

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. XIX, No. 5

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1955

GREETINGS

On Christmas Day, 1677, twenty-one year old Kateri Tekakwitha received Our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion. At this blessed season, eve of the three hundredth year of the now Venerable Kateri's first

sweet union with Christ, the Vice-Postulator for her Cause and the staff of her League unite with all her clients in our Christmastide Communion, which they hope will be harbinger of happiness and further blessings in the New Year.

KATERI'S CALENDAR

It would seem appropriate, as we go into the year 1956, Tercentenary of Tekakwitha's birth, to review the highlights and milestones which mark the progress of the Lily of the Mohawks as she approaches, as we all devoutly hope, her Beatification.

The Seed

1656: Tekakwitha was born either at Ossernenon or at Gandaouaga (now Auriesville, N. Y.) on the south bank of the Mohawk River. Her father, whom a poet has called Kenhoronka, was a Mohawk Indian chief of the Turtle Clan. Her mother (named Kahenta by the same poet) was a Christian Algonquin Indian who had been taken captive by the Mohawks during a raid on the French settlers at Three Rivers, Canada.

1659-60: When Tekakwitha was around four years of age an epidemic of smallpox took away the father, mother and small brother of Tekakwitha. She then became a member of her paternal uncle's (Onse-gongo's) household.

1666: A war party, led by De Tracy, made up of French soldiers and Canadian Indians, destroyed the Mohawk Indian villages on the south side of the Mohawk River, including Gandaouaga, which the early Dutch called *Caughnawaga*.

1667: Upon the departure of this French-Indian war party the Mohawk Indians rebuilt their castles or villages on the north side of the Mohawk River. Tekakwitha's people erected a new strongly fortified village about half a mile west of the present village of Fonda. They renamed this *Caughnawaga*. Tekakwitha lived here for eight years, or until she was twenty-one.

The Flowering:

1669: Father Pierron, S. J., and Father Boniface, S. J. took care of the spiritual needs of the Christian Mohawks at *Caughnawaga*, where a small bark chapel dedicated to St. Peter had been erected.

1675: Father James de Lamberville, S. J., came to take the place of Father Boniface, S. J.

1676: Tekakwitha was baptized in St. Peter Chapel on Easter Sunday, April 18 and took the name of Catherine (Kateri or Gadari in her own language).

1677: Kateri Tekakwitha, persecuted in her native village, Caughnawaga, near the shore of the Mohawk, fled to the village of the Christian Indians on the bank of the St. Lawrence River, where she arrived in the autumn of the same year. This village was also named Caughnawaga.

1677: On Christmas Day Kateri Tekakwitha received her First Holy Communion.

1679: On March 25, Tekakwitha made a vow of perpetual virginity with the consent of her spiritual guide, Father Cholonc, S. J.

1680: Kateri Tekakwitha died Wednesday, April 17, in Holy Week, in the same village where she had remained since 1677. She was twenty-four years old.

The Harvest:

1884: The Archbishops and Bishops of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore petitioned the Holy See to institute the process for the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha.

1931: After years of preparation, the Cause was instituted by the Most Reverend Bishop of Albany, Edmund F. Gibbons, on May 22. Sessions for the Informative Process opened June 2, 1931, and testimony had all been taken by February 23, 1932. Report and Review were concluded May 1, 1932 and the Process finished June 4.

1932: The Process '*de non cultu*' (public veneration) was instituted June 29, 1932,

and the visit to Tekakwitha's tomb in Canada was made with all solemnity July 21, 1932.

1938: During June, the Historical Section of the Congregation of Rites at Rome declared that the documents in the case of Tekakwitha are complete, genuine and trustworthy, that they established Tekakwitha's renown for holiness, and a solid basis for final judgment that her virtues were heroic.

1939: On May 20, His Holiness Pope Pius XII approved of the Introduction of the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha.

1940: November 26 of this year was set, with the Holy Father's approval, as the date for the first discussion of the virtues of the Servant of God, Kateri Tekakwitha.

1943: At Rome, January 3, was issued the Decree approved by His Holiness Pope Pius XII declaring heroic the virtues of the servant of God, the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.

And Now?

1955: Since the Decree terming Kateri's virtues heroic and allowing her to be called 'Venerable', a constant search for miracles attributable to her intercession has continued. Several Apostolic Processes concerned with purported miracles have been concluded or are presently in progress. The business of these Processes is simply to take testimony under oath. The judgment rests with the Holy See. It would be wonderful if Tekakwitha's Cause could be advanced to the next important step in 1956, in time for her three hundredth birthday, — but as to that we can only hope, and pray.

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

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Thanksgivings

"I was burned severely on my foot by scalding water. After weeks of medical treatment without appreciable progress, I despaired. Then a friend called to my attention the efficacy of Catherine Tekakwitha's appeal through God. Shortly my foot became better and gradually normal. I attribute this to Tekakwitha's influence with God on my behalf."

