

Lily of the Mohawks

Liturgical Celebrations, Dramatizations, League Members Reunion Mark Kateri Week End, August 30-31

A special week end, August 30-31, has been designated as "Kateri Week End" at the Martyrs' Shrine, Auriesville, N.Y., by Rev. Joseph S. McBride, S.J., Vice-Postulator of the cause of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha. This week end will coincide with Indian Sunday, a regular annual event at the Shrine, and will be the last week end before Labor Day. Significant liturgical events and dramatizations are being planned to highlight the activity of the "Kateri Week End."

In making this announcement Father McBride said, "This will be a great opportunity for as many League members as possible to gather together and to meet each other, something never attempted before. Of foremost importance will be the union of our prayerful efforts to add impetus to our common goal, namely, to win the speedy beatification and canonization of the wonderful Indian Maiden." "It will also afford us a chance to enter our own petitions to Venerable Kateri," he added.

Father Michael Jacobs, S.J., assistant pastor of the Saint Regis Mission, Hogsburg,



Fr. McBride

Mary-Eunice

... planning skits

N.Y., will preach at the principal liturgical celebration on Sunday, August 31.

Born in the Saint Francis Xavier Mission, Caughnawaga Reserve, near Montreal, Quebec, May 11, 1902, Father Jacobs has worked in the Saint Regis Mission for over 30 years—from 1938 to 1969. At the age of 20 he entered the Jesuit Novitiate in Montreal, Quebec, went through the ordinary Jesuit formation and studies for 12 years, and was ordained priest, July 1, 1934, in the Mission Church of Caughnawaga, where he was baptized and received his first formation of the Christian life.

In accepting the invitation to preach, Father Jacobs wrote, "I intend to bring some of our St. Regis Indians to the pilgrimage



Father Jacobs, S.J.

... a real Mohawk

on August 31." At present there are 4100 Indians in the St. Regis reserve. They are mostly all Mohawk Indians, descendants of the first converts of the Five Nations of the Iroquois of the 17th Century. They occupied all of the Mohawk Valley from Albany to Buffalo, New York.

Mary-Eunice of Mary Productions Guild will present several skits on the life of Kateri Tekakwitha in the Coliseum on Saturday evening, August 30, before the newly erected Kateri Statue. Mary-Eunice just authored a one-act play about Kateri entitled "Maid of the Mohawks." With her husband Joe, Mary-Eunice will also provide other entertainment after the dramatizations in the Coliseum.

Father Henri Bechard, S.J., Vice-Postulator for Canada, is expected to attend. Invitations to former vice-postulators, Father Thomas Coffey and Father William Schlaerth to be present have been extended.

Overnight accommodations must be arranged through the Shrine Office, Auriesville, N.Y. A more detailed program will be sent to League members in early August.

What's Praying to Saints All About?

by Thomas H. Moore, S.J.

She had hardly settled in her seat when I knew I was not going to get my office read before we reached New York. Georgia was where she came from, married now and living in New Jersey. One of her questions was about Catholics, always praying to the saints and not to God Himself.

For an answer I opened my breviary to the office of the day and translated for her the Prayer. Like this: May blessed Margaret, Virgin and Martyr, who was ever pleasing to you by the merit of her chastity and by her trust in your power, implore for us your forgiveness, we beseech you, O Lord. Through Our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

This prayer, taken at random from the official prayerbook of the Church, was a sample—a pattern—of Catholic prayers involving ourselves and the saints. I pointed out to her, first, that the prayer was addressed to God the Father. She agreed. So Catholics did pray to God direct. It was indirect, in a sense. We asked the Father to hear our prayer, and blessed Margaret's prayer for us, through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Catholics end most of all their prayers this way, through Christ Our Lord, because no one goes to the Father save through the Son. Christ has told us this. He is the Mediator between God and men; He redeemed mankind by his sacrificial death; He is the bridge over which we pass from the bondage of sin to the freedom of the children of God. Right here we admit, and my friend agreed, that we do not go it alone; we need the help of Somebody else even to get an audience with God our Father.

