

WINTER
1969

from the **MARTYRS SHRINE** Auriesville, N.Y. 12016

85th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST PILGRIMAGE — 1884 - 1969
75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPEN CHAPEL — 1894 - 1969



Mr. Anthony T. Moore, S.J., author of this article, leading Pilgrims in Rosary Procession through Martyrs Shrine. Fr. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., Shrine Director, accompanies him.

HIDDEN HERO, PERE PONCET

On one of the commemorative plaques surrounding the Memorial Cross here at Auriesville, we find the names of William Couture, Father Bressani and Father Poncet. Since we have told the story of Couture and Father Bressani in recent issues of the PILGRIM, it seems fitting that we now say a few words about Father Poncet.

He was born in Paris on May 7, 1610. After a brilliant career as a student in his native city, he entered the Society of Jesus on July 30, 1629. In 1639 he was ordained a Jesuit priest and soon afterwards set sail for the missions of New France. On this difficult and dangerous voyage he was accompanied by Madame de la Peltrie, the foundress of the Ursulines in Quebec, and by Marie de l'Incarnation, who has been called the "Teresa of New France." Upon arrival at Quebec in August, 1639, Poncet was immediately sent to the Huron mission in the Great Lakes country.

After working under the direction of other missionaries for several years, Father Poncet founded an Algonquin mission on the island of St. Mary in 1645. This mission was short-lived. Because of Iroquois raids upon the Huron settlements, in which five of the North American Martyrs (including his cousin, St. Charles Garnier) were killed, Poncet was forced to return to Quebec in 1649. Almost within the shadow of that town, while helping some of the French colonists gather in the harvest, he was captured by the Iroquois. On August 20, 1653, he was taken to the Mohawk village of Ossernenon, the very place in present-day New York State (Auriesville) where St. Isaac Jogues and John La Lande had suffered martyrdom seven years before. This subsequent brief period of his life is of special interest to the friends and pilgrims of our Shrine of the North American Martyrs.

PONCET (Cont.)

At Ossernenon Father Poncet was subjected to the usual torture of beating, stretching and burning. A little child was ordered to cut off one of his fingers and then apply a hot coal to the stump to stop the bleeding. A fellow captive, Mathurin Franchetot, was burned at the stake. Poncet however was given to an old squaw to replace a brother she had lost. This same form of slavery had been the lot of Jogues and Goupil.

Unexpectedly, on September 11, his captivity was ended when Iroquois messengers arrived at Ossernenon and ordered the Blackrobe's release. A rescue party made up of Poncet's Quebec friends had captured a large number of Iroquois and were now offering their safety in return for the release of the Jesuit. After holding council at Ossernenon, the Indians decided to comply and make peace. They returned Poncet to Quebec where he was welcomed on November 9, 1653. Because of this encounter with the Iroquois and the resulting peace, the historian Reuben Gold Thwaites has ascribed to Poncet the chief credit of bringing about a reconciliation with the Indians.

Poncet was very popular in Quebec and seems to have been quite a charming young priest. Marie de l'Incarnation calls him "le doux et sympathique Poncet." Although he was a competent and dedicated religious, in his humility he did not consider himself of the same heroic stock as Jogues and his fellow martyrs. Nonetheless, the torture which he endured patiently during his captivity shows quite clearly how Christ gives His faithful servants the extra strength and courage needed to endure the trials encountered in spreading His Kingdom. In recounting the events of his capture Poncet himself tells us: "I had a feeling that those great souls and stout hearts (Jogues and his companions) who preceded me in the conflict had merited actual martyrdom because of their great virtues, and that I, who had only the shadow and faint likeness thereof, would be crucified only in appearance."

Unfortunately there is little information pertaining to the rest of Father Poncet's life. After serving for a brief period in Quebec, he was summoned back to Europe by superiors. For a time he acted as chaplain at the French penitentiary of Loretto, until he was assigned in 1665 to the West Indian island of Martinique. Here he died on June 18, 1675.

