

The Lily of the Mohawks

Vol. XXVI — No. 1

OCTOBER, 1962



FROM TEKAKWITHA'S BIRTHPLACE

Impatient?

The late Pope Pius XII said to a Bishop who was curious (as aren't we all?) about the time it takes to beatify someone: "The answer is prayer. Prayer brings miracles. Miracles bring the Church's approval!"

It's as simple (but as hard) as all that! We can't help feeling that the earnest, confident prayers of Kateri's clients in the U. S., Canada, and everywhere throughout the patient years will lead shortly to her glorification. This journal, which has been delayed this time because we were awaiting something definite to tell, has tried to keep you posted all along. You, our readers, will be the first to know when the Lily has jumped *all* the canonical hurdles (15 out of 20 so far!) in the way of her beatification.

Your *prayers* are still, as always needed; your *reports* of what seems to be clear proof of her intercessory power; and, as the Cause comes to a climax, an occasional *offering* towards our increasing office expenses.

New Tekakwitha Center

A little more than a year ago we returned to the Mohawk Valley to be closer to the scene of Kateri's birth, Baptism, and holy life. Tekakwitha League is now established at Auriesville, N. Y., site of the martyrdoms (1642-46) of St. Isaac Jogues, S.J., priest, Rene Goupil, S.J., Brother, and John Lalande, lay apostle, — all three canonized in June, 1930. There are memorial altars and exquisite statues in honor of these three saints in the palisaded sanctuary of the Coliseum at the Martyrs' Shrine there. There is an unnamed altar and an empty pedestal, too. It awaits the blessed day when Kateri, "lady-too-long-in-waiting" comes into her own and takes her place alongside her brothers in Christ.

New Officers

The Apostolic Postulation for the Cause of Canonization of Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha, Indian Virgin, as presently organized under the authority of the Sacred Congregation of Rites:

HIS EMINENCE, ARCADIO CARDINAL LARRAONA,
C.M.F., *Prefect of the Congregation*

THEIR EXCELLENCIES:

Most Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, D.D.,
Sponsor for the Introduction of the Cause.

Most Rev. William A. Scully, D.D., *Bishop of Albany*, Diocese of her birth, baptism, and most of her life.

Most Rev. Gerard-Maria Coderre, D.D.,
Bishop of St. John of Quebec, Diocese of her last years and holy death.

POSTULATOR IN ROME:

Rev. Carlo Miccinelli, S.J.

Procurator: R. D. Marcellus Venturi.

Secretary: Dr. Fernando Bea

VICE POSTULATORS:

for the United States: Rev. Thomas J. Coffey, S.J., Auriesville, N. Y.

for Canada: Rev. Henri Bechard, S.J. Caughnawaga, P.Q.

CANADIAN CENTER FOR THE CAUSE:

Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada.

U. S. CENTER FOR THE CAUSE:

Tekakwitha League, Auriesville, N. Y.

