

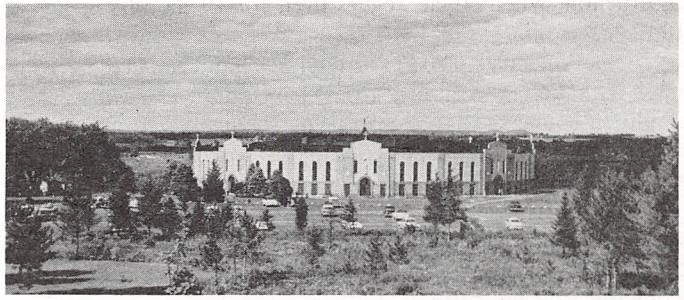
PILGRIM

from the MARTYRS SHRINE

Auriesville, N.Y. 12016

SUMMER 1974

Vol. LXXV No. 3



PAGEANT OF THE MARTYRS

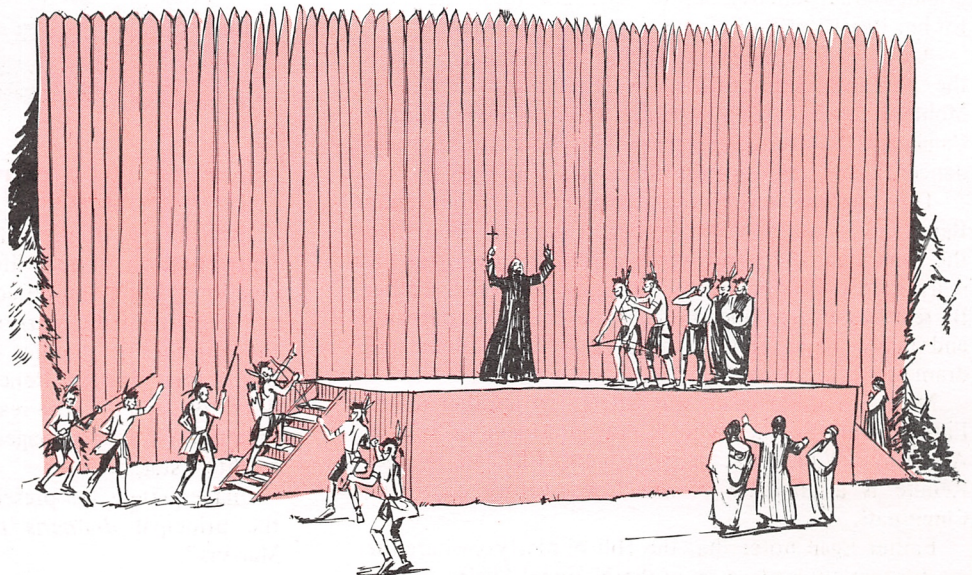
The heroic story of Saints Isaac Jogues, Rene Goupil and John Lelande will be told this summer in song, dance and dialogue.

Says Father Thomas F. Egan, S.J., Shrine Director: "I hope that every friend of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs will come as a pilgrim to the "Pageant of the Martyrs" to honor the memory of these heroes and to draw down rich blessings on themselves and their families."

Outdoor performances of the pageant

will be presented at the Shrine each Saturday afternoon from August 10 to 31. Admission is free. Cars and buses will park in the large area near the cafeteria, close to the outdoor amphitheatre which is prepared for the pageant. The area is enclosed by beautiful woods, a natural setting for the drama, and spectators may bring rugs or blankets to sit on as they view the pageant from a natural elevation.

The drama of the martyrs is played against a replica of the palisade which enclosed the original Mohawk village,



*Bring
your
family
and
friends
to the
Martyrs'
Pageant*

Ossernenon, where Isaac Jogues lived for 13 months in 1642-43.

The action takes place at ground level and on a large stage with perfect visibility from every point, and with amplified sound so that all may hear. The nearby woods, too, provide entrance and exits for the performers, just as they did in real life for the martyrs.

The drama begins with a vignette of Mohawk life as village women sing and dance "The Green Corn Song", thanking the Great Spirit for the abundant crop growing along the Mohawk River.

