

VOL. XII  
NO. 10

OCTOBER  
1937

# The Companion

*of Saint Francis and Saint Anthony*







### Catherine—Lily of the Mohawks

Born in 1656 a pagan Mohawk Indian, Catherine Tekakwitha died in 1680 a holy, virtuous Christian, model of her tribesmen, inspiration of the North American Continent and, to this day, a friend of all in need. As the cult of Catherine spreads, hope grows that she will be canonized and become the first *native* American saint.



carefully to another part of the city, and used to remodel a little Catholic Church there. When completed, the new church was re-named in honor of St. Michael.

St. Michael's served as parish-church until February of last year, when it was closed, and left apparently into disuse, and eventually into ruin. The good Catholic people of Montreal were nat-



*Old Fort, reminiscent of the early city*

urally grieved at this; for St. Michael's was more than an ordinary Catholic church to them, it was the old "Recollect Church" under a new name,—the Church that had been so intimately connected with their city's early history. Many devout prayers were said and great efforts were made for its reopening, and the beloved Brother Audie, of St. Joseph's Oratory, was urgently requested to remember their intention.

But where was the parish that this little church could serve? It was too small for rapidly-growing Montreal. Our Lady found the parish. And she saw to her little church's reopening on the first Sunday of her month of May in 1937. That was when it came once more under the care of Franciscans, Conventuals this time (the same group who aid in publishing *The Companion*), who were sent from the

United States to look after the needs of a small parish of Slovak Catholics in Montreal. It was at this time, too, that our little church was re-named in honor of "Our Lady of the Angels." The Most Rev. E. A. Deschamps, Bishop of Montreal, saw a peculiar appropriateness in this choice of a new name. "The Sons of St. Francis," he said recently, "have been chosen to save this Church of Our Lady of the Angels, as St. Francis himself saved the ancient Portiuncula near Assisi in his day."

Montreal is a thriving modern city, and what is greater still, a great Catholic city, but nowhere in Montreal, I venture to say, is one more conscious of its Catholic tradition than here in our "St. Mary of the Angels." Those three altars in the front of the Church date back at least five hundred years. They were brought by the first colonists from France. The painting of "The Apparition of the Christ Child to St. Anthony," and that other one of "The Mother of Consolation," were once in the galleries of Francis I, King of France in the early sixteenth century. The ancient candlesticks of hammered silver and brass, the old style box-pews with their little doors, carry you out of this busy day, back into the history of Catholic Canada. And carefully stored away in the sacristy are two mass-vestments, some of the first to be brought to Canada, and our most precious relic of all, the first altar stone of the Recollect Fathers—Franciscans.



*The Cathedral in Montreal. Dedicated to St. James*



# CATHERINE—WONDER-WORKER OF NORTH AMERICA

She was a simple Indian Maiden who early in life caught the beauty and significance of the Christian Cross and sacrificed all to embrace it. Since her death she has been the friend of those in need.

"**F**AIREST Flower that ever bloomed among true men!" are the astounding words we find on a grave above the St. Lawrence. It marks the spot which harbors the earthly remains of Catherine Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, the Indian maiden destined, we pray, to become the first *native* North American Saint.

Catherine was born in Auriesville, New York, in 1656. She was baptized at Caughnawaga, near Fonda, New York, on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676, and died at Lachine, Canada, on the Wednesday of Holy Week, April 17, 1680, fully conscious, clasping her crucifix and saying repeatedly: "Jesus, I love you."

Her death was the occasion of extraordinary religious manifestations. It was apparent that all regarded her as a saint. Her mat, blanket and crucifix were regarded as sacred relics. Prayers were offered to her. Novenas were made and Masses offered in her honor.

Very soon it became known that prayers to her were answered in a remarkable manner. Many were the favors granted from Heaven. Cures through her intercession became so frequent that Father Cholenec, the parish priest of the Indian village of Lachine, ceased to record them. The record of the favors obtained from her shortly after her death is inspiring and edifying.

