

# Pilgrim notes



## Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs

Auriesville, NY  
April 11, 2010

## April Mini Retreat

Join Theresa Schweigert as she presents **Praying with St. Francis de Sales** at the next Mini Retreat on Wednesday, April 21st from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm in the Visitor Center. Many think that sainthood is a privilege reserved only for the chosen few. St Francis de Sales, nobleman, bishop, and Doctor of the Church, showed us that it is the task of every Christian to strive toward holiness, no matter what our life's vocation. In this mini-retreat we will look at some of the ways St. Francis de Sales encouraged the lay people of his time to grow in friendship with God and how his profound advice applies to us in today's hectic and uncertain world. The day also includes faith sharing, fellowship, brown bag lunch and Mass. Please call Father Murray at 853-3033 ext. 222 for more information.

Visit our Website  
[www.MartyrShrine.org](http://www.MartyrShrine.org)

The Lord God formed the man out of the clay  
and blew into his nostrils  
the breath  
of life."

Breathe upon us, again, O God  
Guide your Holy Spirit  
into our lives.

Spread in us this year  
your Easter  
peace.

Let forgiveness  
become our  
name.



## "I will not believe unless I see."

This "seeing" is what others demand of us. It demands that we should reflect Jesus, the Risen Lord, in our lives by selfless love, unconditional forgiveness and humble service. It means that the integrity of our lives is a fundamental witness to others. They want to see the Risen Lord alive and active and working in our lives. Christ's mercy shines forth from us as we reach out to the poor, the needy and the marginalized, as Mother Teresa did. His mercy shines forth as we remain open to those who struggle in faith, as did the Apostle Thomas in today's Gospel. We should be able to appreciate the presence of Jesus, crucified and raised, in our own suffering and in our suffering brothers and sisters, thus recognizing the glorified wounds of the Risen Lord in the suffering of others.

## Let Us Use Our Skepticism to Grow

It is our genuine doubts about the doctrines of our religion that encourage us to study more closely the doctrines of our faith and thus to grow in our faith. This will naturally lead us to a personal encounter with Jesus through prayer, study of the Word of God, and frequenting of the sacraments. However, we must never forget the fact that our faith is not our own doing, but a gift from God. Hence we need to augment our faith every day by prayer so that we may join St. Thomas in his proclamation: "My Lord and my God".

## An Invitation To Practice Mercy

The gospel command, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," demands that we show mercy to our neighbors always and everywhere. We radiate God's mercy to others by our actions, our words, and our prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual acts of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.

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