Isaac Jogues and Rene Goupil enter as captives taken by warriors. The Council debates the fate of the missionaries as Jogues delivers the message from the Great Spirit.

In tableaux Goupil goes to martyrdom and Jogues is detained in slavery. The Dutch commander, Arendt Van Corlear, arrives from Fort Orange, now Albany, to ransom Jogues but is rejected. Eventually Jogues, named "Ondessonk" by his Huron friends, escapes with the help of the Dutch.

But he returns again to the Iroquois with a young Frenchman, John Lelande, while peace reigns between the Mohawks and Hurons. The Wolf and Turtle clans wish to preserve the treaty while the Bear clan is opposed to it. While the council is debating this issue some hostile Bears arrange the martyrdom of Jogues and Lelande, much to the sorrow of the tribe which held Jogues in high respect.

The finale introduces the famed Lily of the Mohawks, Venerable Kateri Tekawitha, who was born at Ossernenon ten years after the tragic death of the heroes. She attained great sanctity before her death at 24; the cause for her Beatification is now progressing in Rome.

A cast of fifty men, women and children will perform the pageant, with authentic costumes and dances. A Mohawk descendent, Mrs. Esther Philips now resident at Canawagha, Ontario, is supervising the costuming and dances. Local friends of the Shrine make up the cast.

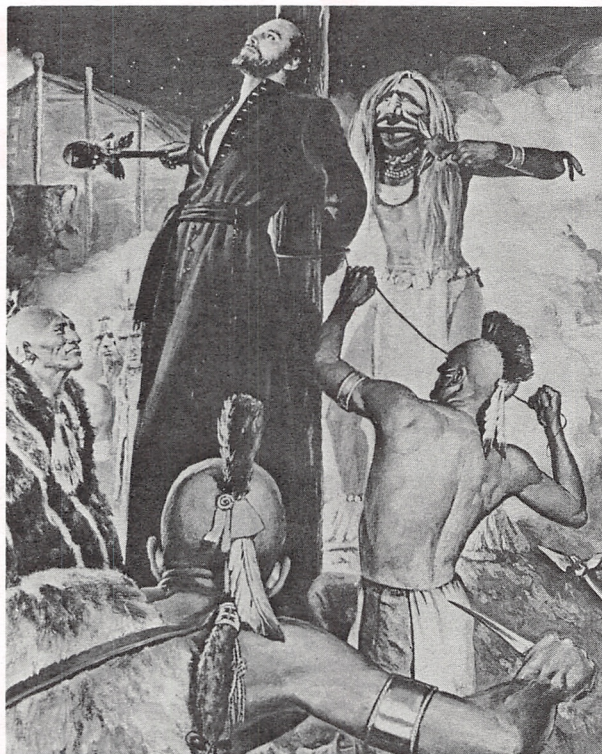
The pageant script was written by Father John Barrett, S.J., our newest member of the staff. He visited the Shrine in 1946 and wrote a similar pageant of the martyrs for production in Chicago that year. Father Barrett has written and produced several other pageants and many plays. Theatre, he says, is in his blood and dramatics is his hobby.

Music for the pageant was written by another Jesuit, Father John Reinke, who is now president of Loyola Academy, Wilmette, a suburb of Chicago. Father Reinke is a graduate of the Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati.

Father Egan notes that the Hill of Martyrs where the martyrdom took place, now the National Shrine of Our

Lady of Martyrs, is an historical spot like many others in the Mohawk Valley. It is fitting that in the Bicentennial Celebrations of the founding of America, now in preparation, this hallowed site be given national attention.

Publicity by posters, press and radio will soon appear to acquaint the public with the Pageant of the Martyrs. Plan now with your families and friends to be present at the Shrine production during the Saturdays in August, from the 10th to the 31st.



THE MARTYRS' STORY

Real life is drama. Theatrical drama is but a faint representation of real life, much like the splendor of creation is but a dim reflection of the glory of God.

