

Lily of the Mohawks

TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

AURIESVILLE, NEW YORK

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APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW VICE-POSTULATOR OF THE CAUSE OF VEN. KATERI TEKAKWITHA

The Most Reverend William A. Scully, D.D., Bishop of Albany, has appointed the Rev. William J. Schlaerth, S.J., the new Vice-postulator in the United States of the Cause for the beatification of Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks. Father Schlaerth has been identified with Martyrs Shrine at Auriesville where Kateri was born, as the Director from 1961 to 1964 and as the Rector of the Tertianship and Director of the Sacred Heart Retreat House for Priests at Auriesville from 1956 to 1962. He succeeds the Rev. Thomas J. Coffey, S.J., who had been appointed to that post in October 1949 by the late Bishop Gibbons. Father Schlaerth also becomes the director of the Tekakwitha League, composed of the laity who share in the work of furthering the Cause of Kateri in the United States.

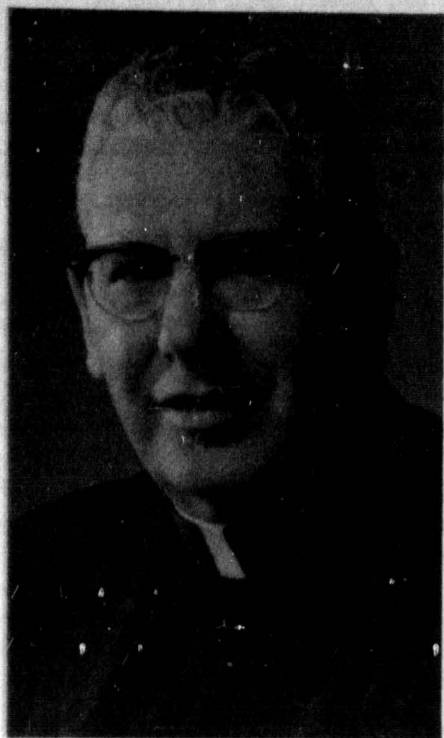
Father Coffey was a former director of the

National Shrine of the North American Martyrs at Auriesville. In September 1946 while director of the Shrine, he was inducted into the Iroquois nation and given the name "Rotsanih"—the energetic one. His pamphlet "America's First Martyrs" first published in 1956, was followed by "Kateri Tekakwitha, America's Marvelous Maiden." During the fifteen years in the promotion of her cause, Father Coffey made many friends and won many devotees to the Cause of Ven. Kateri. They will long remember his many devoted years of service to the cause of America's Marvelous Maiden and will pray for his success in his new assignment.

Father Schlaerth took up his new duties as the Vice-postulator in January of this year. A native of Buffalo, he entered the Jesuit Order in 1921 and was ordained June 23, 1934. He engaged in four years of historical study in Europe, obtaining his doctorate in history from the Gregorian University of Rome in 1940. After posts in teaching history at Canisius College, Buffalo and Fordham University, New York, he was named the first rector and president of Le Moyne College, Syracuse in 1947. He was responsible for the first buildings of this new Jesuit College. He returned to Canisius in 1954 where he taught history until 1956 when he received his appointment as Rector at Auriesville.

New Postulator General at Rome

A new Postulator General for the Cause of Kateri in Rome was also named this year, Rev. Paul Molinari, S.J., a member of the Jesuit Province of Turin, Italy. He had been professor of hagiography at the Gregorian University and is now in full charge of all the causes not only of the Venerables and Blesseds of the Society of Jesus but also of lay people closely associated with the work of the Jesuits, especially on their missions. Fr. Molinari succeeds Fr. Charles Miccinelli, S.J., who had been Postulator General of these causes since 1911 and who is now 89 years of age. Father Molinari was born January 17, 1924 and entered the Society of Jesus in 1942 and was ordained Sept. 1, 1952. He earned his doctoral degree in history at Oxford University, England. His residence is at the Jesuit Curia in Rome. It is sincerely hoped that Father Molinari will guide the Cause of Kateri over the last remaining hurdles to her long-sought beatification.