But where does St. Margaret, or any other saint, come in? She comes in as a kind of friend at court. She has proved her goodness and God has already put his arm around her. When I step up to God to say something to Him, I feel much more confident with her at my side. A friend at court. It is a little like getting someone to speak up for you when you are looking for a job. That is about as far as I got with the girl on the bus.

Had she been a Catholic I could have gone a little further. First, I could have cracked down on the sort of Catholic who thinks certain saints have a kind of monopoly on cures and favors. You have to get to find out which saint has which corner on the market. Have you lost your purse? St. Jude will find it for you. It is like putting a coin in the proper slot and what you want comes out at the bottom. Just hold out your

1656



1680

Lily of the Mohawks

THE VENERABLE KATERI TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE

PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE: To spread the life story of Kateri Tekakwitha by passing out her holy cards and literature, by promoting her cause as a project for your club, organization or society, or through the schools in your area.

OBLIGATIONS: 1. Recite daily the prayer for the beatification of Venerable Kateri. 2. Offer some work for the intentions of the League Members.

BENEFITS: 1. Each 1st Friday—a Mass is offered for all League Members by a missionary priest in the Caroline Islands. 2. Annually—a Novena of Masses for League Members, Sept. 18 to Sept. 26. 3. Our publication LILY OF THE MOHAWKS is sent to all members. 4. Daily remembrance in the Mass of the Vice-Postulator. 5. A sharing in the spiritual works, and apostolic labors of over 5,000 League Members.

Address all communications to:

Office of the Vice-Postulator
12 Central Park Plaza
Buffalo, New York 14214

hand. This is nothing more than a fuzzy superstition little removed from the fetishism of the jungle. But there are Catholics like that, running from one sure-fire saint to the other, trying to get the other world to pull the chestnuts out of the flames. Rational people often confuse this with Catholicism. Who can blame them if they condemn it?

With this caricature of our devotion to the saints out of the way, we can fit the real thing into the framework of God's plan for our redemption.

To begin, let us agree that redemption is a work of love and therefore the mark of two. Christ has redeemed us through his death and resurrection. But we have to accept redemption. God does not force it upon us. The vocation of every Christian is to unite himself with Christ, so that, together in love, they may apply the fruits of redemption to others. This is the soul and substance of the Sacred Heart Devotion. When we increase our own holiness, through prayer, the sacraments, our living good lives, we lift the level of sanctity in the whole Church, in the Mystical Body of Christ. Sanctifying myself, I
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FATHER McTAGUE REVEALS KATERI'S SENSE OF HUMOR



Myung Ha Yu

Fr. McTague

Arthur Sheehan

Kateri's Faith, Courage, Love of God, Devotion to God's Will Impress Students

Sister Maurice's students of St. James Jr. High, Manville, Rhode Island, have studied the Life of Kateri and sent in their reactions.

Debbie Castro writes: "I think the story of Kateri was a very good one. I liked it because I thought she was a brave woman. All the things she did and how much love she had for God was beautiful. Kateri had a lot of courage and faith, and that is why everyone loved her so much."

"Kateri was truly a great saint," writes Diane Lavallee. "She showed great devotion to the Cross and the Holy Eucharist. Kateri wanted to devote her entire life to God. She prayed to the Blessed Virgin. Her life was one of prayer and penance. Kateri is a beloved saint."

From Louise Savard come these words: "In the story you see how much some people do for the love of God. Kateri was very brave and she understood what God wanted her to do. This story helps you to see all some people would do for the love of God. It has helped me by letting me know how much people love God."

"I think she was a very loving servant of God. I think her faith was very incredible. Oh! How I would like to be a girl like her!" Marie Gauthier remarked in her letter.

A short life of Kateri will be sent to any grammar school class for study purposes and incentive to start a Kateri Club. High School students may be interested in using the one-act play, "Maid of the Mohawks."

Father Charles Hubert McTague, associate pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Fairview, N. J., should be America's representative to the world.

A walk with him through his parish proves he knows and loves people. He'll stop and say, "I want you to meet little Teresa from Hungary"; "Oh, here's Brendan from North Korea," or "This is lovely little Francine from Paris." Not one person passes by without saying "Hi, Father!"

