

Pilgrim notes



Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs

Auriesville, NY
November 8, 2009



*November's sky is chill and drear,
November's leaf is red and sear.*

Sir Walter Scott

Veteran's Day

All Shrine public buildings will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day. These include the Coliseum, Chapels, Gift Shop and Shrine Office. The 11:30 am Mass will be celebrated as usual in the Goupil Chapel.

Mini Retreat

The next Mini Retreat will be on Saturday, November 21st from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm in the Visitor Center. Fr. Bob McGuire will speak on **The Power of the Word of God in Our Daily Lives**. There will also be faith sharing, fellowship, a pot luck lunch, Confessions and Mass. Please call Father McGuire at 853-3033 ext. 233 for more information.

Visit our Website
www.MartyrShrine.org

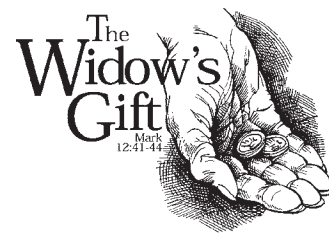
Call us
518.853.3033

Email us
graphics@martyrshrine.org

Entering Church

When we enter the holy building of the church, we do not drop our little coins in the treasury. We drop our fingers into the basin of water which first welcomed us into the Church. We drop some water on our upper selves as a reminder that Jesus has dropped into our poverty and has made it a treasure. We enter the holy space, not as aliens, but as holy believers returning to "re-member" ourselves to the community of the parish and Church through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. I am not exactly sure why the widow was going to the temple, perhaps she did so to regain a sense of being in the community of the People of God, the Jewish nation. I often wonder why people come to bless themselves as they enter and participate in the Holy Eucharistic Liturgy. Perhaps some attend out of fear, like the little lass with her little gift. Perhaps some come to ask for something special, or to convince God that they are trying to be good. I am sure there are so many other reasons good and others very good.

The big question always is, "Why be good if God loves us whether we are good or not?" We do good things, not out of fear nor manipulating God's love, we do good, because that is who we are! We do not drop our real selves into the Holy Water font and pick them up on the way out. The widow put in most of the little she had and went in. Jesus drops all that He has into our lives and we leave the church, because that is who we are: The Sent, The Missioned, The Massed, Re-membered, The Blessed.
Larry Gillick, S.J.



Judging People

We often judge people's value or worth by what they possess. We give weight to their position in society, their educational qualifications, and their celebrity status. But Jesus measures us in a totally different way on the basis of our inner motives and the intentions hidden behind our actions. He evaluates us on the basis of the sacrifices we make for others and on the degree of our surrender to God's holy will. The offering God wants from us is not our material possessions, but our hearts and lives. What is hardest to give is ourselves in love and concern, because that gift costs us more than reaching for our wallets. Fr. Anthony Kadavil

Christmas Concert

The very wonderful Shrine Christmas Concert will be on Friday, December 11th at 7:00 pm in the Visitor Center. The theme is Christmas Around the World featuring Music Director Jenna Poling, Shawn Beebie, Paul Whitney, Amanda Pitcher and "Voices of the Shrine." A surprise guest will make a special appearance. Also, scrumptious desserts and beverages will be available. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 for ages 12 and under. Tickets are now available in the Shrine Gift Shop. Get into the holiday spirit with this favorite Shrine evening!