Rev. T. J. Coffey, S.J., *Pres. and Treas.*

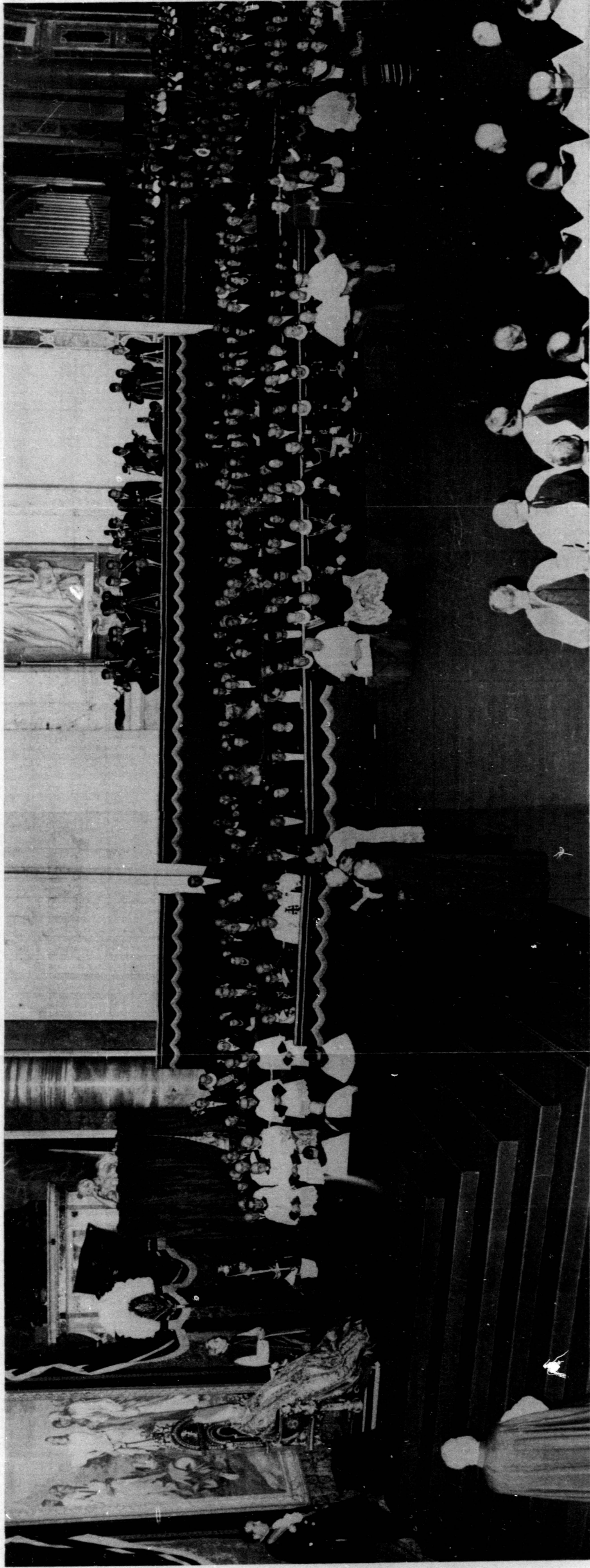
Rev. J. H. Thiry, S.J., *Vice Pres.*

Rev. A. Schirmann, S.J., *Secretary*
Sally Cerniglia, *Ass't Treas.*

CUSTOS:

Tekakwitha Friary and Museum
Site of her Baptism

Rev. Thomas Grassmann, O.F.M. Conv.
Fonda, N. Y.



Dramatic Moment at the Vatican:

Camillo Corsanego, Dean of the Consistorial Advocates, petitions His Holiness, Pope John XXIII, at St. Peter's to hasten the Beatification of Venerable *Kateri Tekakwitha*, Venerable Bishop Neumann, C.S.S.R., fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, the Canonization of Blessed Martin

Two

de Porres, and of Pere Sharbel, a Lebanese monk of the Maronite Rite. In the Public Consistory which Pope John called on January 19, 1961, in the Basilica of St. Peter, on the occasion of the conferring of "red hats" on four new Cardinals, our *Tekakwitha* was honored by having an important Roman official implore the Holy Father in pure and sonorous Latin, to hasten the day when this white flower of the Mohawks, first of the sorely-tried North American Indian family to be presented as candidate for the honors of the altar, might be elevated to

Three

the title of "Blessed." Since the memorable day depicted above, Martin de Porres has been canonized. Bishop Neumann's cause, according to authentic news dispatches, has accelerated considerably. It is up to devotees of *Kateri* everywhere to keep storming heaven that the Mohawk-Algonquin girl, marvelous maid of Auriesville, who "dared to be different," whose life, Pope Pius XI said "is a miracle," may soon be offered to America and the world, and to long-suffering peoples everywhere, as a *model* as well as a *marvel*.

Four

Photo by Attualità Giordani, Rome

KATERI AND YOU

Her Life

In 1656, the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha was born of a Christian Algonquin mother Kahenta (Flower of the Prairie) and of a pagan Iroquois father Chief Kenhoronkwa in the little village, Ossernenon, now Auriesville, New York on the south side of the Mohawk River where St. Isaac Jogues, Jesuit priest, St. Rene Goupil, Jesuit brother, St. John LaLande, lay apostle had shed their blood for the Faith ten years (1642-46) before:
"The blood of Christians is the seed!"

In 1660 disaster engulfed Tekakwitha: Kahenta, her loving mother, Kenheronkwa, her proud father, Otsikehta (Honey) her baby brother Fell to the foul fury of smallpox. It left her an orphan, pockmarked, dim of vision, shy.
Onsegongo, a pagan uncle took her in.

Baptized in 1676 on the other side of the river at Caughnawaga, now Fonda she ran the gauntlet of sneers and hatred against the Prayer!

Next year she bravely ran away from corruption to fervor to the Mission of St. Francis Xavier at Sault St. Louis, Lachine Rapids, Quebec.
"We are sending you a treasure"
Her blackrobe sponsors said:
"guard it well!"

There she rose to holiness, there she made her first Communion Christmas Day, 1677;
There she pronounced her vow of perpetual virginity Annunciation Day, 1679; there she died April 17, 1680 with Mary's and Jesus' names on her lips. She was 24.

