

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. XXII, No. 2

SUMMER, 1958

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR BISHOP GIBBONS

Most Reverend Edmund F. Gibbons, client and great good friend of Tekakwitha and her Cause, has just observed the sixty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the holy Priesthood. Tekakwitha League, along with the clergy and laity especially of Albany, rejoices in the singular blessing of having as a source of inspiration and benediction since 1919, the venerable and beloved Bishop.

Approaching his ninetieth birthday, this "great priest" who, in his extraordinary length of days, has pleased God exceedingly, enriching the portion of Christ's kingdom entrusted to his care with wisdom, courage and ceaseless zeal, now continues his ministry

by his prayerful life in retirement at Mater Christi Seminary in Albany. He has by no means retired from his sponsorship of Kateri's Cause, and has conducted a very successful Crusade of Prayer for her beatification throughout the Diocese and elsewhere. That the fullness of God's Grace will attend him all his days is the prayerful hope of the Diocese and the League.

Speaking of milestones, your Vice-Postulator had a *minor* one this past month, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He remembered especially on that day all the members of Tekakwitha League.

BEVERLY ANN WINS A MEDAL

Beverly Ann Kanatieres Rice, age 9, Grade 4, from the Kateri Tekakwitha School of Claghawaga, won second prize with this address at the English Language Section of the Eucharistic Crusaders' Rally, held at the D'Arcy McGee Auditorium in Montreal. This was her short address:

Dear Crusader Friends:

Being myself a little Indian girl, I chose to talk to you about a very good Indian girl of the Iroquois nation, Kateri Tekakwitha. Kateri was born in Auriesville, New York, in 1656.

She was only four years old when an

epidemic of smallpox caused the death of her father and mother. She was then adopted by an uncle.

Being persecuted she fled to the Mission of St. Francis Xavier. Kateri was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 18, at the age of twenty. She took the name of Catherine—in the Indian language, Kateri.

Kateri wasn't a Crusader belonging to a group because there weren't any then, but she was a real Crusader at heart. She loved the Blessed Eucharist. She made many sacrifices. People say that she was either in her cabin or the church where she loved to stay alone and pray.

She was pure and deserved to be called "The Lily of the Mohawks."

God called her to heaven at the age of 24.

Pope Pius XII has declared her Venerable Catherine Tekakwitha.

We sincerely hope that she soon will be named a Saint.

May I please ask you to pray for this great favor?

Thank you.

KATERI AND THE EUCHARIST*

All those who dabble in politics are not necessarily execrable. At the Mission of St. Francis Xavier at Caughnawaga, pilgrims may see in the room containing the relics of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha an ancient Monstrance. They may read, carved on the pedestal, in old French: "Claude Prevost ex-alderman of Paris and Elisabeth Le Gendre, his wife, gave me to the Reverend Jesuit Fathers to honor God in their first church of the Iroquois, 1668." Quite possibly, before her death in 1680, Kateri prayed before this Monstrance.

Is this Monstrance known? And the profound Eucharistic spirituality of this young Indian, the only member of the laity in Canada, and in North and Central America, whose virtues the Church has officially declared heroic? This article, prepared in great part by Kateri's spiritual directors, Fathers Claude Chauchetière, S.J., and Father Peter Cholenec, S.J., may fill in the blanks.

Kateri was baptized, at the age of twenty, on Easter Sunday, 1676, but, according to the custom of the times, her First Communion was deferred. The autumn of the following year, on the advice of Father James de Lamberville, she fled from the Mohawk castle of Ossernenon (Auriesville, N. Y.) to seek refuge at Sault St. Louis of the Mission of St. Francis Xavier.

This Iroquois maid with her profoundly Eucharistic soul can enlighten ours and make it nothing less than incandescent. Conse-

*from *KATERI, Caughnawaga, June, 1958.*

quently her role surpassed the dance of the fireflies which Jeanne Mance used to decorate the improvised altar at the first Mass offered in Montreal in 1642! It would also excel the annual sacred ballet of the Spanish children of Seville before the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Peter Cholenec, entrusted, in those faraway times, with the preparation for First Communion at the Mission, delineates very clearly for us the love of the newly arrived Indian for her God. "This love of Kateri for her God," he wrote, "was the source of her great love for the Holy Eucharist and the Cross . . ."

Her love, let us not forget, was always orderly. First of all, she attended to the duties of her state of life. Then, and then only, she allowed her heart's yearning which led her invincibly to the church of logs, the temple of her God. Every day Kateri repeated the same comings and goings, the same attitudes, the same gestures before the Eucharistic King. It was her *danse noble*.

Each morning, at four o'clock, she heard a first Mass, often arriving before the bell which rang at that hour. About six o'clock, she heard the Mass which assembled the whole village.

What did she do from one Mass to the other? She remained before the Blessed Sacrament "in prayer, though her tongue played a small part in it. Ordinarily she prayed only with eyes and heart — her eyes suffused with tears and her heart incessantly giving forth ardent sighs. She was always

as if lifted out of herself when she prayed and conversed with Our Lord." These tears contained such great joy that she did not feel the cold of the harshest winters. Like St. Bernadette not feeling the flaming taper at the sight of Mary! Now and then, Father Cholenec, seeing her perished with cold, sent her to her longhouse to warm herself. She instantly obeyed, but a moment later, returned to the church and there continued her loving conversation with Jesus Christ.