Here is how Father tells about Kateri. "Little Tekakwitha loves me very much. I never thought Indians had a sense of humor—but she does. I speak from experience. My mother enrolled me as a first grade student at Tekakwitha Hall, the grammar school building of Immaculate Conception Parish in Montclair, N. J., about Sept. 10, 1926. My mother dressed me up nice for the first day and led me to school. The last thing she told me was that the school was named after an Indian girl. I forgot the kiss and went in looking for Indians.

"I was one of 87 children. Where were the Indians? When Sister Eustace left the class I thought of an ingenious way to locate the Indians and show my sympathy for them. I mounted Sister's desk and did what I thought was an Indian dance. If the Indian kids were present would they please stand up? Sister stood up. No Indian suffered worse humiliation. I was expelled for a year. I guess she thought I was the real McCoy she had heard about in Germany.

"The truth must be spoken. I cooled on Kateri. After about ten years of priesthood, I slowly warmed up to Indians in general. Still hesitant about K.T., I even started a 'Sarto Club' among some Tuscarora children in the Ramapo Mountains in New Jersey. A friend of mine offered his bus for \$40—a round trip to Auriesville. Good old Tekakwitha! She was making up to me after being culturally deprived for a full year. I signed up 80 kids, spread the word, became an instant hero, and the bus didn't show up. It cost \$200 to hire another bus, taking ten months to pay off the bus company. Do you need a Devil's Advocate?"

Father McTague is trying to organize a union of all vice-postulators in the country so that each may help the other by pooling suggestions for promotion and by uniting in common prayer for the various causes.

"Sarto International" is Father's School of Languages. Saturday morning sessions may see as many as fifteen languages being taught in the school basement. Some of his graduates have become successful interpreters at the United Nations.

Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676

KATERI'S BAPTISM

AT THAT TIME, Father James de Lamberville was conducted by Providence to the village of our young Iroquois, Tekakwitha. Tekakwitha did not fail to be present at the instruction and prayers which took place every day in the chapel, but she did not dare disclose the design she had for a long time formed of becoming a Christian . . .

But at length when she least expected it the occasion of her declaring her desire for Baptism presented itself. A wound which she had received in the foot detained her in the village whilst the greater part of the women were in the fields gathering the harvest of Indian corn. The missionary had selected this time to go to his rounds and instruct at his leisure those who had remained in the cabins. He entered that of Tekakwitha. The good girl on seeing him was not able to restrain her joy. She at once began to open her heart to him, even in the presence of her companions, on the earnest desire she had to be admitted into the fold of the Christians. She disclosed also the obstacles she had been obliged to surmount on the part of her family, and in this first conversation showed a courage above her sex. The goodness of her temper, the vivacity of her spirit, her simplicity and candor, caused the missionary to believe that one day she would make great progress in virtue. He therefore applied himself particularly to instruct her in the truths of Christianity, but did not think he ought to yield so soon to her entreaties; for the grace of Baptism should not be accorded to adults . . . , except with great care and after a long probation. All the winter, therefore, was employed in her instruction and a rigid investigation of her manner of life.

. . . Even those who had persecuted her most severely were not backward in giving their testimony to her virtue. And so he hesitated no longer to grant her Holy Baptism, for which she asked with so much godly earnestness. She received it on Easter Sunday, 1676, and was named Kateri, and it is by that name I shall call her in the rest of this letter . . .

—Father Pierre CHOLENEC, 1712


English translation from The "Positio" of the Historical Section of the Sacred Congregation of Rites on the "Introduction of the Cause for Beatification and Canonization" of Katharine Tekakwitha, 1940, Fordham University Press, New York.



**VICE-POSTULATOR
DESCRIBES NEW
MEMBERSHIP CARD**

Kateri Tekakwitha League

Lily of the Mohawks



1656 – 1680

☐ Friend ☐ Associate ☐ Lifelong

A distinctive Membership Card is issued to League Members. On the face side the name of the League Member will be clearly typed and a check will indicate the status of the member: Friend, Associate, Lifelong.

A "Friend" is one who contributes one dollar for a subscription to the LILY OF THE MOHAWKS. An "Associate" is one who gives abundantly of time, effort and expense to advance the Kateri Cause. A "Lifelong" Member is one who has in the past helped extensively in promoting the League's efforts and who contributes to assist every plan to assure promotional schemes for the future.