In our own day, love of Catherine has become widespread. Devout Catholics everywhere in their private devotions are turning confidently to her. They ask her heavenly help in financial worry, in sickness, in fear and in mental and bodily distress of every sort. It is amazing the favors that are now being attributed to her. Many who have been in desperate need of money with no opportunity of obtaining it, declare that after prayers to Catherine, it has been offered them in some unexpected manner. Others who have been in accidents have written that recovery has been rapid through Catherine's help. Among the thousands of acknowledgments of favors already received are cases of cures, conversions, and relief in distress.

Nor is it difficult to understand the popularity of Catherine among those who seek friendship and assistance from God's favored children. In her brief life, she experienced many of the sorrows, most of the trials that you and I must face from day to day. For example, before and after her baptism, Catherine often experienced hunger. The Village in which she lived was a poor one and often there was not food enough to go around. Catherine could remember a time when one of the Indians had been killed and devoured by

a fellow-tribesman in a madness due to starvation. It is safe to believe that Catherine's sagamite and corn-bread were frequently given to those in no more need than she. After her conversion, when Catherine learned the beautiful Christian principle of patience and self-denial, she never complained of the coarse food which she had in such meager quantities. As a matter of fact, it was her practice to spread ashes over her small pittance of food so that she might mortify herself and draw closer to Christ and to the Cross on which He suffered.

It is surely this familiarity with the evils of destitution, with the pains of deprivation, that has made Catherine seem so near to all those who are in financial need. Now that Catherine, who was once hungry, is forever nourished in the living fountains of her Redeemer, intercession for those in material need seems never to cease, if we are to judge by the letters acclaiming her help.

Consider, too, her experience with physical fatigue and illness, if you would understand why so many are confidently imploring Catherine's help. It is safe to say that there was hardly a day in her life in which she was well. As an infant her constitution was weakened through smallpox, the marks of which she bore upon her saintly face throughout life. While still young her lungs were weakened and she became a victim of tuberculosis. She was to die at the comparatively tender age of twenty-four during an attack of pneumonia. To understand truly the hardships of her frail body, recall for a moment the demands upon strength life in the Indian Village required. The women in the Indian Villages did more of the heavy work than the men. They built the tents, they tanned the skins, and they chopped the wood. Catherine herself, while at Fonda, daily walked many feet carrying heavy buckets of water from the distant well to her Uncle's tent. Catherine, though she would often grow faint, never shirked the least responsibility. She had learned to patiently suffer these things in honor of Him who died upon a miserable Cross.

Hearing of Catherine's constant illness, many of those who are similarly afflicted turn to her now for aid. In hospitals and sick-rooms throughout the country, confident lips pray to her that she who knew the handicaps of a weak body might send them strength and patience.

The pangs of injustice, too, were suffered by Catherine. Twice after her conversion did she sorrowfully experience cruel slander. The first occurred shortly after her baptism at Caughnawaga. Her Uncle and other members



of her tribe, who were incensed over her conversion, craftily conceived a plan of injuring her reputation in the eyes of Pere Lamberville, the Jesuit, who had instructed and baptized her. They knew, that if they could sow a seed of doubt in his mind, Catherine would be discredited in the eyes of the Christians as well as Pagans. They approached Fr. Lamberville alleging that Catherine was living sinfully with one of the members of her tribe. Pere Lamberville, although believing in the sincerity of Catherine, hesitated. He knew too well the wickedness of the Village and feared for a moment that Catherine may have succumbed to its allurements. But the moment he spoke to her he realized that she was as innocent and pure as ever. To Catherine, however, it was a severe blow to learn that she had been maligned by her own relatives and friends. Yet she quietly offered this injustice to God's glory. A few years later, she suffered similarly. This time it was a Christian woman of her tribe who, growing jealous of the admiration for Catherine, said that she was stealing away in the woods to meet her husband. The accusation was shortly proved utterly false and the woman became repentant, confessing her malicious move. To Catherine this was perhaps one of the greatest sorrows of all. She who lived in such charity could not comprehend why a fellow Christian would

seek to undermine her in the eyes of others. She knew, though, of Christ's sorrowful appearance before Pilate and suffered this second affliction in union with His sorrows.

Thus, those who, like Catherine, suffer from the effects of slander, and of injustice, find in Catherine an understanding advocate. Those, too, who find themselves friendless and alone, know that she quickly becomes a sympathetic friend when her help is sought.

