some miracle an operation would not be necessary. Sure enough in a week they could not find what was wrong. Father came home still sick and almost died in a coma of chills. Finally another old doctor took a small blood test and sure enough he found malaria. Where he got it no one can tell. Four pills in four days effected a prompt recovery without an after effect. It was only through prayers of the people and mostly little Kateri."

—Leola, S.D.

"I am long overdue in sending my offering of thanksgiving to Venerable Kateri. Last winter I prayed so hard that she would help us to sell our trailer before we left for the north. She has sold our trailer and for the remaining two months found us a nice little apartment."

—Saugerties, N. Y.

"Kateri has been right beside me through my first year of teaching to adults in the public schools. Making good meant a great deal and I feel she really helps. Everyone to whom I pass on the word finds it the same."

—Los Angeles, Calif.

"Enclosing a small offering in thanksgiving to Kateri Tekakwitha for a favor granted through her intercession. My uncle was in an accident and suffered a fractured skull. His condition was critical for a few days, during which time we left her reliquary at his bedside. His condition improved and he is now at home and recovering nicely."

—Brooklyn, N. Y.

"My sister had a disease which prohibited her from having any children. She prayed to St. Gerard so that he might help her have a child. She became pregnant, but lost the baby within a few months. I, after having heard about Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, began praying to her for my sister. In a short time, after my first prayers, she became pregnant again and is now the mother of a baby girl, born May 14th."

—New Orleans, La.

"I wish to express my thanks again for the many favors I have received through Kateri's intercession. This time, my lower gums were infected, and they had to be lanced and teeth removed. My face became swollen, so I placed the picture of Kateri on it. Several days later when I had the stitches removed, the doctor was surprised my gums were healing so rapidly. I have spread devotion to her among my friends, and not one of them did she let down."

—Dayton, Ohio

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	7	Relief in Distress	7
Employment	4	Safe Delivery	3
Financial Aid	6	Sale of Property	2
Not Specified	77		

PETITIONS

Cures	66	Relief in Distress	19
Apartments	5	Safe Delivery	9
Conversions	9	Safe Trip	3
Employment	6	Sell Property	4
Examinations	3	Spiritual & Temporal	4
Financial Aid	16	Stop Drinking	4
Homes	2	Vocations	5
Not Specified	59		

Obituary

- Most Rev. Thomas J. Feeney, S.J., D.D., Caroline & Marshall Islands
 Most Rev. Joseph E. McCarthy, D.D., Portland, Me.
 Most Rev. Charles D. White, D.D., Spokane, Wash.
 Rt. Rev. M. Gerard McGinley, O.C.S.O., Piffard, N. Y.
 Rt. Rev. Paul Schaeuble, O.S.B., St. Benedict, La.
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederic J. Allchin, Charlestown, Mass.
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. William A. Jochum, New Albany, Ind.
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. McCahill, New York, N. Y.
 Rev. Paul L. Gregg, S.J., Denver, Colo.
 Rev. Hugh F. Kennedy, S.J., (Chaplain) Germany
 Rev. Paul Lisicky, Lansford, Pa.
 Rev. Edward McNamara, S.J., St. Louis, Mo.
 Rev. George A. Morgan, S.J., Worcester, Mass.
 Rev. William Coleman Nevils, S.J., New York, N. Y.
 Rev. K. L. Roche, Toluca, Ill.
 Rev. D. W. Twomey, S.J., Worcester, Mass.
 Mr. John S. McQuade, S.J., New York, N. Y.
 Sister Ignatia, Nauvoo, Ill.
 Sister M. Vitalis, Louisville, Ky.
 Miss Ada S. Clarke, New York, N. Y.
 Miss Catherine Coughlin, New York, N. Y.
 Miss Gertrude Crane, Baltimore, Md.
 Mr. Walter Dowd, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Mrs. Frank P. Keane, Oak Park, Ill.
 Miss Ida Procaskey, New Albany, Ind.
 Mrs. Aurora T. Romero, El Paso, Texas

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