

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. XX, No. 3

AUTUMN, 1956

BISHOP GIBBONS, 88—CRUSADING FOR KATERI

Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha must regard with extreme pleasure the vast army of faithful whose prayerful petitions for the advancement of her Beatification and ultimate Canonization have been greatly intensified in this year that marks the three hundredth anniversary of her birth.

Of the Indian Maiden's many clients none could be held in higher esteem than the Most Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, D.D., who not only took a noteworthy part in the institution of the process that leads to official acclaim by the Church but has persisted with characteristic diligence and energy in making her known and arousing the faithful to a "mass action" on her behalf.

Bishop Gibbons celebrated his eighty-eighth birthday Sunday, September 16th, at Mater Christi Seminary where he resides. His quarters are not imbued with the tranquil air that would ordinarily be expected for one of such venerable years. The atmosphere is very much alive with activity that indicates a big and important operation. Bishop Gibbons upholds the central office in the campaign he organized with the hearty endorsement of the Most Rev. William A. Scully, D.D., Bishop of Albany, to unite the spiritual forces of the diocese in persistent prayer to God for miraculous cures wrought through the intercession of Kateri. That the aims of this undertaking

will be realized is the only wish Bishop Gibbons would give expression to on the occasion of his birthday.

The "mass action" plan initiated last March, constituted of clergy of the diocese, teachers in diocesan schools, Brothers and Sisters in motherhouses and novitiates, parish sodalities and Catholic lay organizations has had most gratifying results, Bishop Gibbons pointed out.

To date he has received requests for materials that effectively foster the Cause of the "Lily of the Mohawks" in numbers amounting to more than 36,000. But wide areas still remain to be covered. With the resumption of parish, school and organizational activities, Bishop Gibbons harbors the fond hope that the campaign will be accelerated and ardor will increase for the "favor of miracles to obtain the glorification of the holy Indian Maiden."

Particularly anticipated is a strong movement on the part of parish societies and sodalities and the myriad Catholic organizations thriving in the diocese. Bishop Gibbons is relying on the officers of these bodies to make available for distribution among members the "weapons" that are being employed to win victory and move our Holy Father to proclaim Kateri "Blessed" and, finally, "Saint."

KATERI AND JUAN DIEGO

by

JESUS ROMERO Y PÉREZ, S.J.

SANCITY is a flowering of the Christian way of life. This flowering is not the privilege of any special race. It is as universal as the Church itself. But it is interesting to see how certain Saints are to be met with who resemble one another by their virtues and it is even more interesting to meet those of a similar race.

True Christian sentiment calls "saints" those who are known to have practised to a high degree all Christian virtues—even when the Church has made no official declaration concerning these virtues. Following this popular sentiment which submits itself beforehand to the decisions of the Church, we may call "saints", Kateri Tekakwitha and Juan Diego, the two Indians of the American Continent whose causes of canonization are actively engaged.

Juan Diego was a humble Mexican Indian who, because of his virtues, was chosen to be the ambassador of Mary at the occasion of Her apparition at Tepeyac. Our Lady, to make known her request for a shrine in Mexico, did not wish to choose a wise doctor of the University, a learned prelate, or a brave captain. For this She chose an Indian who precisely did not belong to the Aztec Indian nobility. Juan Diego was one of the first Christian Indians who fervently began to live his Catholicism! His simplicity and candor were such that when Our Lady appeared to him at Tepeyac, he did not lose even for an instance his presence of mind. With that sublime simplicity of the humble, he addressed himself to the heavenly Lady who was speaking to him with the most tender expressions that could be found in his language and which for him expressed the greatest fondness.

Juan Diego found himself before the supernatural and the wondrous and immediately he found his place within it. His faith was so intense that he did not find it strange that God or Mary should talk to human beings. He did not falter while talking to Our Lady. He showed the greatest possible respect, but there was no hesitation in his words. This experience which could have made anyone else vain, was for him an order of the Queen of Heaven, a request which he must accomplish quite promptly.

His special tenderness for the Mother of God merited his being chosen as the messenger of the apparitions of Guadalupe. Once his mission was accomplished and after the devotion to Mary of Guadalupe reached its highest point, not only in Mexico but in all neighboring regions, Juan Diego retired to a hermitage where he lived for seventeen more years consecrated to fasting, to penance, to contemplation and to the frequent reception of Holy Eucharist.

The Indians who knew him used to say to their sons to encourage them to practise virtue, "May God make you become like Juan Diego!" Many had recourse to him as an intercessor in their petitions to Our Lady. And he, humbly, was willing to pray for all. And praying with simplicity, as he always used to do, he always obtained what he requested.

Is it not natural that we should find between Juan Diego and Kateri striking resemblances? Kateri Tekakwitha, too, was a fervent servant of Mary. We all know the tenderness with which she recited "*Wari tekoronkwani*—Hail Mary!" and how she never dispensed herself from the recitation of the rosary. Like Kateri, Juan consecrated

his virginity to the Queen of Heaven and like her he kept it faithfully despite the shameful habits of his people. Like her, he also loved solitude, recollection and frequent communion.

Kateri was not favored with visible apparitions, but she also had a mission here on earth: she was to be the messenger and witness of a truth: that God and Mary had found within her—within the soul of a humble Iroquois—a Garden of delight! The hand of God descended upon the barbarism

This article is a reprint from KATERI, Caugananaga, Pa.

