

THE LILY OF

*Fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

VOLUME XXXII, No. 1

SPRING, 1958

## THE PASSING OF AN ARTIST

Our readers are acquainted with the official painting of Kateri Tekakwitha, and, we dare say, of the earlier picture of America's first canonized saints, Father Isaac Jogues and his companions. Both concepts are the work of the same artist, Reverend Mother Margaret M. Nealis, Religious of the Sacred Heart, who died on December 17, 1957 after sixty fruitful years in the religious life. She is survived by an older brother, N. John Nealis, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and by five nieces and a nephew.

On the occasion of her first international accomplishment — the acceptance of her painting of the North American Martyrs at the time of their beatification in June, 1925, Father Edward Devine, S.J., one of the advocates for the Martyrs' Cause, wrote to her:

"Just a word, written in stifling Roman weather, to say that had you been in St. Peter's yesterday, you would have been a

proud little nun to see your painting eagerly taken up by the eyes of the vast multitude that filled the Basilica. It was a thrilling moment when, after the reading of the Decree, the veil dropped, revealing the eight Martyrs — your picture. It was also hung later from the balcony of St. Peter's in view of the forty thousand who assembled in the piazza."

Copies of this same painting hang in honor at the Shrine of the Canadian Martyrs at Midland, Ontario, and at the Martyrs Chapel at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs at Auriesville, N. Y. Mother Nealis "did it again" when she painted and had accepted as official, a picture of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. For most of her three score years as a Religious of the Sacred Heart, she was assigned to the Sacred Heart Convent at the Sault-au-Recollet, Montreal. R.I.P.

## MORE TO MAKE KATERI KNOWN

Sheed and Ward, New York, announces a new book ready, for young people, about Kateri Tekakwitha. The author, Frances Tupper Patterson, an accomplished writer, knows well the Indian lore of the seventeenth century, and her portrayal of Kateri will be, we are sure, eagerly read by our youth. Sheed and Ward, N. Y. C., \$3.00. Order direct.

A new and scholarly effort to interpret Tekakwitha to our times has recently been published by Catholic University Press, Washington, D. C., authored by Justin Steurer. It is entitled *The Impact of Katharine Tekakwitha on American Spiritual Life*, and priced at 75¢ per copy.

We have been very happy to receive some copies of the new Kateri statues inspired by

Brunet's masterpiece in bronze. The statue is dull bronze finish, 81½". Priced at \$2.75 postpaid, it may be ordered directly from KATERI, Mission of St. Francis Xavier, Caughnawaga, Quebec, Canada.

Look, also, for two new books on Kateri

to be announced shortly by Benziger Brothers and by Farrar, Cudahy and Straus, both of New York. We also repeat here the offer of copies of the script of a three act play "Tekakwitha", prepared by *Mary Productions*, Bedford, N. J.

## EASTER MEMORIES

This copy of the LILY, meant to reach you during the Paschal season, brings you sincere greetings from the Vice-Postulator, the Staff of Tekakwitha League, as well as from our co-workers here at Xavier, New York City—the Gilmary Society, publishers of the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. We wish you all a new appreciation of what Easter means to men.

It is a proof of Christ's divinity, and it is the manifestation and gift of His divine life to men.

It is Christ's victory in man's eyes, and it is the opening of a window through which eternity can be seen—a satisfying of a hunger that nothing on earth can hope ever again to satisfy.

It exists for us in many ways. We can see

it in the newly-baptized infant. It awakens in the youth well prepared for Holy Communion. It flowers in the boy and girl of high ideals—it develops in the struggling believer who acquits himself well in his Easter confession and in his regular Communions.

Kateri was baptized on Easter Day, April 18, 1676. We recall too other Tekakwitha anniversaries of this season. On March 25, 1679 she made her vow of perpetual virginity with the consent of her spiritual director, Fr. Cholonc, S.J. And on Wednesday of Holy Week, April 17, 1680, she died in the village of Caughnawaga Canada, the "Praying Castle" where she had lived with her Mohawk clansmen for three years.

## AND WHAT ABOUT HER BEATIFICATION

We wish we could say. We cannot anticipate the judgment of the Church in the matter of any purported miracles which may have been reported. Her virtues have been accepted as man-sized and heroic, which is why she is entitled "Venerable". Two miracles wrought by God through her intercession are needed in order to move towards her next step—Beatification. For this we need prayer and more prayer, and report to this office of any favors which seem to you to have the miraculous stature required in the case.

A little favor? Before you lay aside this

Message, make prayerfully the following invocation:

"O God, Who among the many marvels of Thy grace, didst cause to blossom on the banks of the Mohawk and the St. Lawrence, the pure and tender lily, Kateri Tekakwitha, grant, we beseech Thee, what we ask—so that this little lover of Jesus and of His Cross may soon be raised to the honors of the altar by Holy Mother Church, and that our hearts may be enkindled with a stronger desire to imitate her innocence and her faith, through Christ Our Lord. Amen."

(approved prayer)



## Thanksgivings

"Little Kateri Tekakwitha has long been the patron of our family. Many times during the past seventeen years, I have sent offerings in appreciation of innumerable favors and actual miracles. Once again, I enclose a little donation for this latest extraordinary outcome of my fervent prayers, in a matter too personal to reveal. We love Kateri, and hope before long that she will be officially canonized."—Harrison, N. Y.

