



National Shrine of the
North American Martyrs &
Birthplace of St. Kateri Tekakwitha



Dear Friends of the Shrine:

Greetings from the historic Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, New York. It is hard to believe that 2020 marks the 5th year of the rebirth of the Shrine under the auspices of Friends of Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine, Inc., thanks to your prayers, support, and generosity. What a miracle and gift of God it has been to see the Shrine survive and thrive over the last five years as a new generation of Catholics are daily able to receive the blessing of walking where the Saints walked and praying where the Saints prayed on the holy hill overlooking the Mohawk River – the cradle of Catholicism in the Northeast where, we hope and pray, the Lord will continue to bring a new springtime of evangelization towards the urgent task of rebuilding His Church.

We write to thank you for helping make all the graces and blessings of the last 5 years and this current year possible. We have been told that the Shrine was the site of the first public Catholic Mass in New York State this summer as the Shrine reopened courageously at the first moment that the restrictions started to loosen during the coronavirus pandemic. The first outdoor “drive-in” Masses at the Shrine were a resounding success as the tears poured down from so many of our faces to once again receive the Blessed Sacrament after so many months without access to Him. As New York State restrictions began to permit the return of indoor religious gatherings, the 6,000 seat Coliseum with its 72 doors and high altar proved to be the ultimate social distance safe space for Mass to be celebrated each Sunday this Shrine season.

Since 2016, our Shrine Development Committee has hosted an Annual Martyrs Gala fundraising dinner during the Novena to the North American Martyrs, October 11-19. This year, it will not be possible to have the dinner but we write to ask you, our dear friends of the Shrine, to continue to pray for the Shrine, to make plans to visit the Shrine in 2021, and to support the Shrine with your financial generosity, to the extent you may be able.

The Shrine is supported entirely by the generosity of pilgrims and lay faithful without any financial assistance from any diocese, religious order, federal, state or local government. Please consider one of the giving options noted on the enclosed card and envelope. Your support of the Shrine will help carry on the mission of the Martyrs and the apostolate of the Shrine for a Church and world that needs the love of Jesus and the saving Gospel now more than ever.

Please be assured of our prayers for you, your loved ones, and all of your intentions during this time. God love you, and we look forward to seeing you in 2021!

Our Lady of Martyrs intercede for us! St. Isaac Jogues, St. René Goupil, St. John LaLande, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us!

Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine Development Committee

*Peter Kehoe, co-chair; Joan Kehoe, co-chair; Bill and Julie Baaki; Steve and Michele Benton;
Chris Campbell; Andrew Flach; Carmine and Claudia Musumeci; Dr. Don and Betty Ann Rapello;
Dave and Sue Santos; Phil and Lisa Vicinanza*

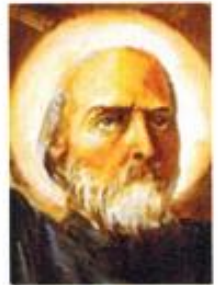
Novena to the North American Martyrs October 11- 19

October 11

St. John de Brébeuf, fittingly called “he who carries the heavy load,” your great example of daily sacrifice inspired both your Jesuit brothers and the indigenous peoples. Dawn was not too early nor midnight too late to labor and pray. Divine visions guided and strengthened you. When your agony came by blade and fire, you praised God and forgave your tormentors because you had vowed, “Jesus, with your grace, I no more fear the terrible torments of fire any more than I fear the prick of a pin.”

Give us, O Giant of God, hearts that love as you loved, especially in this present need (your intention), through Christ Our Lord.

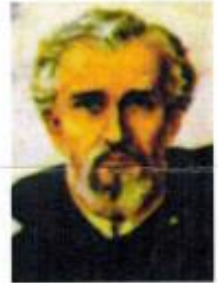
St. John de Brébeuf, pray for us!



October 12

St. Isaac Jogues, whose soul was “glued to the Blessed Sacrament,” you wept not for your own wounds but for those of your spiritual children. In your suffering and captivity, you sought to resemble your Savior: you emptied yourself and became a slave, writing, “. . . in all probability I could escape, yet on this cross to which our Lord has nailed me beside Himself, am I resolved by His grace to live and die.”

Give us, O Indomitable One, hearts that love as you loved, especially in this present need (your intention), through Christ Our Lord. St. Isaac Jogues, pray for us!



