Lily of the Mohawks

TEKAKWITHA LEAGUE — AURIESVILLE, NEW YORK

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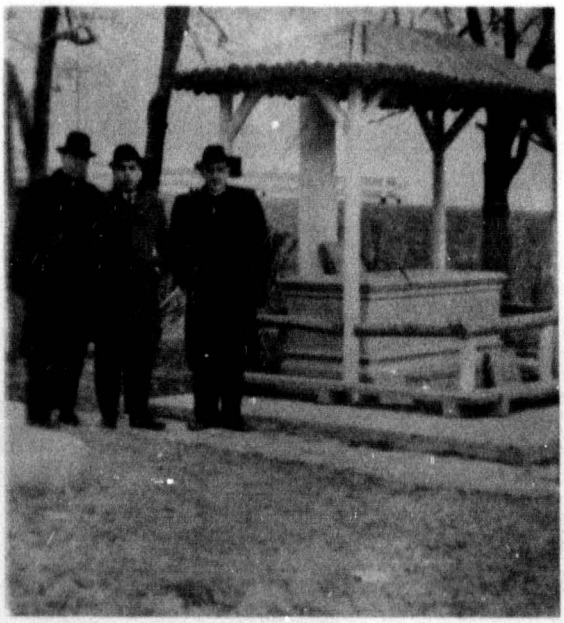
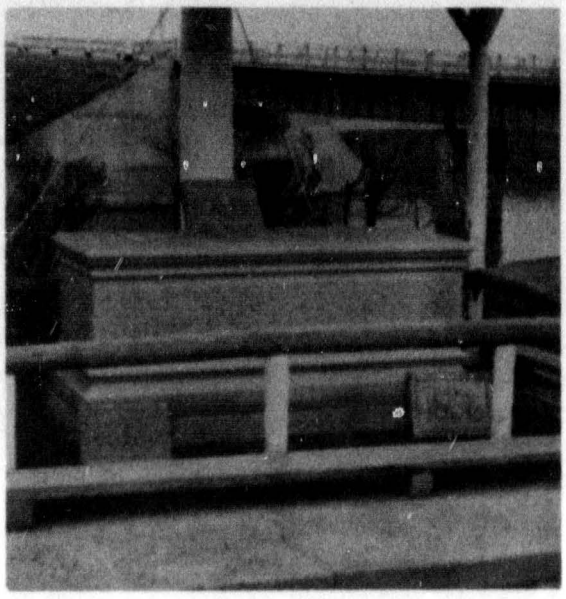
A VISIT TO THE ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND AND TOMB OF THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS



Fr. Schlaerth and Fr. Bechard, Vice-postulators of the cause of Kateri and Thomas Constantino, the printer of the LILY, visit the site of the first burial ground of Kateri and her memorial tomb.

Shortly before her death on April 17, 1680, Kateri had marked out the place for her burial at Praire de la Madeleine, since named Cote Sainte Catherine. A few years later at the insistence of her people her remains were exhumed by Fr. Cholenec, her Jesuit director and biographer. Thereafter her sacred bones followed the migrations of the Mission. Finally in 1719 they were brought to their present resting place in the Mission Church of St. Francis Xavier at Caughnawaga. Today her relics can be viewed in a casket with the seals of the Archbishop of Montreal authenticating them.

Through the years her tomb became an object of veneration and pilgrimage. There are records of hundreds of cures and conversions attributed to her intercession. In memory of her love for the cross, a large one was erected over her former grave, which has been renewed over the years. In 1890 Fr. Clarence A. Walworth of Albany had an urn-shaped block of granite placed on the site which then overlooked the Lachine rapids of the St. Lawrence and commanded a view of Montreal with its many church spires, in the most famous of which—the Church of Notre Dame—a stained glass window has been placed in her honor.



In 1890 Fr. Clarence A. Walworth of St. Mary's, Albany, N. Y., erected this monument on which he had inscribed in Iroquois: "Fairest Flower that ever Bloomed among True Men." The new St. Lawrence lock and bridge in the background now obstruct a view of the river.

A New Statue of the Lily of the Mohawks

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1965 at Hogansburg, N.Y., a statue of the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha was unveiled and blessed in front of the catechetical Center of the St. Regis Mission. The pastor, Fr. Michael K. Jacobs, Iroquois Jesuit, realized the project with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Diebow of Buffalo, N.Y., former parishioners of St. Regis.

Following the unveiling of the statue outdoors by Mr. Diebow and by his daughter, Mrs. Sandra Terrance, it was blessed by the Very Rev. Jean-d'Auteuil Richard, Jesuit Provincial of the Province of Montreal. Excerpts from **The Song of Tekakwitha** by Robert E. Holland, S.J., were read by Mrs. Millicent Cook and by Miss Evelyn Martin. The Rev. William J. Schlaerth, S.J., then gave

Thomas Diebow unveils the new statue at the Kateri Tekakwitha Center at Hogansburg, N.Y., which was donated by the Diebow family. Fifth graders of the St. Regis School stand at attention while Fr. Michael Jacobs, pastor of St. Regis Church, received the unveiling cloth.

