

The Shrine to the
Canadian Martyrs
Since 1926

Witnesses
of yesterday
and of today
beyond
time and
space

*There are many pilgrimage
sites all across Canada.
As for this one,
the Shrine of
the Canadian Martyrs
deserves to be visited often.
It is, one could say,
the Mecca of pilgrimage
sites in our country.*

On September 7, I travelled to the Shrine of the Canadian Martyrs near Midland. What a beautiful experience. It was a splendid early-autumn day, perfect both for travelling and for visiting and praying on these holy grounds. The site had changed quite a bit since my last visit. Scattered throughout the property, you now find a number of small altars erected by communities from the Pacific to Europe — communities of faith who place a statue, an altar, a summer shelter, or a plaque to present a saint from their homeland, offering this tribute on a small piece of land in this



welcoming region that is the Martyrs' Shrine.

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Saint Jean de Brébeuf and his companions in what would become Canada. Landing in Quebec City, they followed the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes to settle among the Huron people, along the shores of Georgian Bay.

They were responding to Jesus' invitation to go out to all nations and proclaim the Gospel, the Good News. "In every house where you are welcomed, say "Peace to this house," eating and drinking whatever is offered to you."

Joseph Chiwa-tehwa was the first to welcome them and to welcome the faith. Saint Charles Garnier wrote of him: "In this man we had placed our hope, after God."

Although Saint Kateri never lived in this region, she too deserves a place of honour here for her reception of the Good News announced by the Jesuits at Kahnawà:ke.

Thank you, Lord, for these witnesses of faith whom you place along our path.



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