

VENERABLE



KATERI TEKAKWITHA

THE LILY OF

THE MOHAWKS

Fairest flower that ever

bloomed among true men

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A VENERABLE TEKAKWITHAN

A venerable priest died in Albany on April 2, in the sixty-second year of his priesthood. Right Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Looney, pastor of St. Joseph's.

From the earliest days of his priesthood he was devoted to Tekakwitha and the Jesuit Martyrs of Auriesville, near where he was an assistant to the pastor of St. Mary's, Amsterdam. He was fond of the pilgrimages to their shrine, and it is a pleasure to recall how he sent a child of four years who had never walked to be carried in the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The young mother and father were overcome by their singular position, but they had faith, and next morning the good priest met the child walking without crutches near the church. The crutches are now at Auriesville.

A pastor forty-three years, he became an influence in the church and in the city. He was particularly interested in his school. When fire destroyed it, he made sure that at any sacrifice the schoolrooms were open for his little ones in September.

He was a member of the tribunal appointed by His Excellency the Most Reverend Edmund F. Gibbons to recommend the Introduction of the Cause for the canonization of Venerable Tekakwitha.

THE TEKAKWITHA STATUE

It has taken a long time to fashion a statue of Tekakwitha as near as possible worthy of her, but it was worth while waiting for the one we owe to the sculptress, Miss Adrienne Bouvier, of Brookline, Mass.

An ardent devotee of Tekakwitha, Miss Bouvier, has made an image of the Venerable Tekakwitha which will excite admiration and devotion.

Following the design of the picture of Mother Nealis of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she has infused into her material a pose and expression all her own. "She's come back," exclaimed a young, very young high school student; "I can't get over it." The gaze, as if into eternity is quite characteristic of Tekakwitha in her longing for knowledge of the Manitou of the Christians.

When Kateri will be beatified and statues of her will be allowed in our churches, it will be novel to see the image of a Servant of God so altogether different from those to which we are now accustomed, a figure about three feet high, standing in moccasins and leggings, with gracefully folded shawl, fringed blouse and beaded skirt; but the onlooker's eyes will go from the apparel to the heavenly expression of the face and repeat: "She's come back"—Kateri as we would expect her to look.