

Pilgrim notes



Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs

Auriesville, NY
December 13, 2009



Sunday Masses: 11:30 am
Visitor Center

Mon, Wed, & Fri Masses:
11:30 am
Goupil Chapel

Gift Shop: Monday - Saturday
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday 12:30 - 3:00 pm

The soul that is attached to anything however much good there may be in it, will not arrive at the liberty of divine union. For whether it be a strong wire rope or a slender and delicate thread that holds the bird, it matters not, if it really holds it fast; for, until the cord be broken the bird cannot fly.

St. John of the Cross

Mini Retreat

The next Mini Retreat will be on Saturday, December 19th from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm in the Visitor Center. Fr. Bob McGuire will present **Reflections for Advent 2009**. 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

A Call For a Change of Life

John the Baptist, the stern and uncompromising preacher, challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that we take a deeper look. Obeying the commandments is a good start, but we must then examine our relationships with others. We must mend ruptures and frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees justly. Start where you are, John says. Our domestic and social lives must be put in order. John's voice is sober and runs counter to the intoxicating voices around us. He calls for rectitude and social consciousness. We must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption, and instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus' coming. Hence let us celebrate the memory of His first advent at Bethlehem, prepare for His daily advent in our lives through His presence within us and in people around us, and wait for His third advent or "second coming" at the end of the world, with joyful expectation.

What Should We Do in Preparation for Christmas?

This is the same question the Jews asked John. His answer, to them and to us, is the same: repent and reform your lives, and prayerfully wait for the Messiah. Our Blessed Mother, in her many apparitions, urgently calls us to more fervent prayer. Let us remember that the Mass is the most powerful of prayers. We must be a Eucharistic people, living and experiencing the presence of Jesus in our hearts. Let us remember that conversion is through Jesus, whom we encounter in the sacraments. Regular monthly Confession makes us strong and enables us to receive more grace in the Eucharist. Let us read the Bible and pray the rosary daily. We might also fast once a week all year round, rather than just in Advent and Lent; after all, we sin all year round! Let us have the courage of our Christian convictions to turn off TV programs that show explicit sexual behavior, violence and foul language. Let us spend some time every week in adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us forgive those who offend us and pray for them. Finally, let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. "Do small things but with great love" (Mother Teresa).

Fr. Anthony Kadavil

Advent Longing

...Advent is about getting in touch with our longing. It's about letting our yearnings raise our psychic temperatures so that we are pushed to eventually let down our guard, hope in new ways, and risk intimacy. ...

Our loneliness and longing are a hunger and an energy that drive us, always, beyond the present moment. In them we do intuit the kingdom of God.

Advent is about longing, about getting in touch with it, about heightening it, about letting it raise our psychic temperatures, about sizzling as damp, green logs inside the fires of intimacy, about intuiting the kingdom of God by seeing, through desire, what the world might look like if a Messiah were to come and, with us, establish justice, peace, and unity on this earth.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I.