

THE LILY OF

*the fairest flower that ever*



THE MOHAWKS

*bloomed among true men*

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WINTER, 1958

THE PEACE OF CHRIST AT THIS HOLY SEASON  
to all friends of the League and clients of  
VENERABLE KATERI TEKAKWITHA  
from the Vice-Postulator and the Staff

SAINTHOOD IS HARD BUT CANONIZATION IS HARDER

A recent dispatch from Vatican City will perhaps explain to patient and expectant readers of this Message why Tekakwitha has been so long, seemingly, a lady-in-waiting for beatification. The story has been summarized.

*The Busy Congregation*

It is hard to become a saint, but even harder to be declared one, because of the eagle-eyed scrutiny carried on by the Congregation of Rites. The bulk of this assembly's work centers on looking into the lives, virtues and miracles of persons proposed for beatification and canonization. A single case can require thousands of pages of documentation and ten times as many hours of work. The Cause of American-born Mother Elizabeth Seton has already filled 13 volumes, 2,377 pages. (We don't dare tackle the job of counting the volumes required for Tekakwitha.)

At present there are more than seventy canonization causes under consideration and more than eight hundred possible beatifications. Another fifty causes involve groups (like the 116 American Martyrs) proposed for honors of the altar.

*Other Works*

Making saints is not the only purpose of the Congregation of Rites. Everything connected with the Mass, and the ceremonies used in administering the seven sacraments in the Western Church is supervised here. It watches over all matters concerning church music, art, architecture, vestments, sacred vessels,—in general everything which concerns the worship of God in a befitting manner. Care of relics is also a concern of this department. Heading the Congregation is Gaetano Cardinal Cicognani, brother of Amleto Cardinal-elect Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate for the past twenty-five years to the United States.

The Secretary is 96-year-old Archbishop Carinci, who is at his desk every day directing the staff of seventy officials and consultants. The Cardinals meet every Tuesday at the Vatican, and Cardinal Cicognani takes the results of their work to the Pope for his approval every second and fourth Friday.

### *The "Devil's Advocate"*

One other official of the Congregation has a regularly scheduled audience with the Pope. He is the *promotor general* of the Faith, better known as the "devil's advocate". Msgr. Silvio Romani has held this office since 1955 and reports on the third Thursday of every month on the progress of the various causes. He has to make sure that all the rules for the verification of testimony and miracles are observed. To protect the Church he must object whenever there is any question in the life, works, or fame of a person proposed for sainthood. A cause reaches Rome only after a thorough canonical investigation has been made in the local diocese of the candidate. All the data gathered there is turned over to a lawyer appointed by the Congregation, who makes a summary of it. Msgr. Romani's office then makes a study of this summary, and can send it back for further study or reject it, if necessary. The promotor general lists the objections and the lawyer can answer them. When all the objections have been overcome the whole document is forwarded to the Pope, who signs a document introducing the cause, but writes only his *first* name, indicating that he is not acting in the full authority of the Papacy.

### *Virtues, Then Miracles*

The next big step is a scrutiny of the proposed saint's writings and his practice of virtue to a heroic degree. (*Kateri has passed this stage, and has been proclaimed Venerable!*) Following this two clear miracles must be proven, with no shadow of chance or illusion. (And, as postulants have come to learn, it takes almost another miracle to prove a miracle!) When these two miracles have been declared valid, the person may be

beatified. This means that he may be called "Blessed", and may be venerated and accorded honors of the altar, but only in the dioceses where he lived or died, or, if he be a religious, in the Congregation of which he was a member. Two further miracles must occur before the beatified can be proclaimed a saint. In certain cases there is a process known as *equivalent* canonization. In 1931, Pope Pius XI proclaimed the equivalent canonization of St. Albert the Great by naming him a doctor of the Church. St. Albert had been beatified in 1622, but never formally declared a saint.

### *Cost and Other Matters*

Since the lengthy road to canonization requires much research, travel expenses, thousands of photostats and copies of documents, translations into several languages, the process is very expensive. About how costly? It has been estimated that a completed cause costs \$50,000 at least. Papal canonization has been traced back to the 10th century, but it did not become the exclusive prerogative of the Papacy until the 17th century. Often saints were proclaimed by various bishops. For a time, popular acclaim was sufficient to mark a man as a saint. To correct the Church's liturgical book of saints, the Congregation of Rites has established a special section of historical research. These scholars study existing documents, and have from time to time removed the names of those proven to be legendary rather than real, and of those who through error were acclaimed saints without being worthy of the high title.

*So, what about Tekakwitha? We must be patient, prayerful, and persistent in seeking signs of God's Will, through clear miracles, that the Lily of the Mohawks be further glorified.*



## FOR YOUR LIBRARY

Three new books designed to present to teen-agers the thrilling story of a maiden who dared to be different, would make nice gifts for under the tree.

*Kateri Tekakwitha, Mohawk Maid* by Evelyn M. Brown: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy  
Vision Books: \$1.95.

*Star of the Mohawk* by Francis MacDonald:  
Benziger Banner Books: \$2.00.

*Catherine Tekakwitha* by Frances Taylor Patterson: Sheed and Ward: \$3.00 . . . and don't forget the most recent addition to the adult bookshelf: *Kateri of the Mohawks* by Marie Cecilia Buehrle: Bruce: \$3.00.

