Our Lady of America and the North American Martyrs
The Blood of the Martyrs Is the Seed of the Church

“My dear daughter, sweet child, write my words carefully, because they are of the utmost importance. I address them to my beloved sons, the priests, dedicated to the most intense and extraordinary imitation of my Son in the perfect carrying on of His Eternal Priesthood. “...

“Dear sons, I ask you to practice self-denial and penance in a special manner, because it is you who must lead my children in the way of peace. Yet this peace will come only by way of the sword, the flaming sword of love. If, therefore, you love my Son and wish to honor me, heed my admonition and be the first to give the example of a life of penance and self-denial. Thus, by sanctification from within you, you will become a bright and burning light to the faithful, who look to you for help and guidance.”

(Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA®, Lodi, Ohio, Pg. 20.)

Eight Jesuit missionaries known as the “Canadian” or “North American Martyrs” came to America from France with a zeal like that of the Apostles to spread the Gospel to the native Indians around Quebec and Lake Ontario. They are Jean de Brebeuf, Noel Chabanel, Antonine Daniel, Rene Goupil, Isaac Jogues, Jean de la Lande, Charles Garnier and Gabriel Lalemant. All were priests except Rene Goupil and Jean de la Lande who were lay brothers. Collectively, they are the patron saints of Canada. Jean de la Lande, Rene Goupil and Isaac Jogues, however, were martyred in upstate New York and are of special importance to the United States and are the focus of this newsletter. They are honored at the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, New York. The Hurons and Mohawk Iroquois Indians were enemies, so when the missionaries settled with the Hurons, the Mohawks called the missionaries “Black Robes” or evil shamans, blaming them whenever crops failed or sickness befell their villages. Superstition ran high among the natives.

In 1642 Isaac Jogues and Rene Goupil were captured by a band of Mohawks from the Iroquois Confederacy as they returned from Quebec with supplies for the Huron settlement near present day Auriesville. They were tortured, run through the gauntlet and beaten with clubs, burned and struck with knives. The tips of Isaac Jogues’s fingers were chewed to the bone, making him unable canonically to say Mass. Though prisoners they were free to roam the village. On September 29th, 1642, feast of St. Michael, guardian of the Church (and of Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil), Rene Goupil was tomahawked to death for having made the sign of the cross on the head of a young boy. He became the first of the group to be martyred, the first American martyr for the Faith on US soil. After 13 months of torture and just before he was to be killed, Father Isaac Jogues escaped and went into hiding. He was secretly helped by the Governor of New Amsterdam to return to France. Pope Urban VIII called him
a living martyr and gave him permission to say Mass with his mutilated hands, an exception never before granted.

After recuperating, Father Isaac Jogues asked to return to the Hurons. He and Jean de la Lande went as peace ambassadors to the same Iroquois who had tortured them. After procuring a peace treaty the missionaries went on to Quebec, only to return to the Hurons. When disease and failed crops occurred, the two missionaries were blamed as sorcerers and became scapegoats for the Indians' revenge. Fr. Isaac was lured to a tent and then clubbed to death and beheaded near Auriesville on October 18, 1646. Jean de la Lande was tomahawked to death on October 19 as he stepped out of his tent to search for Father Isaac's body. The French caught Fr. Isaac's killer who, awaiting execution, was baptized and took the name of Isaac Jogues. The other five Jesuits working in Canada were martyred in 1648 and 1649. All had great devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All eight were beatified by Pope Pius XI on June 21, 1925, and canonized by him on June 29, 1930. Canada still celebrates the feast of the North American martyrs on September 26, but the United States, since Vatican II, celebrates their feast on October 19, the day of the martyrdom of Jean de la Lande. Reference: https://catholicism.org/eight-na-martyrs.html

There are no accidents with God; everything is ordained to His purpose. As the first martyrs in America, their blood nourished the soil of our land for the seed of Faith to grow. Our Lady acknowledged that truth by appearing on their feast day, September 26, 1956, honoring them as they had always honored her. She bears the title of our country in noble salute to their sacrifice for the soul of our land. In Our Lady of America’s message Jesus laments that there is so little Faith in the world. These missionaries died to bring the Faith to America. Let us march under Our Lady of America’s banner to the beat of their drum, reforming our lives, becoming Our Lady’s army of chaste soldiers ready to fight to the death to preserve Faith and Purity in our land. The Collect prayer on their feast says it so well:

Father, you consecrated the first beginnings of the faith in North America by the preaching and martyrdom of Saints John and Isaac and their companions. By the help of their prayers may the Christian faith continue to grow throughout the world.

