

The Pilgrim

Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs



2006
Shrine Season

December 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Mini-Retreat Saturday, December 30 at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mary-Jo and Michael Jackson with their 24 children, whom they adopted, are speaking at this retreat to share their journey through family life and adoption. For more details call the office or visit the website at www.MartyrShrine.org. Call for reservation.

Purchase the 2007 Shrine Calendar

Purchase the Shrine Calendar by calling 518-853-3033 ext 221. These calendars are \$10.00 plus shipping and handling.

Advertise Your Company in the 2007 Pilgrim

Don't forget to budget for an advertisement in our Pilgrim and support your News Letter so we can expand!

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Don't forget to pick up our schedule brochure of our most important events and a brochure for further Shrine information!



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During the off Season if you need to purchase something please call ext. 241

Find it in the Gift Shop at the Visitors Center

Shrine News

Since 1884 - The Oldest Continually Printed American Magazine!

Weekly Bulletin

December 2006 issue
Volume CXII (112), NO. 28

2007 Shrine Schedule

Book now at 518-853-3033 ext. 221 or email at Office@MartyrShrine.org for your next conference, retreat, school group, adult group, or confirmation gathering at the Shrine. If you would like to get on the Mailings, please contact Anna at ext 224 and leave your phone number or email her at Marketing@MartyrShrine.org

Season of Advent

By: Father Murray

I love the season of Advent. The reason may be, in part, because I usually make my annual Retreat during this wintry season. I find it a wondrously relaxing period to make a retreat, and have come to appreciate this time of "preparation" for the big feast as a golden time, full of peace and hope. Yet I fully do realize this stance is not typical! So many people have come to see Advent as simply an MDF—a "mad dash to the finish line", to get everything ready before the all-important December 25th! Too many seem to "go crazy" in their preparations for Christmas; so much that they lose all the spirit and joy and the hopeful peace that should be in their hearts during the four weeks of Advent, and into the Christmas season, too!

Alas! Isn't going crazy in our preparations for Christmas something that can take us far from the real meaning of this season? Christ was born, after all, in a humble stable, on a winter's night. Born into poverty, he was destined to live a risky, difficult and adventurous life, and as a young adult, to teach and preach God's word of love. Later, he was condemned to die, and died on a cross, the shameful Roman death of crucifixion. He left behind him a ragtag group of disciples, true, but the real message of His death was neither easy to understand nor easy to imitate.

Christmas then is a moment when we ought to think about not only the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus, son of Mary—but also about Jesus as destined to die for our salvation; and to remind ourselves that this is indeed a feast of both crib and cross! After all, this same Jesus who "came as Word made Flesh" in the form of a tiny babe is also the Suffering Servant, the one who would, with the Father's grace, help to set us free. At this time, when you gather in hope around the Christmas tree, pray hard for those who are refugees, for families in exile, and for persons who have heavy burdens to carry. They are the modern day martyrs, souls very much identified with the poor Christ. Maybe you would wish, as I would, to pray this prayer when so gathered: "Lord, God of all creation, we thank you for this Tree, and for all the wondrous Life that is shown here—and we ask you now to bless us and all who honor your name. Let the Coming of Jesus render us true servants, gift-givers, persons who carry the Word about crib and cross to the ends of the world. Amen!" May God bless you at Christmastime, and always.

Are you interested in Subscribing to our 2007 Pilgrim Newsletter? Next Season one will be having the Pilgrim starting in May 2007. Please contact us if you would like to be placed on our subscription list and when subscription payment is due we will let you know. Please print, fill all spaces..

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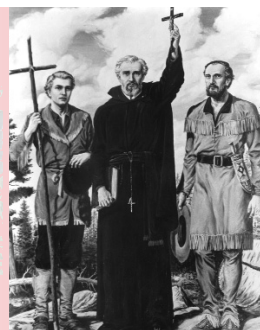
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Christmas Novena

Dec. 25 - Jan. 2

Intention forms can be found in the back of the Coliseum.



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(518) 853-3033

Email Us:
Marketing@MartyrShrine.org

How foolish are they who take the greatest care of the least t

Update from the Shrine

by Tom Ralph

As we move toward the winter solstice, work at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs is moving along quickly. Many projects are under way in preparation for the 2007 season.

The new boiler is up and running in the Visitors Center and the air-conditioning units are being installed there in anticipation of next summer's heat. All the kneelers in front of the main altar in the Coliseum are being padded and readied for next season's liturgies and two of our associates, Tim Swartz and Tim Santoro, have volunteered their time to repair the main railing around the sanctuary in the Coliseum.

Plans are being drawn up and bids are being sought for a new Votary and greeting house to be built where the old gatehouse stands at present. Our hope is that work can be started soon so they will be completed by the time the Shrine opens for the 2007 season.



As the renaissance of the Shrine continues, we must pause for a moment to remember two individuals who

gave a large part of their lives to the Shrine. As most of you know, Fr. John Paret, S.J. passed away this past year. Fr. Paret served the Shrine for over 16 years as Director and Associate Director. His passing has left a great void in our lives and the lives of those he touched throughout the years. In his honor, when the Shrine re-opens for the 2007 season, our Visitor Center will be renamed the Fr. Paret-Fr. Egan Memorial Visitor Center.



