

WINTER
1972

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

OF PILGRIMAGES AND PILGRIMS – 1971

One of the little-known sections of the SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS is the part that deals with RULES FOR THINKING WITH THE CHURCH. The introduction to this set of rules states: "The following rules should be observed to foster the true attitude of mind we ought to have in the Church Militant." As a matter of fact there is very little about the church of his day that St. Ignatius does not find worthy of praise. Yet he was a principal exponent of the forces within the church which strove to effect the reforms necessary by working within the framework of the Church. He could recognize a fault and an evil. He could see that these must be remedied. The remedies he would apply, however, would be prudent efforts to work from the inside out, and to change the spirit of those at fault.

Among the many practices of Catholic living of his day St. Ignatius enumerates some which pertain to us and our Shrine. The sixth of the afore-mentioned rules reads: "We

should show our esteem for the relics of the saints by venerating them and praying to the saints. We should praise visits to the Station Churches, pilgrimages, indulgences, jubilees, crusade indulgences, the lighting of candles in churches." As can readily be seen, the parts of this rule which have application here at Auriesville have to do with relics of saints and their veneration, prayers to the saints, the lighting of candles and pilgrimages. Of these we want to concentrate on the last named, the pilgrimages.

Are visits to Shrines, or pilgrimages, as important in the life of the Church today as they were in the time of St. Ignatius? Or are they out of style? To find their present status let us appeal to the experience and observations of the priests and laity who work at the Martyrs Shrine the year round. The individual pilgrim who comes to make his annual visit to the holy hill sees only the pilgrims who come on the same day he does. The faithful people from the vicinity of



Cardinal Cooke at the lectern in the Coliseum.

Isaac
Jogues

Rene
Goupil

Jean
Lalande

Jean
Brebeuf

Charles
Garnier

Gabriel
Lalemant

Anthony
Daniel

Noel
Chabanel

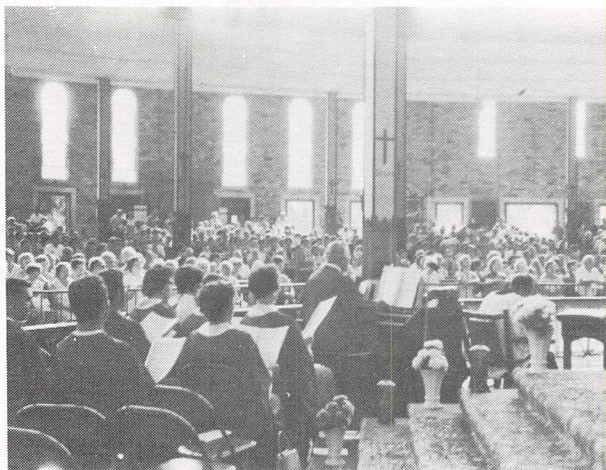
Auriesville who come frequently on Sunday see only the people who are here at the Mass they attend. We of the staff, however, and those who work during the whole of the Shrine season, see and talk to almost all the individuals who come, and meet the numerous families who come in their private cars, and meet and pray with all the large groups that come on the sponsored pilgrimages. This comprises a very large number of people, and in this issue of the PILGRIM we want to tell you about them, even though only sketchily. You as a pilgrim will be impressed by the distinguished company you keep as a faithful client of the first canonized Saints of North America, of the Indian Maiden Kateri Tekakwitha, of the Mother they revered and of the God they served.

Suppose we start off by telling you how many pilgrims came to Auriesville this past year. How many would you guess? Judging by the criteria set above, no matter which group you belong to, your estimate is way off — that is — far short of the real number. By a fairly accurate count, by counters who are accurate often, and fair always, who fail by defect more often than by exaggeration, the total number of people who visited the Shrine during 1971 was between 175,000 and 200,000. You probably are surprised at this figure. However, a count is made of the number of people at each one of the services held in the Coliseum, especially on week-ends. The number of cars that use

the parking lot during the week are also estimated regularly, and the totals of the buses are carefully tabulated.