## Thanksgivings

"I wish to return heartfelt thanks to our Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha for relief from a bronchial-asthma condition which has had me practically incapacitated for the last five years. Vitality had sunk to a minimum, and the respiration was that of the chronic sufferer from bronchial-asthma. Today, at seventy-eight, there is a complete return to normal respiration, and the vitality is about all that can be expected at my years."

—Patna (Bihar), India.

"I plan to visit the tomb of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha this summer as the result of a promise made in the spring of last year when I was down and out physically and more or less feared the worst. I pray every day for her Beatification."

—Williamsport, Pa.

"Enclosed find a donation for Kateri's Cause, in thanksgiving for favors received. One for my son's wife, who had her sixth child by caesarean—mother and child both fine. Another for an appendix operation that did not look too good for a while. Other for different sickness, such as flu and scarlet fever. With 22 grandchildren, I am always begging the help of Tekakwitha. Wish I could send more."—Pittsburgh, Pa.

"While I was sick, I prayed to Little Katherine to help me, and so far I have been getting along nicely. The doctors feared I had a brain tumor, but it proved to be a blood clot which is dissolving. Thanks to Tekakwitha for her help."—Royal, Iowa.

"About two months ago, I heard that a friend of mine was to have a serious operation for cancer of the intestine. I asked Venerable Tekakwitha to help him. He has made a wonderful recovery and apparently the disease had not spread to other parts of the body."—Columbus, Ohio.

"Kateri has again come to my aid. She has cured me of an infected kidney. The doctor could not give me any medicine due to high blood pressure. In two weeks when I had another check up the doctor was amazed to find it had all cleared up without any medicine. I knew it was Kateri, as she has been so good to me."—Dayton, Ohio.

"I am sending this donation to help further the Cause of Tekakwitha. Kateri has been very good to me. I was in an auto accident, not my fault, and without a lawyer or counsel, received a generous settlement. All I did was pray to Tekakwitha. This money helped us out of financial difficulties."

—Derby, Conn.

"I am writing in thanksgiving for the wonderful help Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha has given my son in enabling him to completely recover from a second operation on his back, after a long convalescence. I am afraid I lost my patience many times, but my son's faith never faltered. I do hope Kateri will forgive me as I will never doubt her powerful intercession again."

—Syracuse, N. Y.

"I want to make known how Catherine Tekakwitha has helped me. What looked like a serious condition was cleared up fast after asking Catherine to pray for me to the Sacred Heart. When the novena was over, my ailment was cured."—Riverside, Calif.

"I prayed almost every day for nine months for a healthy baby girl, if it was God's will, and happiness in my marriage. On December 27, God gave us an eleven pound baby girl. In almost seven years of marriage, my husband and I have been happier the last six weeks, thanks to Catherine Tekakwitha."

—Pittsburgh, Pa.

"Enclosed is my donation towards Kateri's Cause. My faith in her is still as firm as ever for my heart condition has remained so I have been able to work every day that we have work, now for nine years."

—Cincinnati, Ohio.

### ADDITIONAL PETITIONS

Cures .....	9	Safe Trip .....	4
Apartment .....	1	Sale of Property.....	1
Employment .....	6	Spiritual & Temporal .....	1
Financial Aid .....	4	Successful Operation	2
Relief in Distress....	9	Not Specified .....	89

### PETITIONS

Cures .....	82	Sale of Property.....	6
Apartments .....	10	Spiritual & Temporal .....	5
Conversion .....	7	Studies .....	3
Employment .....	25	Successful Operation	1
Financial Aid .....	13	Vocations .....	6
Relief in Distress....	34	World Peace .....	4
Safe Delivery .....	3	Not Specified .....	79
Safe Trip .....	3		

### Obituary

His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Detroit, Mich.

Most Rev. Edmund J. Reilly, D.D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Henry P. Kunig, Middle Village, L. I.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. L. R. McLaughlin, Convent Station, N. J.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. J. McMahon, Jackson Heights, L. I.

Rev. John P. Fitzpatrick, S.J., Jersey City, N. J.

Rev. Charles Keyser, Avilla, Ind.

Rev. E. J. Kolkmeier, S.J., Buffalo, N. Y.

Rev. John P. McKeon, Atlantic Highlands, N. J.

Rev. Paul S. McNulty, S.J., Boston, Mass.

Rev. Daniel O'Connell, S.J., West Baden, Ind.

Rev. Wilfrid Parsons, S.J., Washington, D. C.

Miss Veronica Basbagill, Delaware, Ohio.

Mr. James E. Callahan, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mrs. Irene Drach, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. L. Godfrey, St. Louis, Mo.

Mrs. W. M. Lynch, Tobyhanna, Pa.

Mr. Arthur Mondlock, Yonkers, N. Y.

Mrs. John O'Connell, New York, N. Y.

## TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

### LEAFLETS

- I—Sketch and prayers.  
II—Novena, with daily reflexion.  
5c. for 2; 25c. a dozen

### LIFE

- By Wynne, 32 pages, illustrated, 20c.  
By Coffey, 32 pages, 10c.

### AMERICA'S MARTYRS

- A pamphlet by Fr. Coffey, 10c.

### MEDAL

- Image and title "Lily of the Mohawks,"  
special metal, 20c.; silver, 60c.

### PICTURES

- Small—lithograph, color, sketch and prayer ..... 10c.  
" lithograph, color, silk applied to relics ..... 20c.  
Large—lithograph in color, 12½ x 8½ inches,  
mounted so as to need no frame; for class  
or private room ..... 75c.

Bookmarks, 20c. a dozen

*Reduction on quantity*

## TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

30 WEST 16TH STREET, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

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