

# *The Lily of the Mohawks*

Vol. XXVII — No. 1

WINTER, 1963



## NOTES FROM KATERI'S THREE VILLAGES

**Ossernenon,  
Auriesville, N. Y.**

—from Fr. Thomas J. Coffey, S.J.,  
W. Postulator for the United States:

The United States has four canonized saints: Isaac Jogues, priest, René Goupil, brother, and John Lalande, layman, martyred at Auriesville, N. Y., canonized in 1930 among the *Jesuit Martyrs of North America*; and Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, thus honored in 1946.

Three "blesseds" ornament the crown of U. S. holiness: Phillipine Rose Duchesne, religious of the Sacred Heart, beatified in

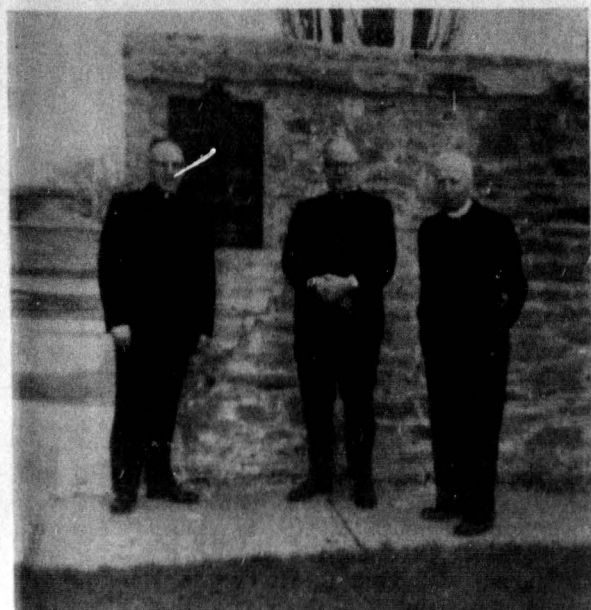
1940; Mother Elizabeth Seton, Foundress of the Sisters of Charity, beatified March 17, 1963, and Bishop John Neumann, C.S.S.R. fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, declared Blessed October 13, 1963.

At least twelve other Causes have been introduced locally, not to mention the Cause of 116 American Martyrs for whom joint beatification and canonization are being sought.

The twelve: Fr. Antonio Margil, missionary; Felix de Andreis, C.M.; Mother Theodore Guerin, Foundress, Sisters of Providence; Bishop Mathias Loras, first bishop of Dubuque; Bishop Frederic Baraga, first Bishop of Marquette; Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R.; Mother M. Magdalen Bentivoglio, Poor Clare; Mother Frances Schervier, Srs. of the Poor of St. Francis; Fr. Junipero Serra, O.F.M.; Archbishop John Cieplak of Poland, who died in Passaic, N. J.; and Sister Miriam Teresa, of the Convent Station Srs. of Charity.

It is interesting to note that among the 116 American Martyrs whose cause has been introduced en masse twenty-four dioceses are entailed, diocesan and religious priests, laymen, of whom five were Indians, and at least one laywoman, also Indian.

We have not mentioned the Mohawk-Algonquin Indian Virgin Kateri Tekakwitha up to this for the purposes of this letter. The Venerable Kateri has been an official candidate for Beatification since introduction of her Cause in 1939. She was declared Vener-



FR. BECHARD, S.J.      FR. COFFEY, S.J.  
FR. GRASSMAN, O.F.M. CONV.

able in 1943 by Pope Pius XII for the heroicity of her virtues. Born at Auriesville, baptized at Fonda, N. Y., her remains are now preserved at Caughnawaga, Canada, close to where she died.

When will the beatification be? To repeat the words of Pope Pius XII: "Prayer brings miracles. Miracles bring the Church's approval." The case of Kateri is as active as it can be at the moment in that respect. The search for authentic miracles continues. One cannot anticipate the judgment of the Church, and certainly not schedule the workings of Divine Providence. Nor can any steps being taken by the Congregation of Rites be revealed before their promulgation.