"Pageant of the Martyrs" which will be performed at the Shrine this summer only indicates the heroism of Saints Isaac Jogues, Rene Goupil and John Lelande; it does not depict it. The reality of their lives outshines the presentation in the pageant as the sun overcomes the brightest star.

Inadequately we present here a few highlights about the principal *dramatis personae* in the "Pageant of Martyrs".

(continued next page)

Issac Jogues

After living six years with the Huron Indians on Lake Superior this French Jesuit was described by an author: "His skin roughed and creased, with bones and muscle as hard as iron, he could digest any food and bear up under very long fasts." He had served the apprenticeship to martyrdom before he came to the Mohawk valley.

Isaac was the third son of his parents. His mother was 21 years of age when he was born. The date was January 10, 1607 and the place was Orleans, France, made holy by St. Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans.

His father was a merchant and widower who remarried. There were two daughters from the first wife and the second gave him six boys and two girls, so Isaac grew up in a large household.

The boy was sent to the Jesuit school in Orleans at 11 years of age and six years later at graduation joined the Society of Jesus. His mother was already a widow, but well provided for; she did not require his support.

A great ferment seized the Jesuits in that age, a formidable spirit of adventure and missionary zeal. Francis Xavier, the first Jesuit to the missions, had died off the coast of China 72 years before Isaac began his Jesuit career. Xavier's letters from India and Japan had electrified Europe, had opened a new chapter in the long history of the Church.

Jesuit Charles Spinola was martyred in Japan two years before Isaac donned the cassock; French Jesuits were already a decade on the new mission in Canada. Natural and supernatural motives inspired young Isaac to volunteer for the missions, but he must wait 12 years for that appointment. Isaac completed his theology at Clermont College in Paris and was ordained in 1636 before sailing for New France, or Canada.

The French had already been in Canada a century. The explorer, Jacques Cartier, had arrived in 1534 and discovered the St. Lawrence River, where he settled on an island, Mont Real. Three years before Isaac reached Canada 5,000 French settlers had already built homes at Quebec. The missionaries were not alone in the New World.

However, their mission was to the Indians around Lake Superior to the far west, a 35 day journey by canoe from Quebec. Isaac journeyed to the Huron tribe who dubbed him Ondessonk, meaning Bird of Prey. It was a fitting title since he traveled far and wide with the Word of God, not to devour but to save. His farthest voyage was 350 miles and 17 days to visit the Ojibwas at Sault Ste. Marie.

He also faced death while among the Hurons. A dissident clan resented the company of the missionaries and decreed their death. While the Huron chiefs debated this issue for two days Isaac and his five Jesuit priest-

USE THIS *ENTIRE* FORM FOR REQUESTS YOU HAVE OF THE SHRINE STAFF YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ARE ALREADY TAPED ON THE REVERSE SIDE

CONCERNING MASS CARDS

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 is preferred.

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 _____

Mail to: **FR. DIRECTOR, MARTYRS' SHRINE,
AURIESVILLE, N.Y. 12016**

CONCERNING ENROLLMENTS

In the Martyrs' Memorial Association

The usual offering is one dollar for an individual annual enrollment, five for a family, living or deceased.

Dear Father Director:

Kindly enroll _____
in the Martyr's Memorial Association for _____ year
(or years) or perpetually.

Send enrollment to: _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Before mailing sign card _____

Mail to: **FR. DIRECTOR, MARTYRS' SHRINE,
AURIESVILLE, N.Y. 12016**

We Ask Your Prayers

Kenneth Newkirk of Tribes Hill, son of our Shrine superintendent emeritus, Emory Newkirk, and his wife Lena, died in St. Mary's Hospital, Amsterdam, on June 11, three days after suffering a massive stroke. He was 47 years old.

As a youth he spent many summers working with his father on the Shrine grounds, several of them in the company of the present Shrine director. For over two decades as an operator of heavy equipment he frequently came to the rescue when the Shrine had particularly difficult maintenance problems.

Because of the especially close and longstanding relationship which the Jesuits have had with the Newkirk family, Ken's death was a blow to us all. We ask our friends to remember this truly Christian gentleman in their prayers and to ask the Lord to console his wife, Charlotte, and five children, his parents and other relatives.