FR. WILLIAM J. SCHLAERTH, S. J.
New Vice-postulator of the Cause



Fr. Henri Bechard, S.J., Vice-postulator of the Cause of Ven. Kateri for Canada; Sr. Kateri, a sister of St. Ann, and Fr. Thomas J. Coffey, S.J., former Vice-postulator for the United States, visiting Auriesville Shrine where Kateri was born in 1656.

AURIESVILLE'S FIRST LADY AND HER CAUSE

Father Schlaerth as director of the Martyrs Shrine at Auriesville always had a warm spot in his heart for Auriesville's "First Lady" since Ossernenon, now Auriesville, N.Y., was the site of her birth in 1656. Today there are many memorials to Kateri at the beautiful Martyrs Shrine along the banks of the Mohawk which he helped to beautify. Preparations have long been in progress at the Shrine for the day when Kateri will be beatified for Auriesville will then be one of the principal centers of devotion to the Lily of the Mohawks.

In 1656 Kateri was born in Auriesville, just a decade after Isaac Jogues, the Jesuit Priest, Rene Goupil, the Jesuit brother and John Lalande, the dedicated missionary layman, had died there for the Faith in 1642 and 1646, hallowing that ground with their blood. It was at the Indian village of Caughnawaga, on the north shore of the Mohawk, now the site of the Tekakwitha Friary and the Tekakwitha Memorial Shrine and Museum, entrusted to the care of the Franciscan Fathers, with the Rev. Thomas Grassman, O.F.M. Conv. as director, that Kateri lived for eleven years, was instructed in the Faith and baptized in the little bark chapel of St. Peter on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676. She died at the Caughnawaga Mission on the banks of the St. Lawrence in Canada after a life that was the admiration and inspiration of her Indian neighbors. Her bones are conserved at the Caughnawaga Shrine conducted by the Jesuit Fathers with Fr. Henri Bechard, S.J., as director.

The Kateri Cause First Instituted

The Cause of Kateri dates back to the 1800's when the Archbishops and Bishops of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore petitioned the Holy See to institute the process for the beatification of Kateri. At that time her cause was coupled with that of the North American Martyrs. As soon as it became clear that the Martyrs would be beatified in 1925, the preparation of Kateri's Cause was separated from theirs, because the causes for martyrs and non-martyrs are handled differently.

The separate Cause of Tekakwitha was instituted May 22, 1931. Since the Most Rev. George Gauthier, Bishop of Montreal, could not at that time personally conduct the preliminary investigations in the See of Kateri's death, he cordially authorized the Bishop of Albany to do so, since Kateri had lived twenty years and was baptized in the area which is now the Albany Diocese.

Testimony was taken from twenty witnesses in 1931-32. After the report of the findings had been signed and sealed, it was carried to Rome by Monsignor Pace, the Rector of the Catholic University at Washington, D.C. Rome acted quickly approving a further examination to show there was no premature devotion or cultus in the case. To make this examination Bishop Gibbons of Albany visited the grave of Tekakwitha in Caughnawaga, with great ceremony, in July 1932. The Indians gave great evidence of their joy over the likelihood of the beatification of one whom they style on her tombstone *Fairest Flower that ever bloomed among the Redmen* and of whose holiness they have preserved a strong and unbroken tradition. They had insisted on preserving her remains and taking them from one site to another, as they changed their dwelling places and yet retaining their veneration for her first resting place. They

Prayer for the Beatification of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha

O GOD, WHO, among the manifold marvels of Thy Grace in the New World, didst cause to blossom on the banks of the Mohawk and of the St. Lawrence, the pure and tender Lily, Kateri Tekakwitha, grant, we beseech Thee, the favor we beg through her intercession—that this Little Lover of Jesus and of His Cross may soon be raised to the honors of the altar by Holy Mother Church, and that our hearts may be enkindled with a stronger desire to imitate her innocence and faith. Through the same Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

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✠ MOST REV. EDMUND F. GIBBONS, D.D.



Pilgrims and visitors to Martyrs Shrine at Auriesville, N.Y. where Ven. Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks, was born, visit her memorial in front of the Kateri Museum.

made Bishop Gibbons a chief of their people. His investigation proved successful.

Roman Approval of the Cause

The task of scrutinizing the documents consumed six years, and finally in June, 1938, the Historical Section of the Congregation of Rites declared that they were complete, genuine and trustworthy — that they established Kateri's reputation for holiness and a solid basis for final judgment that her virtues were heroic.

