

PILGRIM

from the MARTYRS SHRINE

Auriesville, N.Y. 12016

SPRING
1975

Vol. LXXXVI
No. 2

ALL NIGHT VIGIL

Sat. Aug. 9 –
Sun. Aug. 10

NOVENA to OUR LADY
and the MARTYRS
Aug. 6-14, 1975

MARTYRS' SHRINE ACQUIRES 300-YEAR-OLD MADONNA

Just before the start of the 1975 season an oaken statue was delivered to the Martyrs' Shrine, the gift of Louis W. Petersen and his wife Margaret of New York.

Carved over 350 years ago to honor the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this statue once rested in the niche of a wayside shrine in the city of Rouen, France. A thin coating of an ancient plaster known as "veso" was applied long ago to the three-and-a-half-foot statue. Then the entire surface of the Virgin's gown was gilded.

The Madonna has particular significance for pilgrims to Auriesville because it dates from the period when Rouen was the site of a famous Jesuit novitiate where many young men destined for the Indian missions of North America began their spiritual formation. Three of the North American martyrs were novices there, Saints Isaac Jogues, Jean de Brebeuf and Antoine Daniel. So was Father Simon LeMoyne. Three other future missionaries who would come to the Mohawk Valley, Father Jacques Fremin, and the brothers, Fathers Jean and Jacques de Lamberville, were born and raised in Rouen. Quite possibly all these Jesuits knew and prayed before this Madonna of the Immaculate Conception.

Upheavals over the centuries took their toll of Rouen and many of its treasures were carried elsewhere. The oaken, gilded statue of Our Lady found its way to the New World and eventually into the possession of the Petersens, who devoutly treasured it in their home. Concern for its future preservation prompted them to offer it to the Shrine, though they little suspected the ties of our martyrs with its original home.

This precious reminder of devotion of Our Lady in the age of the martyrs can now be venerated by all who pray at Auriesville. It will most certainly figure prominently in the August novena in honor of Our Lady and her martyred sons.

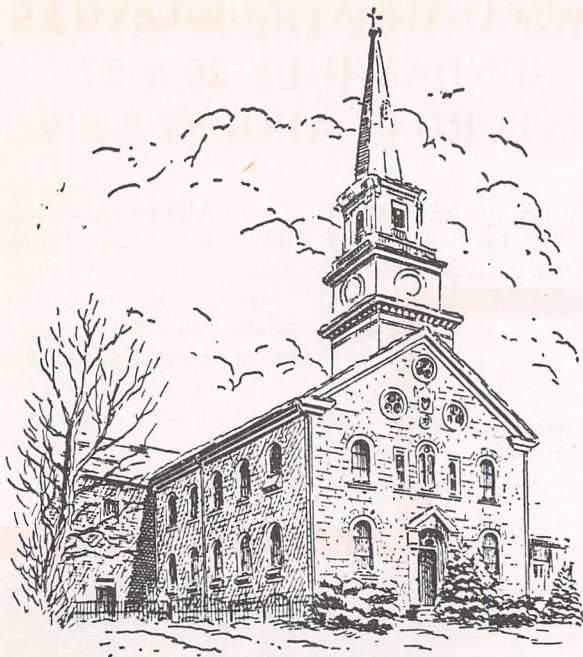
PAGEANT OF THE MARTYRS SUNDAY JULY 20 & 27 SATURDAY AUGUST 2 & 9

Last August the PAGEANT OF THE MARTYRS, produced and directed by Father John Barrett, S.J., received wide acclaim from many pilgrims to the Shrine.

This season, the better to accommodate even more friends of the Shrine, performances have been scheduled in the rustic outdoor theater for two Sunday afternoons, July 20 and 27, as well as on two Saturday afternoons, August 2 and 9. Curtain time will be 2 p.m.



*Ancient Madonna Comes to Auriesville
— see accompanying account —*



1741 1787 1962

SACRED HEART BASILICA PART OF AMERICAN CATHOLIC HERITAGE

In the rolling farm country of south central Pennsylvania not too far from Gettysburg stands a massive stone church with an impressive steeple in the colonial style, surrounded by numerous parish buildings. The remarkable thing about the complex is that it is located out in a countryside with no cluster of houses which might be expected nearby. Long known as the Conewago Chapel, it is the Mother Church of all the Catholic parishes in Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna and the first church of the United States to be dedicated in honor of the Sacred Heart.