Although we have no record of his occupations during these last ten years, we do know that for a brief 81 days in the year 1653 as a captive of the Mohawks he had walked in the footsteps of the martyrs. Through the suffering which he endured at that time for the cause of Christ, Father Poncet helped to sanctify the grounds of our treasured Shrine at Auriesville.

NEW ASSISTANT

ASSIGNED AT SHRINE.



Rev. W. Robert Burns, S.J., new Assistant Director at Martyrs Shrine.

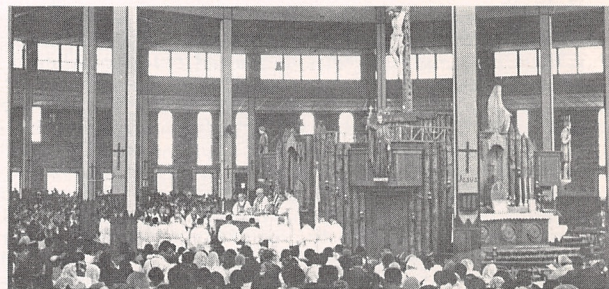
Fr. Burns was assigned to the Shrine in September of 1968, after finishing a term as Rector and President of Canisius High School in Buffalo, N.Y. Almost the whole of his life as a Jesuit priest was spent in his native city of Buffalo. Ordained at Woodstock College in Maryland in 1941, he made his year of Ascetical Theology at the Tertianship in Auriesville, 1942-43. From here he went to Buffalo where he was the teacher in the Greek Honors course at his Alma Mater, Canisius High School, for ten years. Subsequently he was the Pastor of St. Michael's Church in downtown Buffalo and the first Director of St. Ignatius Retreat House in Clarence Center, a town just outside of Buffalo.

Fr. Burns has recollections of his year's stay at Auriesville which included several occasions when he assisted at the services at the Shrine. He also recalls making a pilgrimage here from Buffalo when he was a sophomore in high school. Needless to say, he finds the Shrine much changed from those early days, thanks to the efforts of his fellow Jesuits who have been assigned here in the intervening years.

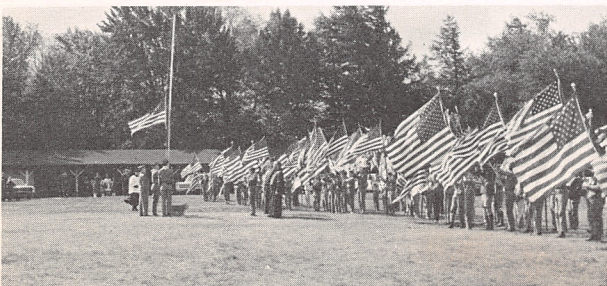
SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 1968 SEASON



Puerto Rican Pilgrims from New York and Long Island crowding into Coliseum.



36 Priests concelebrating Mass with Bishop Zafra from the Philippines at Puerto Rican Day.



Over 900 Boy Scouts at Call to the Colors at Annual Boy Scout Encampment, Sept. 27-29.



Choir of Mohawk Indians from Canadian Reservation on the St. Lawrence singing at Mass on September 1.



The Ancient Order of Hibernians being piped into the Shrine Entrance.



Knights of Columbus kneel at Martyrs Hill during Benediction after Stations of the Cross.



Guard of Honor, St. Michael's Lancers, at Mass during Annual Polish Day Observance.



Pilgrims from seven parishes in Harlem leaving Shrine entrance on way to Coliseum.

DEAR FRIENDS AND PILGRIMS:

I have completed my first year as Shrine Director, and what a year it has been . . . happy and busy and spiritually inspiring. I told you of my previous experience at the Shrine, first as a boy, when my duty was selling hot dogs to hungry pilgrims in the old outdoor cafeteria; then as a young priest, as a part time assistant to Fr. Devaney. All of the old warmth and devotion of the pilgrims, all the former hurried activity to try to meet all the pilgrims and take care of their spiritual needs are still very much in evidence. Particularly satisfying to me were the opportunities presented to greet pilgrims whom I had met as a boy and as a young priest. It is obvious that the memories of visits to the Shrine and devotion to our Martyrs is not an experience easily forgotten. And, of course, there was the happy occasion of meeting the increasing number of new pilgrims. Thank God for the old and the new; thank God for the veterans and the young!