The present 88-year-old Roman Postulator, Fr. Carlo Miccinelli, S.J., has been handling the case for 27 years, and the present V. Postulator for the U. S. for fourteen. During those years the Lily has leaped successfully fifteen out of twenty canonical hurdles so far. It has been a time-consuming work. To assure success in the next few hurdles more patience, more prayer, more proof of noteworthy favors due to Tekakwitha's intercession are needed. This we confidently hope for from her clients.

Once in a while the question is asked at Auriesville, as, I suppose, at other great Shrines: "What time are the miracles?" And we have been labeled "evasive" for not being able to name the actual date of beatification! This we know: the Cause is active; all concerned are anxious for the next important decree *Tuto*: "It is safe to proceed to the beatification." The rest is in the hands of God.

Since the dramatic moment pictured in our last bulletin, when the Dean of Advocates at Rome petitioned the late Pope John for the glorification of Kateri and several others, Martin de Porres has been canonized, Mother Seton and Bishop Neumann beatified. We congratulate the postulators concerned, confessing to a certain holy envy. And we take these happy events as token that the answer to our own patient hopes may be soon forthcoming.

### **Caughnawaga, Fonda, N. Y.**

—from Fr. Thomas Grassmann, O.F.M.Conv.,  
Director, Tekakwitha Friary and the  
Caughnawaga-Tekakwitha Museum at Ka-  
teri's Baptismal site.

The gracious action on the part of his late Holiness, Pope John XXIII, by proclaiming Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton to be among the blessed in heaven, and on the part of Pope Paul VI who raised Bishop John Neumann, C.S.S.R. to the same high dignity, resulted in considerable joy and religious pride among the citizens of the United States.

This happy event causes one to hope that, in due time, the people of the United States may be able to rejoice further if an American aborigine, Catherine Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks, is judged eligible for the same honor which has been conferred on Blessed Elizabeth Seton and Blessed John Neumann.

No individual can foretell the future but all individuals can pray earnestly that the future may bring honor to the triple sites which have experienced the presence of the Mohawk Indian maiden, Catherine Tekakwitha, that is—at Auriesville, Fonda, and Caughnawaga in Canada.

### **Caughnawaga, P. Q., Canada**

—from Fr. Henri Bechard, S.J., V. Postulator  
for Canada

His Holiness Pope Pius XII in the decree on the heroicity of the virtues of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha clearly states that the Iroquois maiden sprang from the blood of the Canadian or North American Martyrs. About a quarter of a century after St. Isaac's death at Ossernenon (Auriesville) the *Jesuit Relations* mentioned the baptism of one hundred and fifty-one Mohawks:

"The birth of this flourishing Church is due, next to God, to the death and the blood of the Reverend Father Jogues."

Thanks to one of his successors, Fr. De Lamberville, S.J., Tekakwitha became a Christian in 1676. The spirit of St. Isaac

Jogues led her to Montreal whence he had set out more than thirty years before. Thus Montreal gave a saint to the Mohawk canton; the Mohawk canton gave to Montreal one of its own well on her way to sanctity. This eminent perfection Kateri was to attain in less than three years at the Mission of St. Francis Xavier opposite Montreal on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River.

The spirituality of the Cross was that of St. Isaac Jogues and the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. Both, throughout their lives and at the time of their deaths could say to the Indians and to the whites: "I have made known Thy Name to them, and will make it known; that the love wherewith Thou hast loved me may be in them." Jo. 17.26. It would be a good thing to meditate on this mysterious exchange between Montreal and the Iroquois Cantons and between the Iroquois Cantons and Montreal.



SR. M. KATERI AND FRIENDS  
Sr. Kateri, a Sister of St. Ann, is a Mohawk Indian nun.

### Officers of the Cause

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.*

#### CUSTOS:

Tekakwitha Friary and Museum  
Site of her Baptism  
Rev. Thomas Grassmann, O.F.M., Conv.  
Fonda, N. Y.