The church is linked to the Martyrs Shrine at Auriesville in two ways: First, for the greater portion of its two-and-a-half century existence it was staffed by Jesuit priests of the same province which founded the Martyrs Shrine. Second, the name *Conewago*, given to the little creek which trickles through the church property and eventually flows into the Susquehanna, is a variant form of the same Indian name, *Caughnawaga*, which was assigned to the village on the Mohawk, successor to Ossernenon (early Auriesville), where Kateri Tekakwitha was baptized. It was used again to designate the Catholic Mohawk settlement on the St. Lawrence, across from Montreal.

The similarity of names is hard to explain. It may have been because the original inhabitants of the region spoke a language akin to Iroquois and used the word in the same way the Mohawks did to designate a village which stood "at the rapids." Then again, the early Catholic European settlers may have heard of the fame of the praying village, as the Canadian Caughnawaga was known in the 18th century. The true explanation may be a combination of both.

In any event, there are accounts that some of the English Jesuit missionaries from Maryland visited the Indians west of the Susquehanna in the early 1700's. By 1730, Maryland Catholics, persecuted in the very colony their ancestors had founded a century before, migrated northward into Pennsylvania, attracted by the promise of religious freedom guaranteed in the land of the Quakers.

Before another decade had gone by, Irish and German Catholic immigrants came to the area for the same reason. In 1741 Father William Wappeler, a Jesuit Missionary from Germany, built a log chapel on the Conewago Creek to minister to these Catholic settlers.

The fifth pastor of the missionary congregation, Father James Pellentz, S.J., arrived in 1768. A few years later he had to endure the heartbreak of living through the suppression of the Jesuit Order. Like the other Jesuits of the Maryland Mission, he joined together in an association of priests in the hope that one day the Society of Jesus would be restored.

The Conewago congregation continued to grow, and the primitive dwelling which served as a rectory became the headquarters of a team of Jesuit missionaries of the St. John Francis Regis Mission circuit which embraced most of the territory in Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna as well as western Maryland and northwestern Virginia.

In 1784, the Rev. John Carroll, newly appointed vicar apostolic to the Catholics of the fledgling American nation, visited Conewago and noted that there were one thousand Catholics there. A Jesuit until the time of the Suppression, he was destined to become the first Catholic Bishop of the United States in 1789. With his encouragement, Father Pellentz undertook the construction of a permanent stone church, most of which has lasted to this day. He, it was who chose the title of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the new parish.

In his final years as pastor, Father Pellentz was assisted by the remarkable young priest, Prince Dimitri Gallitzin, son of the Russian ambassador to the Netherlands and grandson of Field Marshall Von Schmettau of Prussia. A convert to the church, Prince Gallitzin came

to America in 1792, studied for the priesthood and was ordained by Bishop Carroll in Baltimore in 1795, who assigned him to the parish at Conewago for the next four years. Later he would be known as the Apostle of the Alleghenies, and today he is mentioned as a possible candidate for sainthood.

By 1800 the parish at Conewago had grown to the largest Catholic congregation in the United States with five-thousand communicants. Catholics from the sur-



A view of the Conewago Rectory, school and hall with church steeple in background.

rounding towns of Hanover, McSherrystown, Bonneauville, Gettysburg and New Oxford all came to the great country church for mass. Father Pellentz in his visits to the far-flung limits of his parish travelled on horseback as far as Elmira, New York.

In 1804 the prayers of the one-time Jesuits of Maryland were answered. They were allowed by the Holy See to affiliate themselves with the Jesuits in eastern Poland, the one province of the order which had never ceased to exist. This privilege came a full decade before the general restoration of the Society. Bishop Carroll saw to it that Conewago would again have a Jesuit pastor and in 1812 Father Adam Britt, S.J. assumed the direction of the parish.

By the middle of the 19th century it was evident that the stone church needed enlargement. With the advice of Bishop Francis Kenrick of Philadelphia, Father Enders, twelfth pastor at Conewago, planned a transept eighty feet in width and a semi-circular apse without disturbing the lines of the original church, except for the removal of the sanctuary.

Many of the artistic masterpieces now to be found in the church of the Sacred Heart were executed during this period. Father Enders secured the services of a talented artist from Austria, Franz Stecher. The frescoes

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**

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Pilgrims,

Here is our Spring PILGRIM, a little late in coming, but appropriate as a reminder before summer is upon us of the events planned for the high season at Auriesville.

June, 1975 is the 300th anniversary of the "great revelation" of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary, the occasion to which the devotion of the nine first

Fridays can be traced. We commemorate this tercentenary with our article about the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Pennsylvania which the Jesuits of the Maryland Mission and later the Maryland-New York Province helped to build.