The new cards will be mailed to members as acknowledgements are sent out. Lifelong Members will receive their cards as soon as a determination is made upon a survey of the League's files. The card will also list the year or years of membership validity. The reverse of the card lists the benefits to which the members are entitled.

OPERA TO HONOR VENERABLE KATERI

The uncompleted opera "Kateri" is scored for a soprano since its American-born composer is one fulfilling a lifetime ambition.

"I'm one-fourth Mohawk," said Mrs. Virginia Gordoni, 32, who was born Virginia Copeland in Bridgeport, Conn. "The story of Kateri is one I grew up with."

It was not until she was 19 years old making her singing debut on Broadway that Mrs. Gordoni realized she wanted to write an opera. That was 14 years ago and still "Kateri" is unfinished. "I'm three-fourths of the way through, but I need some help on orchestration," Mrs. Gordoni said. "The story and the melodies are coming along fine."

A soft-spoken brunette, Mrs. Gordoni only works on the opera between professional engagements ranging from Milan's LaScala to the Paris opera house. When finished, the opera will combine elements of a wild west yarn and a saga of sainthood.

Mrs. Gordoni many times heard the story about Kateri from her mother during her childhood in Milford, Conn., where Mrs.

Copeland raised six children and taught voice and piano. Virginia was her best pupil.

Six years ago, Mrs. Gordoni moved to Milan. There she met and married singer-turned-manager Gari Gordoni, who shares her enthusiasm for "Kateri."

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

(Continued from Page 2)

help others. We work at this together. The Church, the Body of Christ, is a family, a team.

Now, if I know someone on this team who is more than pulling his weight, like my saintly sister, like a holy nun, like St. Joseph, like the Blessed Virgin, like Kateri Tekakwitha, who will blame me if I ask a little help—if I say a little prayer to this one who has what it takes? There is brotherhood here, the Communion of Saints.

That is what praying to the saints is all about.

"Maid of the Mohawks"

PLAY ON TEKAKWITHA PUBLISHED



Mary-Eunice and Joe Spagnola are a team. Mary-Eunice is the artist and Joe the manager. However, Joe loves an audience. With his stentorian tones he speaks with deep conviction especially in his endeavors to wipe out injustices.



Ferne Carron and Mary-Eunice met at the Martyrs' Shrine several years ago. This visit began the Spagnolas' intense interest in the life of Venerable Kateri. Since then they have written about Kateri and have distributed countless pieces of literature about the wonderful Indian maiden.

Making Kateri Tekakwitha more widely known long has been one of the major projects of Mary Productions Guild, a non-profit group headed by Mary-Eunice and Joseph Spagnola.

It was during a visit to Auriesville, N.Y., the former site of Ossernenon, the Mohawk village where Kateri was born, and to Caughnawaga, Canada, the final resting place of the Indian maiden, that Mary-Eunice was inspired with the story of the Lily of the Mohawks and the countless Indians who became Christians.

Play Well Authenticated

Eventually, Mary-Eunice met Fr. Thomas J. Coffey, S.J., then vice-postulator of Tekakwitha's cause, while she was performing in St. Francis Xavier Church auditorium in New York City. During their conversation, Fr. Coffey gave her the Positio, the collection of historical data on the Life of Tekakwitha.

The play, "Maid of the Mohawks," resulted. It is in one act, covering the entire life of the Indian girl who died at 24 in Holy Week nearly 300 years ago.

Easy to produce and an excellent vehicle for schools or parish societies, the play is available by writing to the Office of the Vice-Postulator. It is one of scores of royalty-free plays made available by Mary Productions to schools, societies and missionaries around the world.

Other dramatic materials offered by Mary Productions and authored by Mary-Eunice are: "Tekakwitha," a full length play; "A Christmas Star," a short inspiring Christmas play for children and adults dramatizing the Story of Tekakwitha; "Mohawk Indian Princess," half-hour radio play; "Death of Kateri Tekakwitha," a monologue in the book "Center-Stage," containing 26 historical, religious, comedy and patriotic monologues; "Kateri Tekakwitha," a film script hopefully to be produced by a movie company some day; and "Mary-Eunice Performs: the Death of Kateri Tekakwitha" on her record "Skeptics and Saints."