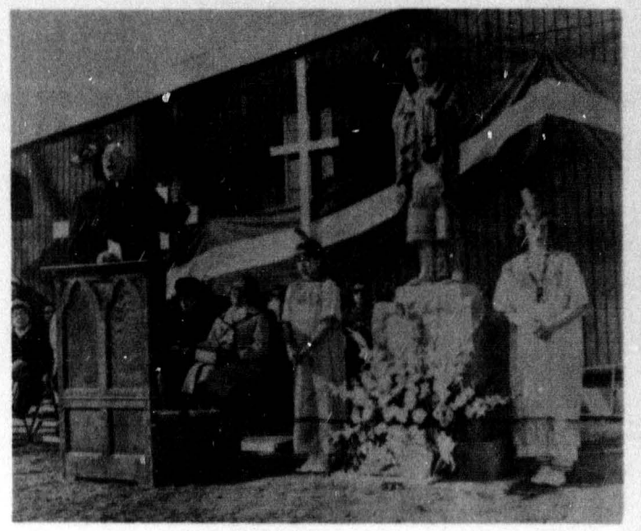
Over five hundred guests were present—among them Sisters of many communities; in particular the Sisters of St. Ann, teachers at St. Regis and Caughnawaga; Jesuit Seminarians from Bellarmine College, Plattsburgh and the Indian Choir from St. Francis Xavier at Caughnawaga.

Fifth grade Indian maidens of St. Regis School, Kateri's own, assisted by their Indian Jesuit pastor and director of the Center, offer their tribute of white flowers to the fairest flower of their race, the Lily of the Mohawks.

After the blessing: Rev. Michael K. Jacobs, S.J., pastor of St. Regis Church, Rev. Henri Bechard, S.J., Vice-postulator of the Kateri cause for Canada, Very Rev. Jean-d'Auteuil Richard, S.J., Jesuit Provincial of the Province of Montreal, Rev. William J. Schlaerth, S.J., Vice-postulator of the Cause in the United States and the Rev. Francis Arseneault, S.J., assistant at St. Regis.

Dedication ceremonies began indoors in the Center with a hymn entitled **Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks.** Fr. Henri Bechard in his sermon urged all to pray for the prompt beatification of Kateri. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Morris Dwyer of Massena officiated at the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Center chapel.

an address on the merits of the Lily of the Mohawks. The ceremonies were brought to a close with the triumphal hymn **Kateri Tekakwitha,** sung in Iroquois by the Caughnawaga Choir under the direction of Fr. Henry La Londe. Over five hundred people turned out to pay tribute to the Lily of the Mohawks on this happy and inspiring occasion.



In front of the new Center at Hogansburg, Fr. William J. Schlaerth, S.J., the Vice-postulator for the Cause of the Beatification of Kateri in the United States, presents the principal address on the Lily of the Mohawks after the unveiling and blessing of her statue.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies: Fr. Henri Bechard, S.J., who gave the sermon on Kateri in the chapel of the Center, Fr. Michael Jacobs, S.J., the director holding the documents and Fr. William Schlaerth, S.J., who gave the main address before the assembled guests in front of the Center.

THANKSGIVINGS FOR FAVORS RECEIVED THROUGH VEN. KATERI

"A hurricane was about to hit New Orleans. I knelt before a small altar in our home and prayed to Kateri to save our home and city. I went to bed and slept like a baby. Next morning we found the storm had turned away at the last moment from our city, thanks to God and dear Kateri." —New Orleans, La.

"Kateri has won for us many favors but one especially—the obtaining for us a small but profitable vineyard which we have named after her. All our stationery and transactions carry her name and picture." —Kateri Tekakwitha Vineyard, LaPorte, Indiana.

"Hospitalized a second time with a cancerous lung condition, after the loss of one lung and given up by the doctors, a friend suggested a novena to Kateri and an application of her silk relic. A complete cure followed, thanks to Ven. Kateri." —Audubon, New Jersey.

"I asked that a Mass be offered in honor of Kateri for a very sick friend. He is now well again. Also my special intention to Kateri was answered and I am now a baptized Catholic." —Schenectady, N.Y.

"Do you know I never stop praying to Ven. Kateri and through her intercession I have received many favors. I consider her one of my good friends at the throne of our dear Lord." —Bronx, N.Y.

"My husband was having trouble driving and we both made novenas to our dear Ven. Kateri to intercede for us. We have just returned from a long trip and my husband was able to drive all the way. We are most grateful and are both sending checks for her cause." —San Jose, Calif.

"Last August I was told I had a spot on my lung and would need surgery. We prayed to Kateri, X-rays were taken, the surgery was postponed and in January the last X-ray showed no spot on the lung and I was cured. I promised this letter in thanksgiving to the Lily of the Mohawks." —New Orleans, La.

"In late May my husband was out of work and we were out of money. Finally he got a job and worked a week but was told the company rule paid only after two weeks work. My husband prayed to Kateri for help. Next morning the payroll office told him he could have an advance of a week plus the week's pay he earned." —Chalmette, La.

"I was pregnant and very sick, having been hospitalized three times. I prayed that my baby would be normal and healthy. I had a natural birth but the baby had one trouble after another. I was told I would have to leave the baby in the hospital for tests and further observation. I prayed to Kateri and asked her to make a miracle through God for me and my baby that I might take her home with me in good health. I promised to write this letter of thanks for publication in the "Lily" and I was able to leave that hosiptal with my baby in my arms all well again and no tests needed, thanks to dear Kateri Tekakwitha." —Chalmette, La.

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¢ each. 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. (32pp. pamphlet) 25¢ ea. **Kateri of the Mohawks** by Cecilia Buehrle (200pp. paperback) 60¢ ea. **STATUES OF KATERI** for various sizes and prices. Inquire through the Tekakwitha League. (Prices include postage.)

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