Filled as is the life of Catherine with inspiring examples, one of these stands out above all others. It is her devotion to the Cross. Her love of Christ was never detached from the love of the cruel Cross upon which He died. She knew that from it flowed all the graces showered upon the world, including the one which brought her into the one true Church.

When away with the tribe hunting in the woods, she would erect a crude Cross and spend hours before it in meditation. While in the Village, she was frequently in the Chapel where hung the crude wooden Crucifix.

After her death, Catherine appeared to Anastasia, the woman with whom she lived while upon earth. She was all radiant and happy. In her arms she embraced a Cross glowing with light. "Look, Anastasia, how beautiful this Cross is. I loved it in life and I love it in death."

A stirring example indeed for you and me. If we would follow Catherine's footsteps heavenward, we must, like her, fervently embrace the Cross. No matter though our sorrow be that of illness, or of poverty, or of injustice, or of lonesomeness, let us patiently endure it; for like Catherine, we will find that the Cross upon which the Saviour died is sweet and beautiful.

The Franciscan Fathers have especial devotion to Catherine as they possess the ground near Fonda where she spent so many years of her innocent life. Here there will one day arise a Novitiate as a beautiful tribute to her memory. Just recently they have erected a simple cross on the spot whereon her Baptism took place.

If any of our readers or their friends, desire a Catherine leaflet containing the approved prayer, we shall be happy to send it to any person interested. A reliquary will be sent also to our friends if they desire one. Below are a few of the many testimonials of gratitude we have received from our readers:

We gratefully acknowledge a signal grace received through the intercession of Catherine Tekakwitha, the recovery of one of our Sisters from a very serious operation. Several weeks before Sister went to the hospital, we made a Novena to Our dear Lady of Mt. Carmel for a successful operation. Mother Assistant sent Sister a reliquary of the Lily of the Mohawks, telling her to have confidence in little Catherine, who would help her just as she had done for Mother Assistant during her recent illness. We all prayed to Catherine. The ordeal took place on November 7th, and to the marvelous surprise of



*The Historic Tekakwitha Well on the Franciscan Property at Caughnawaga where Catherine was Baptized.*



the physicians and nurses, our little patient regained her strength and improved so rapidly that she was able to take up her work in the classroom on January 4th. Until now, May 20th, Sister has never been absent from her post one day.—*Sister S. B., Thibodaux, La.* \* \* \* \* \*

A young mother was dying. The doctor said she could hardly live. I sent my reliquary and they pinned it on her. She had a fever of 104 that morning but she began to rally and before evening, her fever had dropped to 101 and the doctor didn't know what to say. She was able to go home last Friday.—*Mrs. S. S., Columbia City, Ind.* \* \* \* \* \*

Three weeks ago, the small daughter of one of my friends fell from a high wall to a brick pavement, fracturing her skull at the base. Every indication seemed to point to her inevitable death. About an hour after the accident, I went to the home, taking with me the reliquary of Catherine Tekakwitha, which you sent me. This I gave to her brother to hang on the bed over the unconscious baby, telling him that the child would recover if he had faith in the little Indian's intercession and would pray to her. A notable improvement was apparent from that time on, temperature returned to normal, and the child's eyes ceased to roll. Three days later, when the physician was able to take her to the hospital for X-ray pictures, he expressed astonishment that she had not been instantly killed, since the pictures revealed a fracture at the base of the skull, almost from ear to ear. The child is now restored to perfect health. There are absolutely no marks, either in the mental or physical realm, to indicate that she had such a close call. Everyone who has been to the place from which she fell, is of the opinion that her escape was nothing short of miraculous.—*A. B. S., Dubuque, Iowa.* \* \* \* \* \*

My husband had unsteady work for over a year and unemployment for six months. I was very desperate and began to have a nervous breakdown from worrying over bills. I started from that minute to pray to Catherine and while out to the grocery store with my last penny to buy some meat, I was walking along with my head down praying to myself when an auto drew up to me and an old friend of my husband's said he knew of a position. My husband had tried for work all over the place and this work is very near our home. Very unexpected this was, indeed.—*Mrs. C. M., Somerset, Mass.* \* \* \* \* \*