Personal Appearances

Mary-Eunice and Joe also appear in person with their special entertainment program at school assemblies, all levels. Basic program is comedy and religious monologues. Joe speaks on Catholic Action, root causes of poverty and economic chaos and the field of communications.

Mary and Joe are members of St. Mary's Parish, New Monmouth, N.J., of the Catholic Actors Guild, of the Legion of Mary, of Catholic Tape Recorders, and are editors of "Better World" magazine.

NOTES FROM THE BARK . . . by *father mcbride*

★ **Welcome to Bishop Broderick!** Albany's new bishop was installed on May 10. The Bishop of Albany is an honorary vice-postulator. Bishop Scully died on January 5, 1969.

★ **Nearly \$2,000 have financed** the printing of two thousand plays, 15,000 Fr. Coffey pamphlet reprints, 50,000 Kateri Holy Cards, 25,000 Kateri life folders. Specific prices are not given because our printers do consider the nature of our work and allow discounts.

★ **Mr. Chester Adamczyk**, of Detroit, Michigan, has submitted many good suggestions in response to our request in the last LILY for more lay participation in League activities. He highly endorses the formation of Kateri Clubs all over the country and making available outdoor statues of Kateri. We hope to work on these and other good ideas he submitted.

★ **Many requests for Kateri statues** have come in. No definite information can be given at this time. We are contacting one Company but its representative hasn't shown up. We are all for having one cast. As soon as we come upon something worthwhile, we'll let you know.

★ **Important!** All mail to my office is acknowledged. Should you receive no answer, please let me know in good time. I was away during Lent, which may have caused delays, but a repetition of this is not anticipated in the near future.

★ **Notices about changes** in canonization processes have appeared in the press. Frankly, I do not understand what is reported. When the official declaration comes from Rome, you'll be informed on what it all means.

★ **Requests for a Kateri picture** in a leatherette frame have come in. Our first investigation has not helped to learn where these were made. The supply is gone. Again, we'll keep up the search until we can order more or obtain a substitute.

★ **Thanks to Ann Schley** of Aurora, Illinois, for volunteering to be a lay representative. She is a member of the Legion of Mary and of the Third Order of St. Francis.

★ **Martyrs' Shrine Season** opens the first Sunday of May, ends last Sunday of October. Fr. W. Robert Burns, S.J., former rector of Canisius High School, Buffalo, is now a Shrine staff member in charge of pilgrimages.

★ **Letters still come in every day.** They tell of many favors being granted through the intercession of Venerable Kateri. None is being printed in this issue, since it is planned to list these favors obtained under Thanksgivings during the annual Novena for League members.

★ **Father Fred Power, S.J.**, editor of the Messenger of the Sacred Heart, mentioned how he attributes his vocation to Kateri. We'll ask him to tell his experience in a future LILY.

★ **Thanks to Fr. Moore** for writing the article in this issue about praying to the saints. He is a retreat director at the Albany Retreat House, now at Auriesville.

★ **Mr. Arthur Sheehan** pictured with Father McTague on page 2 of this issue is interested in establishing the cause of Pierre Toussaint, 1766-1853. Pierre, outstanding for his care of the poor, troubled and plague-stricken, died in New York City, where he is buried in the Church Yard of Old St. Patrick's on Mulberry Street.

★ **When in Convent Station, N.J.**, drop in to see Sister Zita who will inform you all about Sister Miriam Teresa whose cause is also being advanced.

★ **Remarkd a young lady recently:** "Aren't those novena prayers to Kateri very short?" It's not how long you make them; it's how you make them long — long in faith and sincerity and devotion.

★ **Many helpful suggestions** have been given us by Bro. Tom Casey, S.J., of the Jesuit Bureau where the Vice-Postulator has his office, in printing and mailing areas. Many thanks, Brother!



"I'm sure, dear, Kateri wouldn't approve of your reading her magazine and eating at two o'clock in the morning!"