Thanksgivings

"I have neglected sending you donations these past months, but Little Catherine has worked right along with her prayerful assistance. Yes, we have been blessed in every way through her prayers. We are happy to tell you that we adopted our second child. The elder, a sweet child who became lonely and pensive, is now a happy, smiling child with her baby sister. My husband and I are finding new happiness and true meaning of love. Please help us thank our Dear Lord for His many blessings."

—St. Petersburg, Fla.

"Would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for many favors received through the intercession of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. Am indebted to her for conversion of a new daughter-in-law."

—Tiffin, Ohio

"I would like to acknowledge Tekakwitha's intercession in renting my apartment in two days after praying to her. I have been so fortunate in having lovely renters and lasting friends — but I owe it all to Tekakwitha. I always ask her to send the right people and I forget about it then, and she always comes through."

—Fort Wayne, Ind.

of the Indians and transformed them into fervent Christians, always faithful to the inspirations of grace. The resemblance between Juan Diego's holiness and Kateri's is remarkable.

That is why we claim that they are two symbols for America. They represent the native races of the continent prostrate at the feet of Mary, *la Conquistadora* of America. These two Indians, we hope officially to call saints and signal protectors of the native races of the New World.

"My husband had a rather serious business problem which we placed in Kateri's care and which was overcome in two days. We are indeed grateful for her many favors, and pray for her canonization."

—Brooklyn, N. Y.

"Kateri's favors are countless and remarkable".

—Cleveland, Ohio

"Thank you for your prayers, they were really efficacious and we have found such a nice home. We had looked for almost a year and were discouraged.

We had another gift of unexpected money and are giving ten percent in thanksgiving to Tekakwitha. Our finances were at a low ebb when she started to favor us a few years ago. Because of business failure and other reasons, it took us eleven years to pay up debts, and for years my husband did not advance but so little in his work. After twelve years we started a novena to Kateri, and on the first Saturday we received financial help. Since that time we have been helped so often — usually on Saturday."

—Lincoln, Nebr.

"She" did it — so here is my thanks! I promised Kateri, if she got for me from Our Blessed Mother, an answer to a Sodality need, I would make a small donation toward the Cause of Kateri's Beatification."

—New York, N. Y.

"A few weeks ago I wrote to you requesting prayers to Kateri for my sister who was not well. I started a novena to her and when that one was finished, started another—the last one was started last Sunday, one of thanksgiving. My sister was operated upon for an ovarian tumor. The picture presented by the doctor was anything but encouraging. The patient's age, etc. However, I stormed Kateri, and my friends made novenas. The Poor Clare Sisters and the Cenacle Sisters also prayed to Kateri, and included the intention of praying for her canonization. After the operation, the doctor told us she was uncertain as to what she would find—in fact, cancer was her predominant thought. The operation proved a tumor as big as a football—all the organs clean, but removed. Laboratory examination which took a few days, revealed all negative results. The doctor told my sister she was very lucky. Thanks to God for answering Venerable Kateri's request. A relic was used many times. I promised the enclosed to be used to further the Cause of Kateri's

Canonization, and also promised to spread devotion to her."—Chicago, Ill.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| Cures | 4 | Financial Aid | 10 |
| Apartment & Home | 2 | Relief in Distress.... | 13 |
| Conversion | 1 | Safe Delivery | 2 |
| Employment | 1 | Sale of Property | 1 |
| Not Specified | 98 | | |

PETITIONS

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|
| Cures | 68 | Relief in Distress.... | 26 |
| Apartment & Home | 4 | Safe Delivery | 4 |
| Business Success | 3 | Sale of Property | 2 |
| Conversion | 9 | Spiritual & Temporal | 3 |
| Employment | 5 | Successful Operation | 6 |
| Financial Aid | 11 | Not Specified | 61 |

Obituary

Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, D.D., Kansas City, Mo.
Most Rev. John F. Noll, D.D., Fort Wayne, Ind.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. William P. Schulte, Dearborn, Mich.
Rev. John B. Brudermanns, Tomah, Wis.
Very Rev. Mathias Faust, New York, N. Y.
Rev. Joseph A. Geis, Kingston, N. Y.
Rev. John J. Kehoe, S.J., New York, N. Y.
Rev. Joseph S. McHattie, S.J., St. Louis, Mo.
Rev. J. J. Mulholland, Scranton, Pa.
Rev. James G. Neafsey, Maywood, N. J.
Rev. Herbert C. Noonan, S.J., Omaha, Nebr.
Rev. Louis B. Pastorelli, S.S.J., Newburgh, N. Y.
Rev. Frederick E. Welfie, S.J., Cleveland, Ohio
Mr. Thomas Walsh, S.J., Cebu City, Philippines
Bro. John P. Himmelreicher, S.J., Woodstock, Md.
Sister Francis Clare, C.S.J., Troy, N. Y.
Miss Margaret Barry, Troy, N. Y.
Mrs. Eugenie Bouret, San Jose, Calif.
Mrs. John M. Cory, New York, N. Y.
Miss Marie C. Curry, Bellerose, L. I.
Mrs. Anna Diehl, Pittston, Pa.
Dr. F. J. Gannon, Cleveland, Ohio
Mrs. Anna L. Hanley, Providence, R. I.
Mrs. P. McNamara, Corning, N. Y.
Mrs. John C. Rehm, Fort Jervis, N. Y.
Mr. Bernard A. Stahl, Wilmington, Del.
Mrs. H. F. Wrocklage, Louisville, Ky.

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