THE MARTYRS' SHRINE
Auriesville, New York 12016

NOVENA
to OUR LADY
and the MARTYRS
AUG. 6-14
ALL NIGHT VIGIL
AUG. 11-12

POSTMASTER: Please send Form 3579 to:
MARTYRS' SHRINE, Auriesville, N.Y. 12016



PILGRIM, SUMMER 1974 — Vol. LXXXV, No. 3 — Quarterly publication of the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, Auriesville, N.Y. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., President and Shrine Director; Robert L. Fleig, Secretary and Treasurer; and Timothy C. O'Dwyer, S.J., Assistant Director; Edward F.X. Kennedy, S.J., Board Member.

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

EVENTS WORTHY OF NOTE

Aug. 4 SUN POLISH DAY
Aug. 11 SUN LITHUANIAN DAY
 MADONNA DELLA LIBERA DAY

Aug. 6-14 Martyrs' Novena in Preparation for the Assumption

Aug. 10-11 NIGHT OF PRAYER:

(National Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin, in Albany Diocese throughout August, will be at Auriesville on August 10 and 11.)

Aug. 15 WED Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady

Aug. 18 SUN ITALIAN DAY

Aug. 26 SUN BOSTON DAY

Aug. 31-Sept. 1 KATERI WEEKEND: Mohawk Pilgrimage:

Sept. 8 SUN ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Sept. 15 SUN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DAY

Sept. 22 SUN JESUIT PARISHES: N.Y. & BUFFALO

Sept. 29 SUN PARISHES OF HARLEM

Oct. 6 SUN KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF ST. JOHN

MASSES FOR THE ASSUMPTION

Wednesday, August 14 4:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 15 7:00, 9:00, 11:30 a.m.; 4:00 & 7:30 p.m.

companions prepared for the final summons. Mysteriously, the hostile clan departed without a word; the time had not yet come.

Instead, Isaac and his companion, Rene Goupil, were taken captive by the Mohawks as they were leaving Quebec in 1642. They were brought to Ossernenon on August 15th where Goupil became the first martyr; Isaac was martyred four years later. He was 39 years old at his death.



Rene Goupil

Rene Goupil became a Jesuit only a few weeks before his death. He was born at Anjou, France, and became a Jesuit novice in Paris, but bad health forced him to leave the novitiate. Thereafter he studied medicine and became a surgeon. But the desire to serve God fully remained and at 32 he emigrated to Canada where he worked in the hospital at Quebec under the direction of the Hospital Sisters.

Meanwhile a new organization of lay helpers had been formed recruiting men who donated their services by contract and by private vow "to serve and assist the Fathers who work for the salvation and conversion of the Hurons." They were called *donnes*. They promised obedience, poverty, chastity, and not to marry. In return

the Jesuits agreed to provide them clothing, food and lodging and to care for them in sickness until death, and a participation in the spiritual benefits and privileges of the Society.

The *donnes* were practical men. They built mission outposts, chapels, houses, schools, planted crops and doctored the sick. When Rene joined the *donnes* there were six such men helping the 13 Jesuit priests on the Huron mission.

Rene was returning with Father Jogues to the Huron country from headquarters at Quebec when they were captured by the Mohawks. On the long journey to the Mohawk valley both men knew that death was imminent. Rene, "wishing to give up all for God, without any reserve or any resource except God Himself" asked Isaac to admit him to the Society of Jesus. There in a canoe together Rene recited the Jesuit formula vowing poverty, chastity and obedience forever, and Isaac received him into the Society.

His death followed a few weeks later at the age of 34.

John Leland

John Leland was a *donne* like Goupil. He was born at Dieppe, France, and came to Canada as a layman to help the missionaries. In 1646 he was Father Jogues' companion on the latter's third journey to the Mohawks. Isaac had stipulated that the *donne* chosen to accompany him must be "virtuous, docile to direction, courageous, and willing to suffer anything for God."