Our son was stricken with spinal meningitis in May. The doctors gave up all hope for his recovery. We prayed to Catherine and begged her to pray for our son. After a week of deep sleep, our boy began to show signs of recovery. Today, the middle of August, he is back to normal health, with none of the mental or physical handicaps that this type of disease generally leaves. The doctors, there were seven of them called, say it is a most amazing and remarkable case. But we knew

In accordance with the decree of Urban VIII, we declare that all statements in these pages regarding favors received through the intercession of Catherine, as well as facts of supernatural character, are mere private and personal opinions, and are related without any thought of anticipating the decisions of the Church in regard to the holiness of the Servant of God, Catherine Tekakwitha, herein mentioned.

what had saved our boy. Praise to the Saviour, His holy Mother and thanks to Little Catherine.—*Mrs. R. C. W., Redlands, Calif.* \* \* \* \* \*

On September 8th, I was reading about Catherine Tekakwitha in *The Companion*. Right then, I asked her to please help a friend of mine, who wasn't expected to live. He had a bursted blood vessel at the base of his brain. He was taken home on September 18 and is recovering rapidly.—*Miss F. J. Def., Shreveport, La.* \* \* \* \* \*

I wish to tell of a favor granted me through Catherine Tekakwitha. My niece had been sick almost two years. One whole year she kept herself closed up in the room and would not talk or see anyone. I decided to pray to Catherine and ask her for help. I asked Catherine to show me a sign by Monday or Thursday, which she did. My niece began to talk to me from the room and on Easter had dinner with me and now is her dear self again. Many thanks to Catherine Tekakwitha.—*Mrs. A. B., Cincinnati, Ohio.* \* \* \* \* \*

We received two favors through the intercession of Catherine Tekakwitha. We needed some money badly and asked her to intercede for us so it would reach us by July 15th. We received an unexpected amount in a few days and on the 15th received the amount we were looking for.—*T. H., Vincennes, Ind.* \* \* \* \* \*

In thanksgiving to Catherine Tekakwitha in aiding my husband to obtain a job. He had been sick and out of work for 6½ years.—*Mrs. M. B., Covington, Ky.* \* \* \* \* \*

I wish to acknowledge a favor obtained through the use of a medal of Catherine, Lily of the Mohawks. I had large bumps on my forefingers that were pronounced Nodes by two doctors, and both doctors said that sometimes they never disappear, although by dieting I might help them to do so. After doctoring several months and not getting any results, I started to apply the medal to my fingers, and one night in desperation, I asked Catherine to please take the disfiguration away and the next morning, I noticed that these big transparent bumps had disappeared entirely. I am sure that Catherine heard my plea and I give all thanks to her intercession to God for me.—*K. M., Highland Park, N. J.* \* \* \* \* \*

My brother had a stroke and was paralyzed. Hearing of this, I prayed to Catherine. The next day I received word he had recovered full use of his arm and leg. Thanks be to God.—*Miss M. J., Wooster, Ohio.*