"I have been remiss in 'settling up' with Kateri or acknowledging many favors I have received during the past two years or more. The enclosed two drafts will be followed by others until I am all square again. The following are the favors that I am aware of, realizing that there were probably others not so apparent:— remarkably safe and speedy recovery of both wife and son from serious operations; hospital costs and medical fees much less than they might have been; three salary increases and promotion in twenty month period; discovery of money behind picture of Blessed Mother which had been there at least twelve years; collection of money due from sale of furniture to individual which had been considered as hopeless; payment received from former friend, now in Central America, for loan made in 1930 when he was a student in the States; prize won bowling for series far above average."—New Orleans, La.

"I came home from Florida with bronchitis and asthma. I went to two doctors but I could not shake off the attacks. Finally I went to the hospital. I promised the Lily of the Mohawks this donation if I recovered. On St. Anthony's Feast Day, I lost the asthmatic attacks with the dreadful wheezing."—Forest Hills, L. I., N. Y.

"I promised to send the enclosed offering in honor of Kateri Tekakwitha should the profession in which I am engaged come under Social Security. I asked Kateri's aid as she had been good in helping me in other financial matters. Today's paper brought the answer to my petition."—Seattle, Wash.

"We experienced a dreadful electric storm. The lights in our home went out, and our pump stopped working due to disturbance in the broken cables. The storm lasted over an hour. We were petrified, and expected a flooded basement. I prayed to Kateri and promised her ten dollars if our basement would not be flooded. Our prayers were answered and the offering is on its way in thanksgiving."—Chicago, Ill.

"I wish to thank Venerable Kateri for helping me. For many years I had a breaking out all over both of my hands, and treatments by five different doctors did not cure me. I finally implored Kateri to help me, and even though it took a long time, my hands are now completely healed."

—Webster Groves, Mo.

"The enclosed check is a small offering in appreciation for 'Little Katherine's' help in bringing my granddaughter, Katherine, safely into this world after the doctors worriedly announced, to us anxiously waiting, that the baby was probably dead as no heart beats could be detected. Other complications in my daughter's condition pointed to the fact they were probably right. I never lost faith in Kateri. I placed the relic picture on my daughter during the twenty-four hours of waiting saying the prayer with all my heart to God to help us. Thanks be given to His Sacred Heart of Mercy, He allowed Kateri to help."—Redlands, Calif.

"Last month I told you that my husband, who was afflicted the week before Christmas, with Bell Palsey, causing a paralysis of one side of his face, was on his way to recovery, after we both made an novena to Catherine. Now he has completely recovered. Normally this would take months into years. It is just barely a month and a half since he was afflicted. We are most grateful to our dear little Catherine. The enclosed check is in thanksgiving. How wonderful if she could be canonized very soon?"—San Jose, Cal.

"My husband was seriously burned by steam. Two pipes in a railroad deisel engine exploded trapping him under 250 pounds of pressure. Forty percent of his body was burned. He had five blood transfusions, and was in the hospital for nine weeks. The doctors did not think he would ever leave the hospital or walk again. A friend of a friend brought a relic of Kateri to the hospital, and we applied it. I know it was Tekakwitha's intercession which brough him home to us. He is walking, and although his skin still itches sometimes beyond endurance, he seems to be in very good health. I will never stop praying to Kateri, as she has also obtained for us many, many other favors."—St. Ann, Mo.

"Catherine Tekakwitha answered my prayers by obtaining a very special favor from God for me. Successful surgery. Enclosed is a small offering."—Orange, Texas.

## ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures .....	8	Safe Trip .....	1
Apartment .....	1	Spiritual and	
Employment .....	1	Temporal .....	2
Financial Aid .....	9	Studies .....	1
Relief in Distress..	13	Successful	
Safe Delivery .....	2	Operation .....	1
Not Specified .....		111	

## PETITIONS

Cures .....	114	Safe Trip .....	4
Apartment .....	6	Sale of Property....	8
Conversion .....	12	Spiritual and	
Employment .....	24	Temporal .....	6
Financial Aid .....	27	Studies .....	4
Marriage Righted ..	1	Successful bus.	
Peace of Mind.....	7	venture .....	2
Purchase Property	2	Successful	
Relief in Distress..	34	Operation .....	3
Safe Delivery .....	6	World Peace .....	4
Not Specified .....		77	

## Obituary

- Most Rev. H. J. Cartwright, D.D.,  
Wilmington, Del.  
Most Rev. E. J. McGuinness, D.D.,  
Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Rt. Rev. Robert McGann, O.C.S.O., Conyers, Ga.  
Rt. Rev. Paul M. Nahlen, O.S.B., Subisco, Ark.  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. McKeon,  
New Bedford, Mass.  
Rev. Joseph J. Ayd, S.J., Baltimore, Md.  
Rev. Thomas C. Hughes, S. J., New York, N. Y.  
Rev. T. J. Lally, S.J., Toronto, Ont., Canada  
Rev. Arnold M. Muckerheide, Thom, Wis.  
Rev. Alfred M. Rudtke, S.J., Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Rev. Joseph A. Ryan, S.J., Denver, Colo.  
Rev. William F. Schott, S.J., Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Rev. William F. Smith, Southbridge, Mass.  
Bro. Michael McHugh, S.J., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
Bro. Edward J. O'Connell, S.J.,  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
Mother Jane Frances, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Mother M. Nealis, R.S.C.J.,  
Sault-au-Recollet, Canada  
Mr. T. Francis Bennett, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Mr. John B. Doyle, New York, N. Y.  
Mrs. Catherine Greerty, Martinez, Cal.

## TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

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## TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

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REV. THOMAS J. COFFEY, S.J., V. Postulator for Her Canonization