October 13

St. Antoine Daniel, you “ravished the hearts” of all who knew you. By teaching Christian hymns to children, you evangelized their parents. You spoke eloquently of the faith when your life was threatened. You offered yourself as a living sacrifice by standing between your Indian flock and their attackers. You bartered your life for time, and saved many lives by losing your own.

Give us, O Radiant Smile, hearts that love as you loved, especially in this present need (your intention), through Christ Our Lord.

St. Antoine Daniel, pray for us!



October 14

St. Gabriel Lalemant, considered too frail for the missions of the New World, you persevered in requests to join your missionary uncles until this prayer was answered. After a short time beside Father Brébeuf, you were both captured. You witnessed his passion that was a precursor of your own. Your endurance was a noble witness of forgiveness.

Give us, O Witness to the Triumph of the Cross, hearts that love as you loved, especially in this present need (your intention), through Christ Our Lord.

St. Gabriel Lalemant, pray for us!



October 15

St. Charles Garnier, your youthful face and cheerful nature endeared you to the Indians. You catechized them with religious art and Gospel stories, and sustained your strength in private prayer in the woodlands. Many were those who saw you walking with holy beings not of this world. You were wounded in an assault on your mission yet rose to help those fallen around you, before you received a mortal blow.

Give us, O Companion of Angels, hearts that love as you loved, especially in this present need (your intention), through Christ Our Lord. St. Charles Garnier, pray for us!



October 16

St. Noël Chabanel, who went “where obedience calls me,” you suffered a daily martyrdom of humiliation and failure. Unable to learn the indigenous languages, or eat the food, or adjust to the primitive living conditions, you offered your interior sufferings for the salvation of the souls who mocked you. You declined the offer to return to France. Instead, you died as you had lived in the missions: alone in the forest; your resting place: the cold waters of the wilderness.

Give us, O Divine Misfit, hearts that love as you loved, especially in this present need (your intention), through Christ Our Lord.

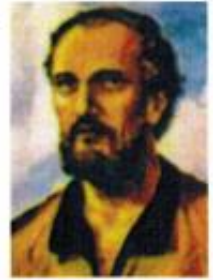
St. Noël Chabanel, pray for us!



October 17

St. René Goupil, you knew you were called to a vocation with the Society of Jesus, and when you were rejected, you became a lay missionary of your own volition. As a surgeon, you brought your healing hands to the New World where you served the priests and Indians. You were ambushed with Father Jogues, and held in captivity with him. There, he accepted your vows as a brother in the Society of Jesus. Your blessing of a Mohawk child with the sign of the cross won you the blessing of martyrdom.

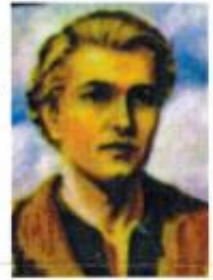
*Give us, O Angel of Innocence, hearts that love as you loved, especially in this present need (your intention), through Christ Our Lord. **St René Goupil, pray for us!***



October 18

St. John de Lalande, you had courage and zeal beyond your teenage years when you accompanied Father Jogues on a peace mission to the Valley of the Mohawks. Your faith and your craftsmanship were of great assistance to him. With Father Jogues' murder, you desired to rescue his blessed body but were stopped when you, too, were martyred.

*Give us, O Zealous Youth, hearts that love as you loved, especially in this present need (your intention), through Christ Our Lord. **St. John de Lalande, pray for us!***



October 19

Holy Martyrs of North America, it was said that you were "the most glorious band of missionaries since the time of the Apostles." You had faith in the true teachings of the Catholic Church. You trusted in the protection of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. And you lived a passionate love for our Savior Jesus Christ that overflowed onto the native peoples of North America. We pray that through your intercession, we may be filled with that faith, trust, and passion that will overflow from us onto the people of North America today who hunger for the Truth Made Flesh. *We especially ask your intercession for (your intention), through Christ Our Lord.*

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You consecrated the beginnings of the faith in North America by the blood of St. John de Brébeuf, St. Isaac Jogues, and their companions who were preaching the faith to the Indigenous peoples.

Through their intercession may people throughout North America and the world respond to the Gospel of Salvation.

Grant that our way of life may give witness to our faith in You.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

St John de Brébeuf, pray for us.

St. Isaac Jogues, pray for us.

St. Gabriel Lalemant, pray for us.

St. Antoine Daniel, pray for us.

St. Charles Garnier, pray for us.

St. Noël Chabanel, pray for us.

St. René Goupil, pray for us.

St. John de Lalande, pray for us.

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, pray for us.