During the day "when she entered the church, she took Holy Water, reminded herself of her Baptism, and renewed the resolution she had made to live as a good Christian. Then after kneeling in some corner near the

railing (for fear of distractions from those both entering or leaving), she covered her face with her blanket and made an Act of Faith in the Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. She made also many interior acts of contrition, resignation, and humility, according to the inspirations she felt in her heart. She asked God for light and strength to practice virtue perfectly. She prayed also for the infidels, above all for her Iroquois relations and friends, and ended her devotions with a rosary. . . . She had set a time for these visits which brought her to Our Lord five times a day without fail; in fact we can say that the church was a place where one would most often find her. . . ."

Thanksgivings

"A friend's daughter had not gone to the Sacraments for twenty years. The mother, a devout Catholic, could not get her to go to Church. Last Spring this girl was on a verge of a nervous breakdown. Her mother asked me to pray for her, so I gave the girl a novena prayer of Kateri and asked her to go to Confession if she got peace of mind. I also made the novena for her. She went to Confession on the Feast of Christ the King, thanks to Kateri."—New York, N. Y.

"This offering I am sending is a thanksgiving one. I have prayed many times to Kateri Tekakwitha to intercede to God for my intentions, but especially that the tumor they found in my wife was not malignant. It turned out to be benign."—Pittsburgh, Pa.

"For some years I have been praying to Tekakwitha for a friend who was drinking too much. He has stopped drinking entirely, and recently told me he was making annual retreats. Thanksgiving offering enclosed.

—St. Louis, Mo.

"I am writing this letter in thanksgiving for a favor granted to my son through the intercession of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. It was with her help that our boy was able to pass the college board exams and enter a University as a Freshman."—Syracuse, N. Y.

"Please accept this belated offering of thanksgiving to our dear little Kateri. Again she has interceded for us. My husband was granted a pay increase in the position she obtained for him over seven years ago. The Lily of the Mohawks is our true and beloved mediator with God."—Montponsett, Mass.

"My recent trip to Europe was pleasant, safe and blessed. 'Lily' was close to me, and through her intercession we even had a public audience with the Pope. While in St. Peters in Rome, my prayer was for her canonization."—Denver, Colo.

"Enclosed offering is for the Cause of 'Little Kateri', for the help she gave my son on a College Day Panel."—Corning, N. Y.

"My son returned to the Sacraments after twelve years. The enclosed is a thanksgiving offering for Kateri's Cause."

—Fort Dodge, Iowa.

"I keep giving Kateri pamphlets and relic pictures to my friends. I am 70 years old and believe in Tekakwitha. I get so much from praying to her. My mother was also a great believer in her Cause."—Pittsburgh, Pa.

FAVORS GRANTED IN THE PHILIPPINES

My friend was in great trouble for long years. She said she made many prayers but in vain. I gave her the short prayer of Tekakwitha and after a few months the trouble was settled.

Our boarder recently graduated, asked from me some prayers so that she can secure a job. I gave her the Tekakwitha prayer and after a few days she was employed in one of the big companies in Manila.

A young lady once told me that she had been applying as a Religious in the Holy Ghost Order for more than two years. The Mother General didn't give her any hope for acceptance. I gave her the prayer of Tekakwitha and after three days she was called to report to the novitiate. Now she is enjoying religious life.

A novice in our congregation was sent out due to her weak lungs. After a few years she was perfectly cured and she desired to enter again in our Order. She asked from me some prayers. I gave her the Tekakwitha prayer. After a week she was able to reenter without any difficulty.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	9	Relief in Distress....	13
Employment	5	Sale of Property.....	3
Financial Aid	4	Successful Operation	1
Not Specified		78	

PETITIONS

Cures	64	Relief in Distress....	28
Apartments; House	3	Safe Delivery	3
Conversion	7	Safe Trip	6
Employment	18	Sale of Property.....	8
Examination Success	4	Spiritual & Temporal	16
Financial Aid	14	Successful Operation	5
Not Specified		63	

Obituary

His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Chicago, Ill.
Most Rev. L. J. FitzSimon, D.D., Amarillo, Texas
Most Rev. Peter L. Ireton, D.D., Richmond, Va.
Rev. Gustave Dumas, S.J., New York, N. Y.
Rev. John J. Joyce, Lowell, Mass.
Rev. R. F. Levell, S.J., Pass Christian, Miss.
Rev. Patrick J. O'Connor, St. Louis, Mo.
Rev. John J. O'Rourke, S.J., New York, N. Y.
Rev. A. B. Verhoosel, S.J., New York, N. Y.
Mr. John W. Hogan, S.J., New York, N. Y.
Bro. J. M. Dietrich, S.J., Shrub Oak, N. Y.
Sister M. Attracta, O.P., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mr. John B. Davoran, Evergreen, Colo.
Mrs. W. Garity, Sharon, Pa.
Mr. George Hobbs, Vine Grove, Ky.
Mr. John J. Koneval, Rensselaer, N. Y.
Mr. W. C. Le Blanc, Donaldsonville, La.
Mr. Lewis C. Magee, Christmas, Fla.
Mr. Joseph Melody, New York, N. Y.
Miss Rose O'Loughlin, Philadelphia, Pa.

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