Here at the Shrine we are quite pleased by the arrival of Fr. Joseph S. McBride, vice-postulator for Kateri's cause. Now that he will reside here on the site of her birth, just a few miles away from the Tekakwitha Shrine in Fonda where she was baptized, efforts to promote her cause should be ever more effective.

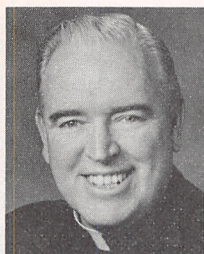
Fr. McBride has agreed to conduct three of the holy hours in the Coliseum on the first three Thursdays of July at 7:30 p.m. Why not make these Holy Hours a part of your own Holy Year observance?

Fr. Vincent P. McCorry, S.J., nationally known author, preacher and retreat master, who for two decades wrote THE WORD each week for AMERICA magazine and who is now on the Auriesville retreat house staff, will present a series of talks during the August novena to Our Lady and the martyrs, one of them during the annual all-night vigil.

So much for now. We look forward to your next trip to the Shrine. Till then be assured of our prayers.

Devotedly in Our Lord

Thomas F. Egan
Rev. Thomas F. Egan, S.J.
Director, Martyrs Shrine



COMING EVENTS AT MARTYRS SHRINE

Aug. 2	SAT	Handicapped of Utica
Aug. 3	SUN	POLISH DAY
Aug. 10	SUN	LITHUANIAN DAY MADONNA DELLA LIBERA DAY
Aug. 6-14		Novena in honor of Our Lady of Martyrs and the North American Martyrs
Aug. 9-10		NIGHT OF PRAYER: Reparation Societies, Blue Army, Vigilantes, Nocturnal Adoration, Block Rosary — Vigil in Coliseum from 8:30 p.m. Sat. to 6:30 a.m. Sun.
Aug. 15	FRI	Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
Aug. 17	SUN	ITALIAN DAY MADONNA DELLA CATENA
Aug. 24	SUN	BOSTON DAY
Aug. 30-31		KATERI WEEKEND — Festival Sat. 8:30 p.m. MOHAWK PILGRIMAGE MASS 12:30 p.m. Caughnawaga Choir
Sept. 14	SUN	HIBERNIAN DAY
Sept. 19-21		Scout Retreat-Encampment
Sept. 21	SUN	KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DAY
Sept. 28	SUN	JESUIT PARISHES: N.Y. & BUFFALO
Oct. 5	SUN	KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF ST. JOHN
Oct. 19	SUN	Feast of St. Isaac Jogues and Companions Mission Sunday
Oct. 26	SUN	Closing Day of 1975 Season

The outdoor PAGEANT OF THE MARTYRS will be staged in August. Mary-Eunice will present dramatic characterizations August 9 and 30.

THE MARTYRS' SHRINE Auriesville, New York 12016

Come to the Pageant — Sun, July 20 & 27;
Sat., Aug. 2 & 9 at 2 p.m.

NOVENA
to OUR LADY
and the MARTYRS

AUG. 6-14

ALL NIGHT VIGIL
AUG. 9-10

Remember the Martyrs Shrine in your will.



PILGRIM, SPRING 1975 — Vol. LXXXVI, No. 2 — Quarterly publication of the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, Auriesville, N.Y. Thomas F. Egan, S.J., President and Shrine Director; Thomas J. Wade, S.J., Vice-President; Robert L. Fleig, Secretary and Treasurer; Timothy C. O'Dwyer, S.J., Assistant Director; Paul J. Gampp, S.J. and Alvin S. Mahlmeister, S.J., Board Members.

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

on the apse and transept ceilings depicting the love of the Sacred Heart for mankind are among the few of his works which have been preserved.

The painting of Christ Our Lord revealing His Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary, with an inset portrait of Blessed Claude de la Colombiere, her spiritual advisor, dominates the wall behind the main altar. It was the work of the Italian artist, Filippo Costaggini, in 1887.

The last Jesuit pastor at Conewago, Father William Cowardin, transferred his responsibilities in 1901 to the diocesan priest, Father Hugh Loague. A directive had come from the Superior General of the Society in Rome that the Jesuit parishes in the United States which were not attached to schools of the order and which could no longer be considered mission churches should be relinquished.