On May 20, 1930, Pope Pius XII approved the Introduction of her Cause and the stage was set for the discussion of her virtues. At Rome, January 3, 1943, a decree approved by Pope Pius declared heroic the virtues of Kateri and gave her the title of "Venerable." There followed several Apostolic Processes—one session from 1943-1945 and another from 1955-56. The Position Papers relating to the Cause were translated into English and printed by Fordham University Press; two basic biographies were published in Rome in Italian by the office of the Jesuit Roman Postulator. In the last ten years a number of new long

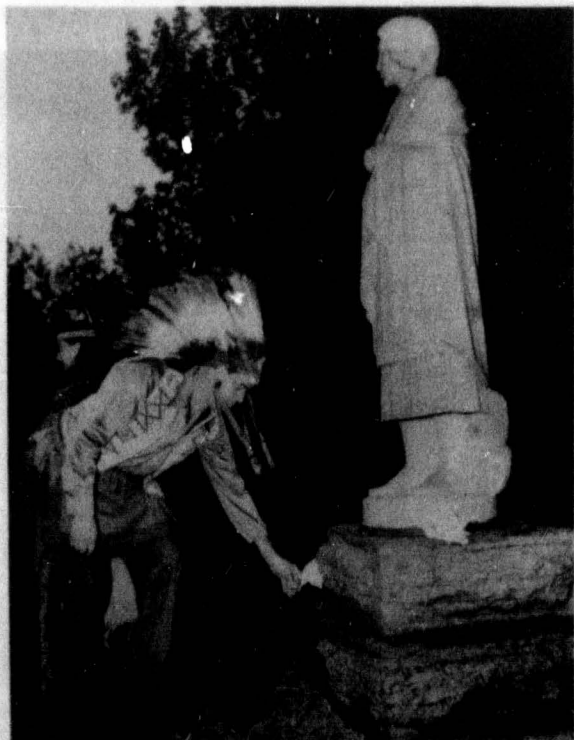
and short lives of Kateri have been produced here in the United States and also abroad.

The Latest Roman Petition

In the Public Consistory which Pope John XXIII called on January 19, 1961, in the Basilica of St. Peter's, Tekakwitha was honored by having Camillo Corsanego, Dean of the Consistorial Advocates, petition His Holiness to hasten the day when this white flower of the Mohawks, first of the sorely-tried North American Indian family to be presented as a candidate for the honors of the altar, might be elevated to the title of "Blessed." The following year began the Apostolic Processes for miracles in Rome which have continued intermittently. Meanwhile the devotees of Kateri everywhere have continued to storm heaven with their prayers that the Lily of the Mohawks, marvelous maiden of Auriesville, who "dared to be different" in her chaotic time, 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*.

SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "LILY" ARE ASKED TO RENEW SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TO OBTAIN NEW MEMBERS FOR THE TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE WHOSE PURPOSE IS THE FOSTERING OF DEVOTION TO VEN. KATERI.

\$1.00 per Year helps to pay the printing costs of the "Lily" and the various items of printed material in the promotion of her cause.



Indian Chief from Caughnawaga paying tribute to "The Fairest Flower that ever Bloomed Among Red-men" during Indian Day Pilgrimage at Auriesville.

NEW 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. WILLIAM A. SCULLY, D.D., Bishop of Albany, Diocese of her birth, baptism and most of her life. Most Rev. GERARD MARIE CODERRE, D.D., Bishop of Saint-Jean-de-Quebec, Canada, Diocese of her last years and holy death. Postulator in Rome: Rev. PAUL MOLINARI, S.J., Procurator; R.D. MARCELLUS VENTURI, Secretary; Dr. FERNANDO BEA, Vice-Postulators: for the United States: Rev. WILLIAM J. SCHLAERTH, S.J., Auriesville, N.Y.; for Canada: Rev. HENRI BECHARD, S.J., Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada. Canadian Center for the Cause: The Kateri Center, Box 70, Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada. Rev. HENRI BECHARD, S.J., Director and Vice-Postulator. U.S. Center for the Cause: Tekakwitha League, Auriesville, N.Y. 12016, Rev. WILLIAM J. SCHLAERTH, S.J., Pres. and Treas., Rev. WILLIAM R. MESSNER, S.J., Vice-Pres.; Rev. ANTHONY A. SCHIRMANN, S.J., Secretary; SALLY CERNIGLIA, Ass't Treas.; FERNE CARRON, Ass't Secretary. Custos: Tekakwitha Friary and Museum, Site of her Baptism, Rev. THOMAS GRASSMANN, O.F.M., Conv., Fonda, N.Y.

