

THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

VOL. XX, No. 4

WINTER, 1956

## The Holy Season's Greetings

### A LOVELY LADY IN WAITING\*

When you visit Montreal — of necessity and joyous choice — you head across for the Indian mission at Caughnawaga. There you find the village that is owned and operated by the Iroquois, the chapel that goes back to early Colonial days, the stalwart descendants of the magnificent warriors whom history knows as Iroquois, and a pulsing interest in Kateri Tekakwitha.

Incidentally, if you talk to the anthropologists who specialize in Indian history, you'll hear strange stories of the origin of the Iroquois . . . that they are not like other Indians, Mongolians, cousins of the modern Chinese, but a race utterly apart. Dr. Jury, who should know, is convinced that this brilliant, warlike, liberty-loving people were originally Celts, which should make them cousins of the Irish.

And while we are in parentheses . . . the Indians explain their origins much more simply. Three times God made the first man. He baked the clay too much the first time, and that was the Negro; He baked the clay

not enough the next time, and that was the white; then He baked the clay a perfect golden, reddish brown, and that was the Indian. The Indians — according to the Indians — came directly from God and were placed in North America. No Mongolian or Celtic origins for them!

I went across to hear the famous — and rightly so — Caughnawaga choir. Their broadcast over a Canadian network brought letters of praise from across the continent. The music is classic, of every race and age — Beethoven, Mozart, modern composers; but the lyrics are always in Iroquois. Perhaps you don't know it, but at this mission the Solemn High Mass is sung in Iroquois, a rare and singular permission from Rome.

When I go to Caughnawaga, I always ask to see the relics of the lovely Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, as she is called. They lie under glass, carefully sealed, waiting for the time when they will be called for in Rome, and this little American Indian virgin will become perhaps our first authentic

\*By the late Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J.

American saint. I lay my hands upon the glass-enclosed relics, red as the skin of an Indian, and ask the little Kateri to bless our land and make to walk in her virginal footsteps hosts of young Americans of another age and race.

The Jesuit fathers who knew her well left behind them an extraordinary detailed record of her life. It is a surprisingly complete word-picture of a flower that bloomed in pagandom, a most attractive little girl who lived to precisely the age of the Little Flower and confessed the faith and practiced the Christian life in midst of a people slowly emerging from savagery to Christian culture. She was for them what Agnes and Agatha and Cecilia and Lucy were for the newly converted and the on-their-way-to-Christianity Romans of the apostolic age. (Yes there was an apostolic age in America, and Kateri and those early apostles to America were a glorious and suffering part of it.)

Yet, despite the perfect word-picture, there is little to guide the artists who try to paint or sculpture Kateri. Several have tried, with more or less success.

This time as I stood with my hands on the glass-covered relics, I saw a new statue standing in the sacristy. It had been bought, I was told, by a group of Boston young men, who brought it on the top of a car to the mission as a tribute from New England to the place of Kateri's happiest memory. The statue is unmistakably Indian, her face a Christian symbol (seen in left profile it is fairly sad) for the paganism around her; in right profile it is smiling, rightly with the promise of the life ahead.

"Why isn't it in the church itself?" I asked.

Father Lalonde shook his head regretfully. "We can't put her there — not until she has been beatified."

"Not even," I insisted, "as the statue of a famous and illustrious person?"

"Her fellow Indians wouldn't think of her in that way," said the missionary. "And for that matter, I'm afraid that we priests wouldn't, either."

So there she stands in the sacristy of the mission church on the spot that once knew her virginal feet. And she cannot get into the church, where she rightly belongs — not until we who profit most from her saintliness help her get there.

Kateri needs people to ask her for miracles. I understand that she is wonderfully generous with her miracles in money problems. Unfortunately, these miracles don't count toward her canonization. She has helped many young people find their vocations in life. That is wonderful for them; but it doesn't help make her a canonized saint.

Too, too few people are asking her for cures, and miraculous cures. She was one whose life proved the miracle of her age, almost three hundred years ago. She is, no doubt of it, dear to God. The difficulty seems to be that her fellow Americans are not asking her to obtain for them the signs and wonders that mean miracles of healing for her clients and new proofs that she is entitled to her place on the altar . . . in the Church.

When I left Caughnawaga that evening, I regretted that behind me I left in the sacristy of the church a lovely lady in waiting. She has been waiting too long. Could we hope that you who need miracles will turn to Kateri and help her from the sacristy (and the love of thousands) into the Church and the veneration of all Catholic mankind?



## Thanksgivings

"The following is in thanksgiving for Tekakwitha's help in seeing us through the strain of our annual school show. It's amazing how often we elude disaster, and I am serious when I appeal for her help. May it please God to have her declared saint soon."

