

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

VOL. XXIII, No. 1

SPRING, 1959

TEKAKWITHA'S LENT

Holy Week and Heaven

It was the beginning of Holy Week, 1680. Tekakwitha, now called the saint by her fellows because of her extraordinary piety and penances, had been stricken a year before with an ailment which had left her with the sweat of a slow fever and chronic stomach pains. For the previous two months her chest was constricted, she had migraine headaches, and her strength was ebbing slowly. She had tried to keep up her night watches, her fasting, her round of works. And when she could do no more she took to her fur mat.

The Indian sick were carried to the church on a birchbark plank. But not Kateri. The priest brought Our Lord to her. The men were out hunting all day. The women were in the fields or woods with their daily drudgery. Kateri was left alone, an inconvenient invalid, with a plate of cornbread and a little water within reach.

Good-Bye to Teresa

On Tuesday she began to sink and she received Holy Viaticum with conscious fervor. She asked for her best friend Mary Teresa, the recovered alcoholic. A few hours earlier she had borrowed Teresa's tunic, so as to be presentable when she received Our Lord. Her own was too shabby. "I am leav-

ing you, Teresa," she whispered, "I am going to die. Always remember what we have done together. If you change I shall accuse you before God. Keep up your courage. Don't mind the sneers of those who have no faith. Listen to the fathers. If you cannot serve God here, go to the Loretto Mission. Never give up your penances. I will love you in heaven. I will pray for you. I will help you."

The Day and the Hour

Tekakwitha must have known even the day and hour of her death. After Father Cholonec had given her Viaticum on Tuesday morning, he wanted to get the Holy Oils. "There is no hurry," she said, "the time has not come yet." So he waited until Wednesday morning. Tuesday night two members of her Sodality were assigned, as was the custom, to stay with her by turn during the night. The younger of the two Sodalists asked and received Father Cholonec's permission to go to the woods to do penance that Kateri would have a happy death. The dying Tekakwitha sensed this somehow and sent for the girl. She told her: "You are very pleasing to God and I shall pray for you in heaven. I know where you have been and what you have done. Keep up your courage. I know you are pleasing in the sight of God and I will help you when I am with Him."

Jesus, I Love You!

Wednesday morning she was anointed. The fathers thought she would die before noon. But she knew this was not to be. Teresa and some of the Sodalists who had formed a small devotional society with Kateri, which was continued after her death as Kateri's Sisters, said they wanted to be with her when she died. But they had to go out to get wood for the feast days, and they didn't know whether to go or remain. Father Cholonec asked her about this. "Let them go to the woods," she told him, "they will be back in time." And that is how it was. Until three o'clock she kept an Algonquin silence, and her condition did not change. When they returned she waited until they all were in the lodge.

Said Father Cholonec: "I saw this marvel with my own eyes. As soon as the last one was accounted for she entered into her gentle agony. She had kept her promise. Speech left her when she had pronounced the words: 'Jesus, I love you!' More than that! Her face had been disfigured ever since she was 4 years old, and her infirmities and penances made it worse. Yet around quarter after three such a beautiful change came about that I cried out in astonishment. I had the Indians call the father who was decorating the Repository for Holy Thursday. Everybody came on the run. The Lily of purity had for a moment dropped its head under

the icy blast of death. A moment later the breath of the Holy Spirit made it rise again. To me it seemed that at that precise moment she must have entered into heaven, reflecting on her chaste body a small ray of the glory of which her soul had taken possession."

End of the Hunt

Two Frenchmen chanced by her lodge on Holy Thursday morning. "Well, there's a young woman who is having a nice peaceful sleep," they said. When told it was Tekakwitha in calm impenetrable death they knelt to pray and then rushed out to make her a coffin. Other Indians were buried on a board with their faces greased and covered. But not their Kateri. Nothing was too good for her.

The women did not wail. The men did not crouch about her, poker-faced. They kissed her hands. They tore her blue cloak for relics. And they all moaned: "We have lost our saint." "It was just the right time for her to die," the fathers said. "She loved the Holy Eucharist and the Cross, and now she could spend Holy Week in heaven." They buried her on Holy Thursday. Father Chauchetiere wanted to bury her on the chapel grounds. Father Cholonec said no, "it would be a precedent." Perhaps it is just a coincidence, but Teresa told the fathers that Kateri had one day pointed out a spot in the Indian cemetery and said: "That's where they are going to put me."

**Tekakwitha League wishes Tekakwitha's
Clients everywhere a Holy and Happy Easter**

Thanksgivings

"Sending donation as I promised Venerable Kateri I would if she did something special, which she did before my novena was finished. I also prayed that my grandson, who was scalded with hot water, would not have his face scarred. Thanks to Kateri, not a scar is on his face, and the ugly marks on his body are almost gone. We are deeply grateful for all she has done for us."

—Sturgis, Mich.

"Please accept this donation to dear Venerable Catherine, as I was aware, I was to undergo an operation and prayed to her asking recovery. I was operated on, and am now well." — North Adams, Mass.