Each week-end eight Masses are regularly scheduled for the Coliseum. Several groups that come bring their own priest for the celebration of the Masses. An average attendance at these eight scheduled Masses during the whole course of the six month long Shrine season, which numbers 27 week-ends, is approximately 625, which indicates a usual crowd of 5,000 at the Masses. Of course, there are week-ends when the total number far exceeds this usual crowd. Big pilgrimage Sundays, and the larger promoted gatherings swell the throng of devout pilgrims to 8 or 10 thousand. These are days to behold, when all the resources of the Shrine are taxed, and all the energies of the Shrine Staff are exhausted. Sundays like these are impressive, with their spontaneous out-pouring of faith and devotion, their joyous and full-throated singing, the long lines of processions doubling back upon themselves as the praises of Mary are chanted or the Passion of Christ recalled.

But there is still room for the smaller pilgrim gatherings, when a more intimate devotion is practiced and perhaps, a more personal contact with the Martyrs is achieved, as well as a warmer appreciation of the spirit of Auriesville. During the course of the past year, 1971, there were exactly 300 such groups which came to the Shrine. 25 of these came in May, 54 in June, 68 in July, 72 in August, 48 in September and 33 in October. Not only did they come in such numbers but they came from many far distant places. Groups who included a stop at the Shrine at Auriesville in an extended tour came from as far away as Chicago in the West, Quebec in the north, Kentucky in the south and Maine in the east. Others for whom the Shrine at Auriesville was the sole destination on a one day trip, came from as far away as Philadelphia and Mahanoy City in Pennsylvania, and Cleveland, Ohio. Provided an early enough start is made, pilgrims who must travel for six hours or so in one direction to reach the Shrine are able to have a satisfying four or five hours at the Shrine on a one day trip. Those who stop over on more extended tours generally stay for two to five hours and take advantage of all the facilities the Shrine



The guest choir and pilgrims sing and pray on Polish Sunday.



Head of the procession starting the way of the cross.

affords. It seems that most groups try to arrive at the Shrine in time to attend the Mass in the Coliseum at 11:30 on weekdays.

All the people who come to the Shrine are of course equally the object of the services and personal attention of the members of the Shrine staff. This past year however, we had some very distinguished visitors who added a great deal to our season. Their coming contributed a great deal towards attracting a large number of individual visitors. The pilgrims referred to are the members of the hierarchy, the bishops, who came here, both personally as pilgrims (bishops pray too, and have a deep reverence for the first canonized Martyrs of our country and Kateri) and also as the leaders of a large number of their people who followed their shepherds.

BISHOP BRZANA of Ogdensburg again was the leader of the pilgrimage on Polish Day. On Italian Day, which coincided this year with the end of the Novena to Our Lady of Martyrs and the North American Martyrs on the feast of the Assumption, the principal concelebrant and homilist at the principal Mass was BISHOP MUGAVERO of Brooklyn. The Boston pilgrimage this year was graced by the very active presence of ARCHBISHOP MEDEIROS in all the afternoon devotions of the pilgrimage.

The Knights of Columbus Annual Pilgrimage this year was perhaps the largest during this season and this was due in great part, not only to the very active

committee of the Knights, but to the leader of the pilgrimage, CARDINAL COOKE of New York. At this large gathering of Knights and their ladies and families from all over New York State the diocese of Albany, wherein the Shrine is located, was represented by its shepherd, BISHOP BRODERICK.

At the celebration of the old feast of the North American Martyrs, September 26, BISHOP PERNICONE, auxiliary Bishop of New York who resides in Poughkeepsie, paid his annual visit to the Shrine and acted as principal concelebrant and homilist at the Mass. At the commemoration of the 325th anniversary of the martyrdom of Isaac Jogues on Oct. 18th, our dear friend, auxiliary BISHOP MAGINN of Albany celebrated the principal Mass of the day and spoke at the conclusion of the Mass. The members of the hierarchy were most generous this year in fitting a visit to the Shrine into their very busy schedules, and this can only be attributed to their own great personal devotion to the Martyrs. All of them expressed their warm appreciation of the spirit of Auriesville and spoke of their intention to return again.

Biggest of the pilgrimages, as mentioned above, was that promoted for the 34th consecutive year by the New York State Knights of Columbus, under the leadership of the State Deputy, James A. Ruh, and the perennial Pilgrimage Chairman, James J. O'Connor, Jr. The Empire State Bulletin of the N.Y.S. Council of the K. of C. carries a glowing account of this year's outing.



Archbishop Medeiros of Boston mingled familiarly with the pilgrims.