## The Following Also Attribute Favors Received Through Catherine:

### RECOVERIES AND CURES

Mrs. S. L., Des Moines, Iowa—Mrs. A. C., Vinton, La.—Mrs. J. O'C., Roosevelt, L. I., N. Y.—A. F., Dorchester, Mass.—L. B., Minneapolis, Minn.—Mrs. H. L. S., Pasadena, Calif.—Mrs. A. V., Yonkers, N. Y.—Mrs. E. A. C., Long Beach, Calif.—Mrs. M. J. K., Henryetta, Okla.—A. B., West Point, Neb.—Mrs. H. R., Hamburg, Penn.—Mrs. J. O'C., Conn.—M. M., Williamamantic, Conn.—Mrs. R. N., Franklin, N. J.—Miss L. R., Youngstown, Ohio—M. G. K., Joliet, Ill.—Mrs. M. W., Delhi, Ill.—M. M., Chicago, Ill.—Mrs. L. H. R., Terre Haute, Ind.—Mrs. T. J. H., Akron, Ohio—B. E. H., Augusta, Ga.—Sister M. A., St. Louis, Mo.—Miss M. M., Edgewood, R. I.—Mrs. M. O'B., Joliet, Ill.—L. C. S., Terre Haute, Ind.—Mrs. M. R., Lyndhurst, N. J.—Mrs. E. R. McC., New Orleans, La.—N. C., E. Orange, N. J.—Mrs. A. L., Atlantic City, N. J.—Mrs. M. H., Oakland, Calif.—Miss A. M. C., New York, N. Y.—Miss M. B., Wilkes Barre, Penn.—Miss F. L., Taft, La.—A. C. C., New York, N. Y.—F. C., New Orleans, La.—Mrs. B. J. McM., Philadelphia, Penn.—Mrs. B. L., Lake Charles, La.—Mrs. M. P., So. Chicago, Ill.—Mrs. M. C., Milwaukee, Wis.—Mrs. M. B., Indianapolis, Ind.—Mrs. J. D., Watsonville, Calif.—A. B., Chicago, Ill.—R. A. C., Albany, N. Y.—M. C., New Orleans, La.—Mrs. J. G., Marshfield, Wis.—Mrs. J. W. F., Lemay, Mo.—Mrs. J. H., Groom, Tex.—M. E. F., Oakland, Md.—M. L., Ashland, Penn.—Mrs. C. G., Chicago, Ill.—Mrs. A. H., Dayton, Ohio—Miss V. P., Hales Corner, Wis.—I. F., Dayton, Ohio—M. S., Ft. Wayne, Ind.—Miss C. F., Pittsburgh, Penn.—Mrs. J. A. M., San Antonio, Tex.—Miss L. T., Wilmerding, Penn.—Mrs. H. L., Beechview, Pittsburgh, Penn.—Mrs. A. R., Cleveland, Ohio—Mrs. J. H. S., Chester, Penn.—Mrs. W. W., Barnhart, Mo.—E. A. L., Latrobe, Penn.—H. B., San Francisco, Calif.—Mrs. A. J. K., Dubuque, Iowa.

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Mrs. S. McK., Amsterdam, New York—Mrs. G. D., Jamaica, N. Y.—Mrs. E. C., Eau Claire, Wis.—C. L. G., Beeville, Tex.—Miss H. S., Plaquemine, La.—Mrs. M. C. G. M., Brooklyn, N. Y.—Mrs. A. C., Locust Gap, Penn.—B. R., E. St. Louis, Ill.—Mrs. C. K., Plymouth, Penn.—Mrs. J. R. N., Ocean View, Va.—A. F., Wabasha, Minn.—Mrs. J. H., Cheboygan, Mich.—Miss R. K., Netcong, N. J.—Miss L. N., Lowell, Mass.—Miss J. G., New Eagle, Penn.—Miss M. DeS., Chicago, Ill.—Miss A. C., N. Attleboro, Mass.—F. B., Cincinnati, Ohio—N. P., Denver, Colo.—M. K. H., Fitchburg, Mass.—C. E. B., Covington, Ky.—Mrs. F. J. H., Pittsburgh, Penn.—Mrs. M. S., Altoona, Penn.—E. G., Lowell, Mass.—W. McC., Carnegie, Penn.—Miss M. A. McN., Stamford, Conn.—A. M. L., Pittsburgh, Penn.—A. F., Cincinnati, Ohio—Miss C. O'D., New York, N. Y.—Mrs. E. C., Crown Point, Ind.—Mrs. A. Villerman, New Orleans, La.—Miss M. R., Pittsburgh, Penn.—L. S., Linn, Mo.—Mrs. V. B., New Orleans, La.—A. C. K., Pittsburgh, Penn.—Miss C. B., Marion, Ohio—C. T., Reading, Ohio—Mrs. A. J., Lancaster, Ohio—L. S., Warwick, Ohio—M. M. Y., Atlantic City, N. J.—Mrs. S. F., Pittsburgh, Pa.—S. I. N., Providence, R. I.—Mrs. C. L., Chicago, Ill.—Miss B. C. C., Springbrook, Iowa—Mrs. J. A., Birmingham, Ala.—Mrs. C. F. McG., Chicago, Ill.—Mrs. L. K. S., Litchfield, Minn.—Mrs. R. E. S., N. Beverly, Mass.—Mrs. A. F. W., Cleveland, Ohio—Mrs. V. DeL., Idaho Falls, Idaho—M. J. M., Philadelphia, Penn.—M. K., Cleveland, Ohio—Mrs. A. P., Milwaukee, Wis.—Mrs. M. W., New Road, Penn.—G. M., New Orleans, La.—Mrs. D. K., Decorah, Ia.—Mrs. C. M., Pittsburgh, Penn.—G. K., Lawrence, Mass.—A. C., Bronx, N. Y.—Mrs. A. J. N., St. Louis, Mo.—Mrs. G. L., Milwaukee, Wis.—M. D., Caldwell, N. J.—S. P., Trenton, N. J.—M. H., Penn.