—New Brunswick, N. J.

"Nothing could have saved our business, only a miracle, and that miracle came through our prayers to Catherine Tekakwitha, to whom we will be every grateful."

—Detroit, Mich.

"Offering in thanksgiving is for a good doctor's report and an improvement in my wife's heart condition. I am most grateful to Little Katherine for this favor, and for the favors I have received in the past."

—Pittsburgh, Pa.

"My father was very ill and had to be operated on for stomach ulcers. We were warned of a possibility of cancer, but thank God, today, after almost two years of illness, he has recovered and is able to resume his work. Our sincere thanks to Tekakwitha."—Buffalo, N. Y.

"During the past year, through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha, favors were received by a number of people who needed help. I promised to publish the fact if my sister, who became mentally ill over a year ago, would be cured. As soon as I made this promise, my sister began to improve mentally, and is now almost her old self again."—Grand Rapids, Mich.

"I thank the Lily of the Mohawks again for helping me to have a wonderful healthy and normal baby girl. My many thanks also for making my mother's serious operation a success. I shall pray to her always."

—Hicksville, L. I., N. Y.

"My husband, who is a Lutheran, was taken very ill. The doctors here did not know what it was as he had a spot on his lung. We took him to a lung specialist in Toledo. He took tests of his lungs, and thought it was cancer. I prayed to Catherine Tekakwitha, promising to send offering if it wasn't. This was last August. They have taken tests and x-rays since, and he seems all right, so I feel my prayers have been answered, and am sending my offering."

—Monroe, Mich.

"This letter is an effort to repay to dear "Kateri", as we call her, a little in words of gratitude for many favors granted in the last year. The girls of this school have readily responded to a plea of prayers to her in their many little needs, but always with the stipulation they pass on the good word if their prayer is answered. The favors are so many they could not be enumerated here. However, one in particular that was given up for lack of faith in the obstacles to be surmounted for a "missionary project" has now become a reality, and the continuation of her intercession will be thus assured in keeping my side of the bargain. These girls who have been praying are of the Coeur D'Alene Tribe, in Idaho. I do not have an "alm" at the present, but will pray that others richer than myself hear and gain confidence and grant you the financial help needed for the continuation of her Cause."

—Sprague, Wash.

"We wish to enclose this check for \$100.00, the same being the amount which we (my son and myself) promised to give to little Tekakwitha if we received certain financial help. In direct response to our prayers, we received the favors sought and more." — Cleveland, Ohio.

"The reliquary of Tekakwitha arrived the day I was entering the hospital for surgery. In the recovery room, my first words were, "thank you, everyone who did anything for me." This, of course, included you, and especially Kateri. My doctor said I did fine all through the ordeal. As I entered the hospital, I was prepared for a great deal of pain and suffering. I had absolutely none. Deeply grateful to dear Kateri for all she has done for me." — Sacramento, Calif.

"A few months ago, we were told our little grandson had a brain injury, and should be placed in an institution. We knew of a good Catholic institution which we were anxious to place him in, but were told there were seventeen hundred little ones on their waiting list. I began praying to Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha and within a few weeks had a call saying they would admit our little boy. It was a miracle." —Pittsburgh, Pa.

"I am enclosing a small offering in thanksgiving for a favor granted through Kateri's intercession. My husband had mislaid a briefcase containing important business papers. The case was returned intact. We have also adopted a little son, and again we were aided by the Lily of the Mohawks. From the time of our first application everything progressed smoothly." — Malverne, N. Y.

## ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures .....	8	Safe Delivery .....	1
Apartments .....	2	Safe Trip .....	4
Conversion .....	1	Sale of Property ....	1
Employment .....	3	Successful Exam ....	1
Financial Aid .....	4	Successful Operation ..	1
Relief in Distress ....	6	Not Specified .....	93

## PETITIONS

Cures .....	81	Relief in Distress ....	24
Apartments .....	2	Safe Delivery .....	2
Conversion .....	4	Safe Trip .....	3
Employment .....	6	Sale of Property .....	6
Financial Aid .....	11	Successful Operation ..	4
Peace of Mind .....	4	Success in Studies ..	4
Not Specified .....		56	

## Obituary

Most Rev. Thomas E. Molloy, S.T.D., Bklyn., N. Y.  
 Most Rev. John G. Murray, S.T.D., St. Paul, Minn.  
 Most Rev. Raymond A. Kearney, S.T.D.,  
 Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Most Rev. Edward F. Ryan, D.D., Burlington, Vt.  
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Coffey, Salem, Mass.  
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 Miss Minnie Mullhall, New Orleans, La.  
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 Mr. I. C. Reeves, Adams, Mass.  
 Miss Alice Sheerin, So. Norwalk, Conn.  
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