"Please fulfill my promise to publish a favor received through the intercession of Catherine Tekakwitha on behalf of my nephew, who although not completely cured of a serious illness has gotten satisfying relief through medication for which we are very grateful." — Chicago, Ill.

"Enclosed offering is in thanksgiving to Kateri for many blessings. Through her intercession my husband was received into the Church. We are all so happy."

— Syracuse, N. Y.

"We recommended Little Catherine to our aunt not too long ago. We received a letter from her this week and from it we quote: 'Enclosed is a donation for Tekakwitha, and I thought perhaps wherever you got the information you sent me, you could give them this small donation. My favors granted have been marvelous.' We are also enclosing check in thanksgiving for our own intention."

— New Orleans, La.

"Enclosed find a small offering for an answer to a Kateri novena I made six years ago. That my son would return to the Church before he died was granted a year ago, three months before he had a fatal accident."

— Detroit, Mich.

"An offering to Kateri Tekakwitha for her help in renting my apartment. She has brought me nice tenants for the last two years." — Fort Wayne, Ind.

"I promised Kateri the enclosed offering if she would help us collect some insurance due us which was difficult to collect. We received the full amount and are grateful to her." — Delaware, Ohio.

"The enclosed offering is an expression of appreciation to Kateri for a successful sale of property and relief from a burdensome debt."

— Cleveland, Ohio.

"I had two checks due me, and I promised Kateri I would send an offering should she see that I received these checks without any difficulty. Received both, and to my surprise, one check was for fifty dollars more than I expected. Many thank to Tekakwitha."

— Buffalo, N. Y.

"Once again Catherine Tekakwitha has come to our rescue in a very important business deal. A most important paper was lost. Due to a death in my family, we have never found this paper. I asked Catherine to help us find the paper, or at least that the other parties concerned would be agreeable to our new terms. Just today, after I started a novena four days ago, all was settled peacefully. This has been going on for a year. Offering in thanksgiving is enclosed."

— San Jose, Calif.

"Enclosing check as an offering in thanksgiving for many favors received through the intercession of Venerable Tekakwitha. For many years I have been praying, and while my prayers have not been answered in a spectacular manner, eventually and gradually they have been answered. For instance, I had a small business in an office building. Some days many of the tenants would go out to eat — the day seemed ruined — then, out of nowhere (it seemed) people from the outside would come in. My husband often remarked that 'someone' seemed to be looking out for me. Recently I sold the business, having secured a very good position. Again, my prayers!" — Nashville, Tenn.

"I promised Kateri Tekakwitha the enclosed if she would intercede for the restoration of my daughter's health, threatened with a breakdown due to the heavy cross of trying to guide a seventeen year old psychopathic son. Little Tekakwitha heard my prayer, sent help in the form of a book on mental illness, the author of said book being a Franciscan priest whom my daughter contacted and she now has a completely new approach to her problem which, although as burdensome as ever, she understands and accepts for the love of God. I consider this a really great miracle and am most grateful for the intercession of Tekakwitha." — New York.

ADDITIONAL FAVORS

Cures	8	Safe Trip	1
Employment	5	Spiritual and Temporal	1
Financial Aid	3	Successful Operation	2
Relief in Distress..	9	Not Specified	88

PETITIONS

Cures	81	Sale of Property....	8
Apartments	7	Spiritual and Temporal	4
Conversions	8	Studies	11
Employment	26	Successful Operation	2
Financial Aid	12	Vocations	3
Peace of Mind	2	Not Specified	84
Relief in Distress..	19		
Safe Delivery	5		

Obituary

Most Rev. C. H. LeBlond, D.D., St. Joseph, Mo.
 Most Rev. J. C. Willging, D.D., Pueblo, Colo.
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. John P. J. Enihan, Summit, N. J.
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. James F. McNary,
 Middletown, Ohio
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. W. D. Noonan, Little Falls, N. Y.
 Rev. Charles N. Fortin, Aldenville, Miss.
 Rev. Laurence J. Kenny, S.J., St. Louis, Mo.
 Rev. Arthur McCaffray, S.J., Shrub Oak, N. Y.
 Rev. Patrick J. Quinnan, S.J., New York, N. Y.
 Mr. Lawrence J. Cavari, S.J., Shrub Oak, N. Y.
 Sister M. Imelda, O. Carm., New Orleans, La.
 Sister Mary Kateri, C.S.J., Albany, N. Y.
 Sister St. Michael Kent, C.S.J., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Mr. Raymond Anderson, Olean, N. Y.
 Mrs. Augusta Bova, Dayton, Ohio
 Mr. John Conniff, Jersey City, N. J.
 Mr. Frank Feibusch, New York, N. Y.
 Mr. Patrick Gibbons, Letterkenny, Ireland
 Mrs. M. V. Hughes, Kingston, Pa.
 Dr. Milo F. McDonald, Rockville Centre, L. I.
 Mr. Joseph A. McNamara, K.S.G., Brooklyn, 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*