John Leland was such a man. Isaac showed him his mutilated hands, and left to the volunteer the decision to join him or not. Wrote the Jesuit superior, Father Lalemant afterwards: "That good youth, recognizing the dangers of so perilous a journey, protested at his departure with Father Jogues that the desire of serving God was leading him into a country where he surely expected to meet his death."

Isaac and John arrived safely in the Mohawk valley before they were taken prisoner. After Father Jogues was martyred, John Leland left the protective custody of the old Mohawk "aunt" who had shielded Isaac, to find and bury the body of his leader. Two braves waiting the opportunity struck him down, giving the Church in the United States its third and last martyr.

**VISIT
THE MARTYRS' SHRINE**

Youthful Mohawk Pilgrim Dies In Bicycle Accident



The young Mohawks from St. Regis who came to Auriesville last September for the Kateri Weekend are now missing one of their number. Henry Phillips, the lad in buckskins on the far right, was killed in a tragic accident on the highway.

Last September a winsome troupe of teenagers accompanied Father Michael Jacobs and the other Mohawk Indians from St. Regis who came on pilgrimage to Auriesville for the Kateri Weekend. Many friends of the Shrine remember the colorful Mohawk dances which the young people presented.

Just after the last PILGRIM went to press Father Jacobs sent us the news that one of the dancers, 13-year-old Henry Phillips, was fatally injured when struck by a car as he and several of his friends were riding their bicycles on Route 37 near Hogansburg. The tragedy was especially poignant for his parents, John and Agnes Phillips, since Margaret, one of their daughters, died in a car accident in the same locality two years ago.

Mrs. Phillips has followed the practice of bringing two of her children each year on the pilgrimage to Auriesville, the site of the ancient village of the Mohawks, and last summer it was Henry's turn to come for the first time.

As Father Jacobs, our Mohawk priest and brother Jesuit, related, Henry begged to be taken along because "he wanted to see where Venerable Kateri Tekawitha was born, where the Jesuit Martyrs died, and where the Mohawks received their faith."

We ask our readers to remember Henry and the Phillips family in their prayers. Letters of condolence may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. John Phillips, Cook Rd., Hogansburg, N.Y. 13655.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Pilgrims,

Thanks to Father John Barrett, our new editor of the PILGRIM, this issue will reach you just as we begin the month of August, the busiest part of our season.

Some of the most elaborate pilgrimages of the year are almost upon us. We have made a summary of them to serve you as a ready reference.

For those who find spiritual relish in the evening devotions on Martyrs' Hill, August offers the widest possible variety. There will be the regular weekly holy hours each Thursday. Then, beginning on Friday, August 2, there will be the seven Friday evenings in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows. Finally, from Tuesday, the 6th, to Wednesday, the 14th, some of our pilgrims will gather as dusk approaches for the novena to Our Lady and the Martyrs. All these devotions will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include an evening mass, except on the Sunday during the novena.

We hope that many pilgrims will be with us for the All Night Vigil starting on Saturday, August 10. There are groups who are planning to come all the way from Washington, Philadelphia, Boston and New York. Our friends living between Albany and Syracuse could join us with far less prior planning.

Looking back over the past month, I want to mention a most impressive event on the first Saturday of July. Over 200 of our friends from Utica came to Auriesville for a Holy Year pilgrimage which may well provide guidelines for a new type of day of prayer at the Shrine. With the help of Philip Talerico and Irene Drolesky of the Rosary Rally of Greater Utica-Rome, the word was spread in all 25 parishes in and around Utica, nearly all of whom were represented on the pilgrimage. We hope for more days of this sort which will draw all the parishes of a city or county together as a means of promoting the realization of that greater unity which the Lord wanted His people to have, regardless of the differences brought about by distances, boundaries or national origins.

Don't forget the new pageant on the Martyrs which Father Barrett has produced — performances each Saturday at 2 p.m. from August 10 to 31 — or the appearances of Mary-Eunice at the All-Night Vigil and on the evening of August 31, the night of the Kateri Weekend when our Mohawk friends will be here.

Yours in Christ, Mary and the Martyrs,

Father Egan, S.J.