

More October Saints

The shrine of the North American Martyrs, also known as the shrine of



Our Lady of Martyrs, is located in Auriesville, New York. This was erected to honor the Jesuits who were killed there. Isaac Jogues and his companions were the first martyrs of the North American continent officially recognized by the Church.

Isaac was a man of learning and culture, teaching literature in France. He gave that up to work among the Huron Indians in the New World, and in 1636 he and his companions landed in Quebec. The Hurons were constantly at war with the Iroquois, and early on Isaac was captured and imprisoned by the Iroquois for thirteen months. His letters reveal how he and his companions were led from village to village, being beaten and tortured. They were made to watch as their Huron friends were killed. They somehow escaped and soon he returned to France. Later on, he offered his services to be a missionary and set out for Iroquois country because a peace treaty had been signed and he was hopeful it would be observed. The Mohawks captured him and beheaded him on October 18th. Jean de Lalande and Rene Goupil, both Jesuit missionaries, were tortured and killed like Isaac. Other notable names who tried to convert the Indians and their families, that you may have read about in the history books, are Jean de Brebeuf, Gabriel Lalemant, Fr. Charles Garnier, and Fr. Noel Chabanel. These eight Jesuit martyrs of North America were canonized by the Church in 1930. The Church in North America certainly rose from the efforts of the above martyrs. Their ministry shows their depth of faith and strong desire to bring Christ to people even in the face of death.

Take a field trip and visit the shrine and the beautiful grounds in Auriesville, near Albany, New York.

Have a blessed, saintly and healthy week ahead!~~~*Michele Hall*