### AID IN DISTRESS

Miss M. F. O'C., Portsmouth, Va.—H. A. P., Detroit, Mich.—Mrs. E. B., St. Louis, Mo.—Miss G. McC., Pottsville, Penn.—Mrs. W. C., Lake, S. D.—Mrs. A. McC., Santa Cruz, Calif.—Mrs. M. F., Cresson, Penn.—Mrs. B. G., Washington, D. C.—Mrs. A. B. C., Arlington, N. J.—Mrs. E. O., Grand Rapids, Mich.—L. A. B., Pittsburgh, Penn.—Mrs. J. J. F., Minersville, Penn.—Mrs. J. M. M., Upper South River, Nova Scotia—Mrs. M. R., Coral Gables, Fla.—T. R. S., Nebs, Ohio—V. P., Denver, Colo.—Mrs. D. P. L., St. Louis, Mo.—Mrs. M. F., St. Louis, Mo.—Mrs. R. V. L., Pittsburgh, Penn.—M. C. C., S. Boston, Mass.—Mrs. T. McK., Fenton, Mich.—Mrs. N. L., Lake Charles, La.—Miss A. S., Greenville, S. D.—Mrs. R. M. F., Providence, R. I.—Mrs. C. S. M., Traverse City, Mich.—Mrs. A. G., Broussard, La.—J. C., Decatur, Ill.—Mrs. O. H., New Orleans, La.—Miss M. K., Tenafly, N. J.—Mrs. B. J. C., Wyandotte, Mich.—C. A. C., Danbury, Conn.—Mrs. C. DeM., Valley Stream, N. Y.—Mrs. J. J. K., Chicago, Ill.—Mrs. E. O'S., Trenton, N. J.—Miss C. R. G., Syracuse, N. Y.—A. K., Netcong, N. J.—Mrs. R. M. G., Ozone Park, L. I., N. Y.—Mr. and Mrs. L. K., Anchorage, Ky.—G. E. S., Shirley, Mass.—Mrs. N. R., Lynn, Mass.—Mr. R. McC., Hanover, N. H.—A. W. L., Chicago, Ill.—Mrs. W. V., Elizabeth, N. J.—A. A. V., Hyde Park, N. Y.—E. B. W., Denver, Colo.—Mrs. J. G., Pittsfield, Mass.—Mrs. M. M., Detroit, Mich.—M. A. L., Bucyrus, Ohio—S. M. G., Bronx, N. Y.—M. S., Bloomer, Wis.—Miss M. A. Z., Luzerne, Penn.—Mrs. A. L., West Haven, Conn.—Miss K. T., New Orleans, La.—M. C., New York, N. Y.—A. M. O'N., Holyoke, Mass.—M. E. M., Trenton, N. J.—A. J. B., Cudahy, Wis.—J. K., New Orleans, La.—A. F., Pittsburgh, Penn.—A. F. C., Braintree, Mass.—Mrs. R. L., Gunnison, Colo.—Miss M. C., Atlantic City, N. J.

## PETITIONS and INTENTIONS

I herewith join all those who are invoking the aid of Catherine Tekakwitha so that her favor with God may be manifest to all and she may be exalted to the honor of our altars as among the blessed in Heaven and so that the following petitions may be granted:

*Franciscan Fathers,  
558 Panet St.,  
Montreal, Que.*

Rev. and dear Fathers:

Please send me Catherine Leaflet containing the approved prayer. I enclose offering of \$.....

*Only those able to do so,  
need make an offering.*

Name .....

Address .....