THANKSGIVINGS FOR FAVORS RECEIVED THROUGH VEN. KATERI

"Enclosed is my personal check for \$50 to the Cause of Tekakwitha which I promised for a favor of restoration of health. I had an arthritic condition of the neck and was on the point of hysteria due to severe treatments given. I had confidence in Kateri who cured me of my affliction. I am hoping Kateri will soon be raised to the honors of the altar by Holy Mother Church." —Port Allegany, Pa.

"Would like you to know how our dear Little Indian Maiden has helped my granddaughter who had frequent seizures; she hasn't had one since Oct. 15, 1964." —Lafayette, Louisiana.

"I was in an automobile accident and received very serious injuries. Thanks to Tekakwitha I recovered completely. Then we had problems collecting the insurance money and again she answered my prayers. Enclosed you will find \$50 to further her cause." —New Iberia, La.

"Our mother's toe was gangrenous and we were told it had to be amputated. But after our prayers to Kateri a growth of new flesh covered the bone and no operation was necessary. Now we are praying to Kateri for the return of our mother's sight." —Pittsburgh, Pa.

"I received a dividend after praying to Kateri. The offering is to help you in your work at promoting her cause." —Banning, Calif.

"I wish to thank Ven. Kateri for her great help in breaking up an undesirable friendship between a young man and woman. The affair is now over and to me it seems miraculous. I enclose a small offering in thanksgiving." —Horgen, Switzerland.

"I wrote to the Tekakwitha League for the Kateri holy cards with the silk applied to her relics for my baby daughter named Kateri. She has had serious surgery almost every six months; after each one the doctors said she would die in weeks. My friends and I have prayed each time to Kateri. Our child has suffered afflictions similar to those of the Lily of the Mohawks. Thanks to Kateri, she is still alive and happy." —Capitan, New Mexico.

"The Drive of the Diocesan Fund campaign was placed under the patronage of Ven. Kateri. Thanks to her intercession the Drive was an eminent success going way over the goal set. Enclosed the special offering promised to promote her cause." —St. Cloud, Minn.

WAYS TO MAKE KATERI TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

MEMBERSHIP: in the Tekakwitha League. including bulletin "Lily of the Mohawks"—one dollar a year. Also occasional donations as a league member for the promotion of the Cause; for office and printing expenses which are needed and welcome always.

REPORT favors, even the small ones and of course miracles, received through her intercession. Thanksgivings will be published in the "Lily" bulletin.

SPREAD HER DEVOTION by passing out her holy cards and literature to your friends and parishioners. By promoting her cause as a project for your club, organization or society, or through the schools in your area. Leaflets and materials can be obtained from the Tekakwitha League at Auriesville, N.Y.

KATERI HOLY PICTURES—small and medium sizes—in color with prayer in English and other various languages—2 for 5¢. Special pictures and prayer with silk applied to Kateri relics, 20¢ ea. Large colored picture (6" x 8") in special leatherette frame, 75¢. Postcards in color—5¢ ea. (\$.50 dozen).

TEKAKWITHA NOVENA LEAFLETS—5¢ ea. **KATERI MEDALS** in a special metal, 20¢ ea.; in sterling silver, \$1.50 (special discount on quantities).

BOOKS: Kateri Tekakwitha, America's Marvelous Maiden by Thomas J. Coffey, S.J. (32 pp. pamphlet) 25¢ ea. Kateri of the Mohawks by Cecilia Buehrle (200 pp. paperback) 60¢ ea. **STATUES OF KATERI** for various sizes and prices. Inquire through the Tekakwitha League. (Prices include postage.)

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Reverend William J. Schlaerth, S.J., Vice-postulator for Her Canonization