Ferne Carron, who worked at the Shrine for 46 years and who was the Shrine secretary, retired toward the end of November. Her dedication to the Shrine and the many pilgrims she came in contact with will never be forgotten. We at the Shrine wish her good



health, peace, and happiness in her years to come.

Next month, we will be welcoming some new staff members to help us continue on our journey to return the Shrine to its place of prominence as she continues her march to her 125th anniversary in the year 2010. In our next Pilgrim, we hope to outline the events and plans for 2007.

We are now looking forward with anticipation to the coming of our Lord and Savior as the time of his birth nears. We here at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs wish all of you and your families the joy of love, the hope of peace, and the promise of a future filled with the Grace of God.

A very Merry and Holy Christmas and a Wonderful New year to all!

Advent Issue of the Word Among Us

page 9-10

"Go outside on a clear day and look at the sun. See how generously it pours light upon the whole earth. The sun is so bright that from a full 93 million miles away, it lights up an otherwise dark world. But the sun doesn't only give us light. It makes things grow and flourish, it provides just the right amount of heat to sustain life in all its variety and beauty. Imagine what the world would be without the sun: nothing more than a giant ball of ice suspended in a darkened sky. These brief reflections about the sun can help give us a sense of where we would be without the brightness of God's love shining upon us, providing warmth to our hearts and growth to our spirits."

Imagine coming as a child born of a virgin mother just for you and me—and of course for others!

Lots of Love Holy Souls

by Father McGuire

Last October while I was walking across the parking lot next to the Visitors Center at the Shrine, I was suddenly surrounded with a bevy of laughing, playing children. They were having a delightful time running around me and a nearby woman. They were all nationalities: Chinese, Afro-American, Caucasian-American, Latinos and whatever else. I said to a pleasant middle-aged woman. "Whose children are these?" Smiling she said touching her breasts with a degree of almost complacent possessiveness "They are all mine!" For a brief moment I thought that this might be a case of international polygamy but I immediately dismissed that aberrant thought when I saw a cross hanging prominently from her neck.

"I've adopted all twelve and we have come to play and pray at the Shrine." I said "Yes, they seem to be doing that quite well! But how do you handle them all together like this?" She said, "I handle them with LOTS OF LOVE and I am very organized". I said, "How many are there"? She said, "There are twelve here and I have twelve more at home with my husband." They will visit the Shrine on another day.

Can I say that I was speechless and with, mouth open, awesomely incredulous! Mary-Jo introduced herself and said that her husband Michael and herself entitled their family "Cor Unum" which is Latin for "One Heart". After a very brief conversation the "Cor Unum" children guided her to the next stop and I shouted to her "Can we get together again?" She said laughingly "I'll talk to Michael and, if you're really ready we can all come together, all 26 of us." Off they went!

At a subsequent Mini-Retreat one of our retreatants said that this couple who adopts children has moved into the nearby parish of Saint Michael's and according to her, they have literally transformed the parish.

So I decided to have an extended Mini-Retreat where the children and their adopting parents could come and share with us their Charisms to other people. They will be able to speak and listen to others who have struggles with adoption. These parents should know that they are not alone.

Our retreat teams will help to feed and play with the children. For those who are ready we will also feed them the Eucharist at Mass and share with everyone the Lord who said, "Let the children come to me for of such is the Kingdom of God". There will be music and a variety of delights. So for those who can come, let's have another Christmas celebration.

The Retreat will take place on Saturday, December 30th, from 10 am to 4 pm in the Visitors Center. Bring your own food and refreshments. Pizza and drinks will also be on sale. Donations will be accepted.

Call the Shrine office at 518-853-3033 ext 221 so that we can keep track of how many are coming.

Have a Holy and Merry Christmas!

Peace

Peace is simplicity of heart, serenity of mind, tranquility of soul, the bond of love. Peace means order, harmony in our whole being; it means continual contentment springing from the knowledge of a good conscience; it is the holy joy of a heart in which God reigns. Peace is the way to perfection, indeed in peace is perfection to be found. The devil, who is well aware of all this, makes every effort to have us lose our peace. —Saint Pio of Pietrelcina



Young Adult Ministry

The Shrine is interested in volunteers between the ages of 18-40 years of age that would be willing to join a core team to do young adult ministry in an evangelistic style. We are a mission and not a parish, so we would like to open our doors to a newer ministry in the church. In 2006 Young Adult Ministry celebrated their 10th Anniversary in the US. The USCCB (US Bishops) started this ministry after discovering the lack of young adults in church and participating in church events. We as a Shrine, have a certified Young Adult Ministry Coordinator. Anna Bodoh, Marketing Director, is working with Father Murray and Father McGuire to gather young adults at this beautiful Shrine. Please call Anna at 518-853-3033 ext 224 or email her at Marketing@MartyrShrine.org. God Bless!

Lost and Found
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calling 518-853-3033 ext 236.



René Couplil



Father Isaac Jogues



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Next Year

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Thank you and God Bless!