These martyred priests lived the perfect imitation of the Eternal Priesthood of Christ as outlined in the exhortation Our Lady of America gave all priests on September 26-27, 1956. She knows well the endless war Satan wages against Christ’s Church and its Priesthood. Strike the shepherd and the sheep scatter. Our Lady exhorts all priests to uphold the sanctity and dignity of their calling and of their exalted vocation in imitation of the Eternal High Priest. She holds up these martyred priests for inspiration and imitation as well. She warned of the errors of atheism, the smoke of Satan, entering into high places within the Church. It has also entered into high places in all world governments. May the lives of these martyrs inspire our own with the kind of zeal they had for the conversion of souls for the kingdom of God.

Our present world is heading fast into a deep abyss of evil, without God and without Our Lady’s tender maternal care. It is not God who has abandoned us but we who are abandoning Him. A pervasive darkness is spreading hate and war and terror throughout the world. The whole earth pleads for the Light of Christ to come and shatter our darkness once again. On August 22, 1981, the Archangel Guardian and Protector of America appeared to Sister Mildred Neuzil and spoke these words of hope and comfort, acknowledging the blood of these martyrs that soaked our soil and cries to heaven to bear fruit for our land.
“I am the Archangel … Protector, Guardian and Defender of America whose soil is saturated with martyrs’ blood and honors so highly the Queen of Heaven and Her holy Spouse who work only to further the Kingdom of Jesus.

With these shafts of light God seeks out and binds with eternal chains the evil powers and those who have sold themselves to these enemies of God and His people. They who are chained to habits of sin through weakness but have hearts filled with guilt and repentance will have their chains broken so that they will be free once more to love and serve their Maker.

Listen to the words and warnings of the Queen of Heaven and you will experience my protection and I will fight in your defense that with the people of all Nations you can at last come to the peace of the Kingdom which is within you.” (The Diary, Page 42.)

On the same day the Angel Guardian and Protector of the United States of America appeared to Sister with a message of equal importance and comfort for the people of our land if we heed the voice of our Mother, our Queen, our Patroness.

“I am the Angel..., sent by the Almighty whose faithful servant I am, to help the people of God in their hour of need. I have been appointed guardian, protector and defender of the United States of America whose people honor and love the Immaculate Virgin, the Queen of Angels and have dedicated their land to Her.

If the people of this Land carry out faithfully the instructions and pleadings of the Lord Jesus and the Virgin Mother then they will be following me to the hour of peace. With this sword of the Divine white flame of Love and the lightning bolts of His infinite Justice God will strike down his enemies and heal the repentant sinner. This Nation and all who follow in the pursuit of peace will know the protection of God and the destruction of those who fight and seek to destroy them through the evil powers of the infernal spirits of darkness and hate.

Follow me, people of God, brothers and sisters, as our Queen paves the way and the peace of the Lord will reign once more upon the earth.” (The Diary, Pg. 43.)

Earlier, on February 11, 1981, Sister Mildred wrote that it is evident that the Forces of Evil are enveloping the world, but their hatred is particularly focused on the United States because of the Divine Mandate given to it to lead the world to peace. These evil forces are at work within and without our country, eating away at every vestige of faith and purity and peace that makes us children of God and torchbearers of His love and mercy for all. The voice of the world screams at us to follow, but the sound of God’s voice is penetratingly quiet and deep within. Whose voice will we heed? Will we march into this spiritual war with the zeal and faith of our North American Martyrs, or will we fall into that deep “abyss of evil, without God and without Mary’s loving maternal care?” (Prayer to the Immaculate Conception.)

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: not wealth, rank, power, worldly home, worldly happiness, or any worldly good, but one Drop of that Holy Flame, one Drop of that heavenly Fire to kindle me, and set me all on Fire with the Love of God. Let that Holy Flame burn up and consume in me every spot and soil of the flesh and of the spirit. Purify me sevenfold with the Fire of THY LOVE. Consume me as a living sacrifice acceptable to thee. Kindle me with zeal, melt me with sorrow, that I may live the life and die the death of a fervent penitent. Jesus, have mercy on us. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. (Novena Prayers in Honor of God, the Holy Ghost, Holy Ghost and Sacred Heart Press, Cleveland, Ohio.)

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