Meaning of Her Life

Today, and since 1943
She is "Venerable Kateri"
Venerable at 24?
Why not?
The Book of Wisdom says:
"The *understanding* of a man is old age, and a *spotless life* is gray hairs."
Kateri is God's answer to the charity of the Jesuit Martyrs, of the first missionaries to New France, to New York.

She was a laywoman
who achieved sanctity in the world
a first convert, non-martyr whose virtues were declared *heroic super-mansized!*
by Holy Mother Church.

She was not "white";
She helps us to lay our finger on the Christianity of those who call themselves Christian.

More and ever more
this white flower of the Mohawks is becoming the inspiration of "underdog" peoples on both sides of the iron curtain, the bamboo curtain, the cactus curtain, the color barrier; — people are getting to know her as a *marvel* and a *model*.

How Speed Her Beatification?

Pray perseveringly
Report favors, even the *small* ones given through her *intercession*;
mention her to your friends;
enroll in TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE
AURIESVILLE, NEW YORK.
or in
KATERI'S FRIENDS
CAUGHNAWAGA, P.Q. CANADA.

Thanksgivings

"Enclosed offering is towards the Cause of the Lily of the Mohawks, who must have a special place in heaven since many of the favors we have prayed for have been answered through her special intercession. My mother was Mohawk and my father Oneida Indian, and my husband is Irish. We have seven children (we call them Irish-Redskins), so continued prayers have been necessary, both for favors and in thanksgiving."

— No. Fond du Lac, Wis.

"May it please you to accept my modest offering to help furthering the Cause of Venerable Kateri, and as a testimony of my thankfulness for the many favors I received through her powerful intercession."

— Plattsburgh, N. Y.

"A little gift towards the Cause of the Little Indian girl. She is good to me and the people of my Parish."

— Burlington, N. J.

"Kateri did me a favor, not what I asked, but what God wanted, I deduced. I am sending an expression of gratitude."

— Philadelphia, Pa.

"Since I have received many favors through Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, I would like to help spread devotion to her. At this time I enclose a money order for the novena leaflets."

— New York, N. Y.

"Recently asking the intercession of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, a bill passed in the legislature which affected the future of my family favorably." — St. Ignac, Mich.

"Just a small token of our gratitude to our beloved Kateri for her wonderful patronage of our family. Our daughter has been accepted for nurses' training, thanks to her."

— Detroit, Mich.

"As we have so much to be grateful for, enclosed is my offering of thanks to Tekakwitha for my wife's safe trip back home from overseas, and the success of my daughter's operation."

— Port Arthur, Texas.

"Recently we called on Tekakwitha to 'put things in order' at our house, and we were granted our favor on the ninth day of the novena. Since my childhood days our family has had great devotion to this little Indian girl, and we have had many, many blessings."

— Kansas City, Mo.

"I want to say that the little Indian maid is very great in the sight of God, so I believe. I know she has lived up to at least one meaning of her name — 'she who sets things in order' — that is, my life has been very much in disorder, because of my own lack of humility. Kateri has helped me to gain both the humility and self-possession I need to begin the spiritual life."

— Davenport, Iowa.

WAYS TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

MEMBERSHIP

in Tekakwitha League, including bulletin "Lily of the Mohawks", one dollar yearly.

LEAFLETS

Sketch, picture, novena and prayers, sepia 5c for 2; 25c doz. with silk applied to relic 10c each.

Sketch, litho pictures, novena and prayers: 5c, 50c doz. with silk applied to relic 20c each.

PICTURE

Small, litho with prayer (English, Italian, Polish, French) 5c for 2, 25c doz.; silk applied to relic 15c each.

Large, 6 by 8 in., brown leatherette, frame, acetate face, 75c. Post cards in color, 5c, 50c doz.

SHORT LIFE

322 pp. by Fr. Coffey, S.J., with picture and prayer, 20c.

ITALIAN LIFE

Il Giglio degli Iroquesi; Dr. Fernando Bea, 62 pp. illustrated, \$1.50.

Caterina Tekakwitha; Dr. Fernando Bea, 176 pp. illustrated in color; \$3.00.

September SACRED HEART MESSENGER: Tekakwitha cover and story, 30c.

MEDAL

Image and title, special metal 20c; sterling silver, 75c.

Ball point Kateri pens with picture and prayer; 35c, 3 for \$1.00.

Plaques, walnut finish, with prayer, boxed; \$1.50, \$1.95, \$3.25.

Paper weight, onyx marble base, \$3.95.

Statues: inquire prices.

TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

AURIESVILLE, NEW YORK

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