"Again, my employer had a cerebral hemorrhage. She was desperately ill. I appealed to Tekakwitha to help her. Immediately her condition improved. The doctors were astounded. When it was suggested that prayers through Tekakwitha was a medium, they said, "please ask her to intercede for us."

"A fellow worker's wife was seriously ill, and about to undergo an operation. I suggested an appeal to Catherine Tekakwitha — with the result that repair, complete and successful was accomplished. Without Tekakwitha's intercession, I feel it may have been futile."

—New York, N. Y.

"A long over due letter for Kateri. I prayed for her canonization long before I ever asked a favor. My son has had asthma for years. He was in bed one year, this last time, and though only eleven years old, prayed every day to die and be rid of his misery. Somehow the thought of Kateri came to me and in a couple of days after praying to her the allergy the doctor found was what his system could not tolerate. He was up all summer, playing and glad to be alive. He is not cured yet, but when he eliminates wheat entirely from his diet, he is free of asthma. This was Kateri's work. She has answered many other little prayers, even found great-grandmother's wedding ring that was lost in the grass for three months."

—Beaverton, Oregon

"I promised Kateri Tekakwitha I would send some money for her Cause if she would make my youngest daughter Virginia who is five years old get completely well from polio. Our little girl was released from the hospital. She must take exercises, and might have to have a little treatment, but she is able to use her whole body. So this little donation accept with our gratitude."

—Cicero, Ill.

"I have been praying for a special favor, that my daughter would teach in a particular school in San Francisco, rather than one in an undesirable district where she was also spoken for. Thanks to Catherine she received word this week that she was appointed to the school of her choice."

—San Jose, Calif.

"I had quite a sizeable income tax refund due me this year. Although I mailed my return in January, my refund was delayed. I started praying to Kateri promising five dollars if I would have my check within two days. The next day it was delivered to me."

—Buffalo, N. Y.

"When I received your Christmas letter and appeal for help in Kateri's Cause, I had no idea of being able to do anything as a poor nun may carry only an empty pocket book. Imagine my surprise, this week on receiving a check unexpectedly, and permission to make a donation to our Kateri's Cause. No doubt, the Venerable had something to do with the affair."

—St. Joseph, Minn.

"Although I am not a Catholic, I pray to her and I feel that she has interceded for me and helped me in many unusual instances."

—Albany, N. Y.

"For about two years I worked at the same place and working conditions were quite bad. I was under a nervous strain all the time. I hated to leave because I felt sorry for my employer and his family but got to the point where I could not eat or sleep well or have patience with my children. I prayed to little Catherine for help. (I didn't even know how she could help.) Within a few weeks things changed in such a way that I was able to leave with a clear conscience and step into another job so much better than anything I ever dreamed I could have."

—Detroit, Mich.

"I feel that Kateri has come to our aid again. Three months ago my husband, who is retired, was told that he was to lose three old age checks for some reason we could not understand. He protested, so they gave him a paper to fill out, and here is where Kateri came in,—she certainly helped us fill it out. Sometime later we received notice that everything was alright. He has received his checks every month since. The enclosed is for Kateri's Cause."

—Methuen, Mass.

"I asked Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha for a very great blessing and received it on the very day that I finished the novena. In return, I promised that I would spread

devotion and ask as many Catholic people as I could possibly get to pray for her canonization."

—Lancaster, Pa.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	4	Relief in Distress	8
Apartments	2	Safe Delivery	2
Employment	3	Sale of Property	1
Financial Aid	2	Successful Trip	1
Not Specified		54	

PETITIONS

Cures	36	Peace of Mind	4
Conversions	6	Relief in Distress	17
Employment	7	Safe Delivery	1
Examinations	1	Spiritual & Temporal ..	3
Financial Aid	14	Vocations	4
New Organ	1	Not Specified	34

Obituary

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John C. Grudzinski, Kansas City, Kansas
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas F. Temple, New York, N. Y.
 Rev. Augustin B. Auge, Chicopee, Mass.
 Rev. Alfred J. Barrett, S.J., New York, N. Y.
 Rev. John T. Casey, Worcester, Mass.
 Rev. William B. Connell, Troy, N. Y.
 Rev. Edward J. Donovan, Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.
 Rev. Peter Fiore, Union City, N. J.
 Rev. Laurence J. Kelley, S. J., Washington, D. C.
 Rev. Christopher J. A. King, Amsterdam, N. Y.
 Rev. Valentine S. Teclaw, Pittsfield, Mass.
 Sister M. Auxentia, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Sister M. Edna, O. P., Amityville, N. Y.
 Sister M. Lucretia, Hoboken, N. J.
 Sister M. Marcelline, Toledo, Ohio
 Sister M. Wilhelmina, O. P., Amityville, N. Y.
 Mrs. John Goergen, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Mrs. F. C. Marshall, Sonoma, Calif.
 Mr. William Spellman, Whitman, Mass.

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