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Pilgrims,

January is a month for inventories and financial reports. I intend to provide a breakdown for readers of the PILGRIM of the revenues received at the Shrine in the course of the year and the expenses these revenues make it possible to meet. A detailed balance sheet won't be ready until the next issue, but I think our readers may be just as impressed if I try to summarize the money problems we have to face.

The Shrine went \$600,000 into debt in 1963 when the new cafeteria was built. When Father Messner became Director in 1964, the debt had been reduced to \$577,500. In the following three years he succeeded in bringing it down still further to \$487,500, though how he managed still borders on the miraculous, since interest alone ran around \$26,000 each year. Four more years have slipped by since I came to take his place, and our indebtedness is now \$367,500. There is still interest to worry about, but that too has been reduced to \$17,000 annually.

We start 1972 with all bills paid. However, the Coliseum roof is demanding attention and the estimates are exceedingly high, about \$40,000.

Here at the Shrine, just as in your household, we have had to contend with rising costs and taxes everywhere you turn, especially here in New York State. Yet it would not be right to sing the blues, for the Shrine is still solvent and for that we

are deeply grateful. Francis Coessens of Amsterdam, our treasurer until two years ago, used to claim that just when there was nothing left to pay the incoming bills, "a little miracle would occur, a donation would arrive just when it was least expected."

There is just one money worry I'd like to commend to your prayers — the debt and the taxes on the cafeteria. Ever since it was built, the cafeteria has been assessed for \$400,000 and the annual taxes on it for the past eight years has been \$18,000. Father Messner had the matter brought to court in order to have the cafeteria declared tax-exempt, but the decision went against the Shrine in 1967. We have been trying to bring the case to the Appellate Division ever since in hopes of a reversal, but the courts move so slowly. We have another case started in which we ask for a substantial reduction in the event that we have to keep on paying taxes.

Both these cases should come before the judge in the next month or so. Getting an exemption or at least a sizeable reduction is a virtual necessity if we are to preserve this Shrine which thousands of pilgrims love not just for its beauty but because of its hallowed grounds. I'm sure you'll add your prayers to ours for the future of Auriesville.

Devotedly in Our Lord,

Thomas F. Egan S.J.

(Rev.) Thomas F. Egan, S.J.

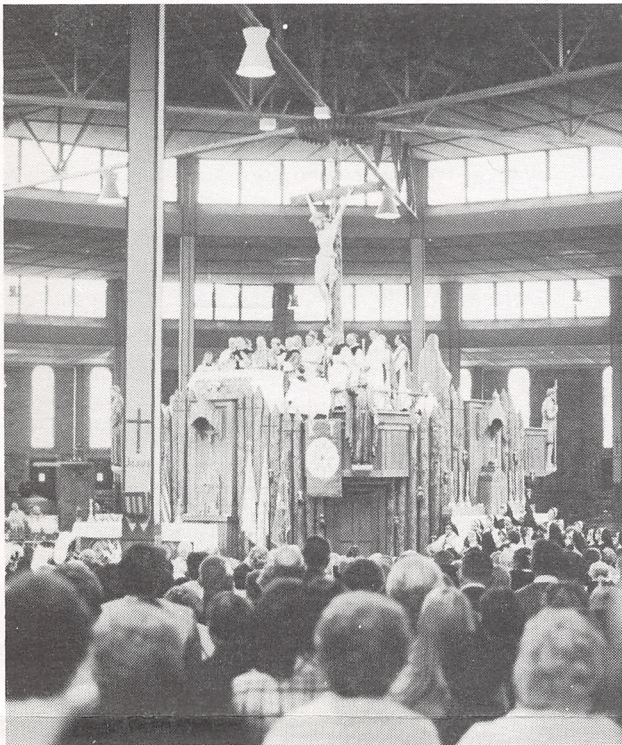
THE MARTYRS' SHRINE Auriesville, New York 12016

LEARN OF
ME
FOR I AM
MEEK
AND
HUMBLE
OF
HEART

PILGRIM, WINTER — Vol. LXXXIII, No. 1 — Quarterly publication of The Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, Auriesville, N.Y. Thomas F. Egan, S.J. President and Shrine Director; W. Robert Burns, S.J. Secretary and Editor of "PILGRIM"; James H. Thiry, S.J. Treasurer; and Timothy C.O'Dwyer, S.J. Assistant Director James J. Shanahan, S.J., Harold X. Folser, S.J. and John J. McMahon, S.J., Board Members.