We are looking forward to an even busier season this year. You can see from the tentative schedule of pilgrimages that we have already been busy. Friends sometimes ask: "What do you do with yourself when the Shrine is not open?" The schedule gives a partial answer. Besides the scheduling, the publicity and promotion, we keep ourselves occupied with various ministerial duties, frequently substituting for parish priests who need help in their

churches at this time of year. So, busy we are, but our principal concern is preparing for the coming Shrine season of 1969. We want to have all things in readiness when you come.

We have also been doing some thinking since the close of the Shrine last October. (I don't mean to imply that we were not thinking before that). And there were numerous good ideas offered for the beautification of the Shrine — improvements and new installations and new equipment. I'm afraid that these ideas will have to lie fallow for a while until funds to actuate them are available. The amortization of the debt on the new cafeteria and the taxes we have to pay on it consume a great part of the gifts and donations we have received. The number and the amount of these gifts and donations from the pilgrims and visitors to the Shrine make us increasingly your debtors. You can be sure that we are deeply grateful to you, and to God for you.

Fr. Schirmann, Fr. Burns and I are looking forward to greeting you again this year on these hallowed grounds. Until then we will continue to remember you in our prayers and Masses that you may be always showered with God's choicest blessings.

FR. EGAN, S. J.

**The Shrine Debt is \$450,000.00. Please remember the Shrine in your will.
Legal title is: SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MARTYRS, Auriesville, N.Y. 12016**

**THE MARTYRS SHRINE
AURIESVILLE, N.Y. 12016**

**PLAN YOUR
1969
PILGRIMAGE
NOW**



**PARTIAL
SCHEDULE
INSIDE**





St. Ignatius Loyola — Patron of Retreats

A DREAM REALIZED

On January 18, 1969 an historical event occurred at Auriesville in the house at the summit of Martyrs' Hill. A class of young Jesuit priests completed their final year of training in the Tertianship, and this class is the last which will study here at the Shrine.

On that same day Rev. Harold X. Folser, S.J. was designated as the Superior of the remaining community, succeeding Rev. Thomas H. Moore, S.J. The House was designated officially a Retreat House, where retreats for priests and lay-men will be conducted throughout the year.

This event has an intimate connection with the history of Shrine, for it is the fulfillment of a dream and hope expressed on at least two occasions. At the time of the purchase of the property which was the site of the village of Ossernenon by Fr. Loyzance, Fr. McIncrow and Fr. Hourigan, they expressed among other dreams the hope that someday there would be a house for retreats on the Shrine grounds. This was to be in addition to the other buildings to be erected for the Shrine itself and for the convenience of the pilgrims. At a later date some pious pilgrims donated a statue of St. Ignatius Loyola, the patron of Retreats and the author of the Spiritual Exercises. This statue stands in the Ravine where Jogues buried the sacred remains of Goupil. The donors expressed the hope at the time of the presentation that some day there would be a house for retreats on the Shrine grounds.

Since the opening of this House of Studies, the Tertianship, in 1939, it has also functioned as a retreat house for priests, under the title of Sacred Heart Retreat House. With the departure of the Tertians an additional 40 rooms become available for other retreatants, bringing the number of private rooms to a total of 65. Because of these facilities, those who wish to make a retreat can do so in the hallowed atmosphere of the Shrine. Arrangements for retreats can be made by contacting The Director, Retreat House, Auriesville, N.Y. 12016.

TO YOUR QUERY

At the end of the Pilgrimage season many pilgrims ask the question: "How can we obtain Mass Cards after the Shrine closes?"

Mass Cards for the Living and/or Deceased may be obtained by mail on receipt of the offering and intention. To prevent errors the following directives should be carefully observed.