Since that date the parish has been administered by a succession of pastors of the Diocese of Harrisburg. In 1962, the late Rev. Msgr. John P. Bolen, then the pastor, received notification that His Holiness Pope John XXIII had raised the historic church to the rank of Minor Basilica, an honor thus far accorded to only 15 other churches in this country.

Pilgrims to the Martyrs' Shrine who feel stirred in this Bicentennial Era by the early chapters of Catholicism in America might well consider a visit to the Conewago Chapel of the Sacred Heart when their vacation plans take them to Pennsylvania. Like the Martyrs' Hill, the fields of Conewago are a storehouse of Catholic history in which American Catholics can take great pride.



Interior of Sacred Heart Basilica with its ceilings frescoes by Stecher and its altar mural of the apparition by Costaggini.

WAY OF THE CROSS BOOKLET AVAILABLE FOR PILGRIMS

• *Along the Sorrowful Way*, a newly published booklet on the Way of the Cross, is now available at the Shrine Office.

The author is Hugh P. Donlon, who 45 years ago wrote the highly acclaimed *Story of Auriesville* on the occasion of the canonization of the North American Martyrs. His association with the Martyrs Shrine throughout most of this century parallels a distinguished career as reporter and columnist on the staff of the *Amsterdam Evening Recorder*. Countless feature articles as well as news accounts of major events on the Hill of Martyrs reached readers throughout the country as a result of his work at the typewriter. An accomplished musician, he directed the all-male Shrine choir for four decades and composed a four part mass in Latin in honor of the Martyrs.

His reflections on The Way to Calvary come as a labor of love, a decision on his part to share with fellow pilgrims some of his reflections during hours spent on the holy hill.

NOTE REVISED PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

Sept. 14 Ancient Order of Hibernians

Sept. 21 Knights of Columbus

Setp. 28 N Y & Buffalo Jesuit Parishes

SHRINE-SPONSORED HOLY YEAR PILGRIMATED TO ROME PROJECTED

Some of our pilgrims have asked whether the Martyrs' Shrine would organize a pilgrimage to Rome and the other holy places of Europe for the Holy year. A trip will be arranged if enough interest is indicated. Write for further information.

JESUIT ARRIVALS AT AURIESVILLE

When pilgrims and retreatants resumed their visits to our sacred hillside this spring at the start of the 1975 season, they quite likely met four newcomers among the Jesuits on the Auriesville scene.

Father Thomas J. Wade, S.J., a native of Schenectady, arrived last fall to succeed Father Edward F.X. Kennedy, S.J., as superior of the Jesuit community and a member of the retreat house staff. He has previously served as professor of theology at LeMoyne College, Syracuse, for 15 years and at an earlier date had filled a similar role at St. Peter's College, Jersey City; Canisius College, Buffalo, and the Jesuit novitiate in Wernersville, Pa. where he had also taught classical languages.

Father Paul J. Gampp, S.J. came to Auriesville in February to become director of the increasingly diversified retreat program for priests, sisters, laymen and laywomen. Hailing from Buffalo, he had for the past four years served as director of St. Ignatius Retreat House, Clarence Center, N.Y. A decade ago he left a 13-year teaching career as a professor of theology at Canisius College, Buffalo, to become pastor of St. Ann's Church in that city.

Father Alvin H. Mahlmeister, S.J., also from Buffalo, reached Auriesville in March to take up duties as assistant superior and administrator. For many years a professor of mathematics at the former Jesuit novitiate of St. Andrew-on-Hudson, Poughkeepsie, he had also taught at Xavier High School, New York, and Canisius High School, Buffalo. Most recently he was engaged in parish and retreat assignments in Erie, Pa. and Batavia, N.Y.

Father Joseph S. McBride, S.J. joined our ranks in June. Already well-known to our pilgrims as vice-postulator in the United States for the cause of Venerable Kateri Tekakwith since 1968 and regional director of the Apostleship of Prayer since 1963, he has moved his headquarters from the Buffalo area to the Hill of Martyrs.

A third Buffalonian, Father McBride entered the Jesuit novitiate of St. Isaac Jogues, Wernersville, Pa. in 1935 and was ordained to the priesthood by Richard Cardinal Cushing at Weston College, Mass. in 1938. For over two decades he was a teacher at St. Peter's Institute of Industrial Relations and St. Peter's Preparatory in Jersey City, N.J. and Canisius High School, Buffalo.

When next you visit us, you will spot a mobile home on the road to the Hill of Prayer. Father McBride has already installed his office there. He will be meeting many pilgrims in the new Kateri Center, just off the foyer of the Shrine cafeteria.