Entered as a second class matter July 6, 1942 at Auriesville, N.Y. act of March 3, 1879.





Almost 35 priests concelebrating on the High Altar on K of C Pilgrimage.

Besides noting the large numbers of people attending and the presence of His Eminence, **TERENCE CARDINAL COOKE**, The Bulletin calls attention to the inspiring message of the Cardinal and the challenge issued by the homilist, Rev. James F. McNulty, O.S.A. The Knights are to be fore-runners in Catholic Action, and their presence at Auriesville and their interest in promoting this pilgrimage was a sign they were taking their commitment seriously. Another feature mentioned was the participation of so many of the pilgrims in the pilgrimage devotions. Not to be overlooked was the large number of priests (35) who concelebrated the Mass with Cardinal Cooke.

Pilgrimages are still a very vital part of the Catholic Church today. Perhaps a clearer appreciation of the reality will be gathered from the pictures printed in this issue of the **PILGRIM**.

MEMORIAL TO FATHER ANTHONY G. SCHIRMANN, S.J.

A large number of pilgrims and visitors to the Shrine has been inquiring about a Memorial to Father Schirmann. Among the suggestions offered for an appropriate and enduring testimonial, the one deemed best is the erection of a bronze tablet at the entrance to the Ravine. This would commemorate his long years of service at the Shrine and also the fact that he was the originator and composer of the plaques which line the pathway into the Ravine. So many of the visitors to the Shrine find this walk so inspiring and the reading of the plaques so moving, it seems that this would be the best memorial to him, and one which those who knew him would appreciate as significant.

You may send your contributions to this Memorial Fund addressed to: Director, Martyrs Shrine, Auriesville, N.Y. 12016 – and mark the envelope – Schirmann Memorial. For your convenience an acknowledgement of your contribution will be sent.



Cardinal Cooke follows Bishop Broderick into sanctuary for mass.



A Shepherd, Archbishop Medeiros, leads his flock along the way of the cross.

**REVS. MANUS MCGETTIGAN AND
LUKE ZIEGLER, O.F.M. CONV.
R.I.P**

Across the Mohawk River from Auriesville lie the villages of Fonda and Tribes Hill. In Fonda is located the Friary and the Shrine dedicated to the purpose of commemorating the place of the baptism of Kateri Tekakwitha and the site of the Indian village of Caughnawaga, the successor to our village of Ossernenon in 1660. At Tribes Hill there is the parish church dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Along with the people who are devoted to the Shrine and parish, and to the Franciscan Conventuals who staff them, the Jesuits at Auriesville were saddened by the sudden death of the two priests who served these holy places. In a tragic automobile accident on October 8, 1971 Fr. Manus McGettigan, the priest in charge of the Friary and Shrine, and Fr. Luke Ziegler, the pastor at Sacred Heart Church, Tribes Hill were seriously injured. Fr. Ziegler, survived until October 11, and Fr. McGettigan until the 12th. On October 14th the two priest friends were buried together at the side of Fr. Thomas Grassman on the site of the Indian village of Caughnawaga, after a moving funeral Mass offered in the Church at Tribes Hill by Bishop Edwin Broderick of Albany and friends and fellow Franciscans of the two priests. We recommend these two dear fellow workers and friends of the Shrine at Auriesville to the prayers of all the readers of the PILGRIM. May they rest in peace.

CONCERNING MASS CARDS

1. Address all Mass requests to:
Rev. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., Shrine Director
Martyrs Shrine
Auriesville, N.Y. 12016
2. Write in lower left hand corner, "Attention Desk M."
3. Write or print your own name, address, city, state and zip code clearly on the ENVELOPE.
4. Enclose your 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.

The attached form will serve as a typical Mass request.

Date

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

ENROLLMENT IN MARTYRS' MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION grants a sharing in a daily Mass offered for all Benefactors of the Shrine. The usual offering is one dollar for an individual, five for a family, living or deceased. A perpetual enrollment remembrance for a deceased person is twenty-five.

SEVEN-DAY VIGIL LIGHTS are lighted in the Coliseum upon request. The usual offering is one dollar.

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