1. Address all Mass requests to:
Rev. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., Shrine Director
Martyrs Shrine
Auriesville, N.Y. 12016
2. Write or print your own name, address, city, state and zip code clearly on the envelope.
3. Write in lower left hand corner, "Attention`Desk M." Write your intention, the name of the person or persons for whom the Mass is offered.
4. Specify whether the person is living or deceased. (We have different types of cards for each.)
5. Enclose your Mass Offering for each Mass. (The usual offering is \$2.00), but larger stipends for the upkeep of the Shrine are gratefully received. Check or Money Order are preferred. Do not send stamps.

The attached blank will serve as a typical Mass request.

Dear Father Director:

Enclosed find my offering for Mass(es)
for M. (living) (deceased).

Send Card to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Before mailing sign card _____

NOTE: Martyrs Shrine does **not** send quantities of Blank Mass Cards to be used at donor's convenience.

Consult the reverse of this flap for other means of sharing in the work of the Shrine.

Remember the Martyrs Shrine in your Will. (The Legal Title: Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs of Auriesville, N.Y.)

MORE WAYS TO HELP

Pilgrims, many of them just ordinary people, spend a day or two at the Shrine from early May to late October. They realize it takes money to keep the Shrine beautiful in honor of the Martyrs. But so often they have little to spare.

Salaries must be paid, repairs must be made, there are flowers to be planted, yes and in recent years there are the ever rising taxes to confront us.

Have you done anything to help the Shrine this winter?

Have you requested a mass for your intentions or for the repose of the soul of a loved one? (The usual offering for a mass is in accordance with the practice of the diocese two dollars. Sometimes a more generous stipend arrives.)

Have you asked that a seven-day candle be lighted for your petition? Today only nine candles are burning in the cold Coliseum.

Have you enrolled someone in the Martyrs Memorial Association to share in a daily Mass for spiritual or material assistance? The offering for an individual enrollment is but a dollar, that for a family is five. Write us about a perpetual enrollment.

Have you sent a gift to help reduce the Shrine Debt? It takes ten dimes to make a dollar and the debt is now \$450,000.

During Lent when you will be doing some extra penance and prayer, ask Our Lady of Sorrows to help us make ends meet.

And when you write, don't forget to include your name, street address, city, and zip code number. We want to say thanks when your offering is received.

SCHEDULE OF 1969 PILGRIMAGES AND EVENTS AT MARTYRS' SHRINE

May	4 — Sunday	Opening
	11 — Sunday	Mothers' Day
	15 — Thursday	Ascension
	18 — Sunday	_____
	25 — Sunday	Pentecost, Youth Day, Legion of Mary
	30 — Friday	Memorial Day
June	1 — Sunday	Trinity, French Pilgrims
	5 — Thursday	Corpus Christi
	8 — Sunday	Catholic Central Union
	13 — Friday	Feast of Sacred Heart
	15 — Sunday	Military
	22 — Sunday	Lithuanian
	29 — Sunday	Slovak
July	4 — Friday	Independence Day
	6 — Sunday	Ukrainian
	13 — Sunday	Maronite
	20 — Sunday	_____
	27 — Sunday	O L V, Brooklyn
Aug.	3 — Sunday	Polish
	10 — Sunday	della Libera Society (and others)
	15 — Friday	Assumption
	17 — Sunday	Italian
	24 — Sunday	Boston
	31 — Sunday	Indian
Sept.	1 — Monday	Labor Day
	7 — Sunday	Parishes from Harlem
	14 — Sunday	Knights of Columbus
	21 — Sunday	Ancient Order of Hibernians, and Boy Scouts
	28 — Sunday	Celebration of Martyrs Feast (26) New York State Jesuit Groups.
Oct.	5 — Sunday	Knights of St. John and Ladies' Auxiliary
	12 — Sunday	_____
	19 — Sunday	Mission Sunday
	26 — Sunday	Feast of Christ the King, Closing

NOTE — This is only a partial list of the Major Pilgrimages. Changes may be made due to circumstances beyond our control. The Shrine and all its facilities are open daily to pilgrims from May 4 to October 26.