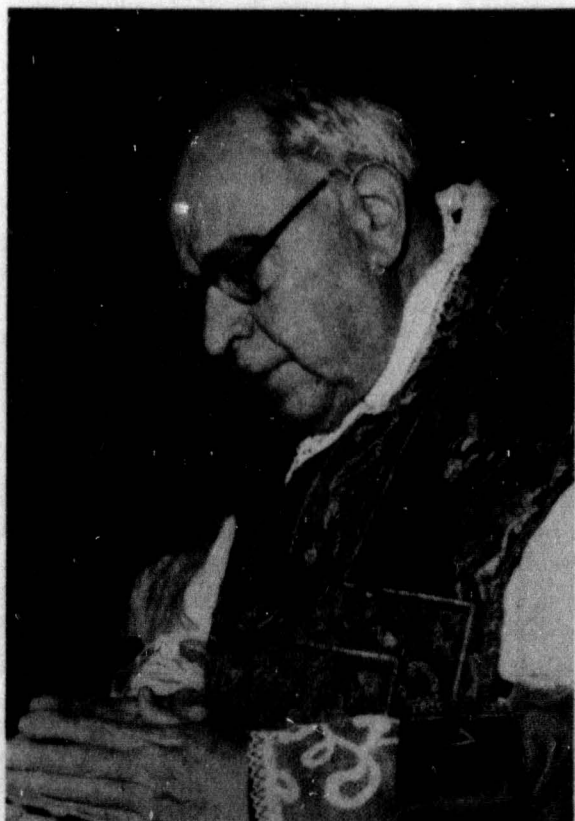
SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "LILY" ARE ASKED  
TO RENEW SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TO OBTAIN  
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## SALUTE TO A GRAND ROMAN

Tekakwitha's many friends in the United States and Canada will join with us in extending our heartfelt congratulations across the Atlantic to Father Charles Miccinelli, S.J., who celebrates, December 18, his eighty-seventh birthday. He has been a Jesuit for over 67 years, and Postulator in the Holy City for Tekakwitha's Cause for twenty-seven years. His quiet activity has been responsible during the fruitful years of his life as a Jesuit, for the success of many Causes, Jesuit and others. We hope with him that Kateri will soon become another jewel in his crown. Such a happy consummation will require our continued prayers that God will see fit to allow the miracles required through her intercession.




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### WAYS TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

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#### MEMBERSHIP

In Tekakwitha League, including bulletin "Lily of the Mohawks," one dollar a year. Regular donations for Cause and office expenses needed and welcome.

#### LEAFLETS

Sketch, picture, novena and prayer, sepia, 5c for 2; 25c doz. With silk applied to relic 10c each.  
Sketch, litho picture, novena and prayers: 5c, 50c doz. With silk applied to relic 20c each.

#### STATUES

Order direct from Adrienne Bouvier, Sculptress, 39 School Street, Brookline, Mass. New 20 in. statue of Tekakwitha in cement for gardens, indoor \$15.00. Other sizes and prices.

#### 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. Postcards in color 5c; 50c doz.

#### BOOKS

*Short Life*, 32 pp. by Fr. Coffey, S.J., with picture and prayer, 20c.

*Kateri of the Mohawks*, by Cecilia Buehrle, 200 pp. paperback, 60c pp.

*Miracle of the Mohawks*, by Marion Stephenson, ready in the Spring.

*Il Giglio degli Iroquesi* (Italian), by Dr. Fernando Bea, 62 pp. illustrated, \$1.50.

*Caterina Tekakwitha* (Italian), by Dr. Fernando Bea, 176 pp. illustrated in color \$3.00.

#### MEDALS

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

Order direct from Kateri Center, Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada an exquisite woodcarving, 7 in., \$15.00, and for those who want something new and chic, Kateri in enamel on a 4 in. square ceramic tile, mushroom color by Daniel Lareau, \$2.25 pp.

### TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

AURIESVILLE, NEW YORK 12016

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

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