



MARTYRS' SHRINE

Weekly Church Bulletin | August 17th 2019 | 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Of God's and Men (Movie)

Martyrdom in the Modern World- Reflections by George Vallocheril SJ

This film is loosely based on the life of the Cistercian monks of Tibhirine in Algeria, from 1993 until their kidnapping in 1996. The film centers on the fact that the monks could easily have evaded this fate but chose not to. Every scene in the film involves these monks, and most of the scenes are set in their monastery. Several times a day, they put on white robes and pray and sing in a little chapel. The rest of the time, they tend crops, keep bees, sell honey, treat the sick of the district, eat bread and soup while being read to, and hold community meetings around a table with a candle on it. They make no attempt to convert anyone to Catholicism. They live peacefully in a Muslim community, attend a little party for a child, and employ some of the nearby people as workers. There is a deep serenity in their way of life. Although we come to know the monks by face and name, the film makes no particular attempt to focus on their personalities, except for two: Brother Christian (Lambert Wilson), who they have elected as leader, and Brother Luc, played by gentle old Michael Lonsdale.

Luc is the doctor, himself old, sick and asthmatic, but seeing countless patients every day and sometimes imparting benevolent advice, as when a village girl questions him about love. Christian is clear-eyed and resolute in his idea of their mission in this place distant from their birthplace in France; they have been called by God to minister to the sick and hungry. There is revolution in the land. A group of Croatian migrant workers have their throats cut by terrorists. The Algerian government urges the monks to leave, the army offers protection, but Brother Christian refuses; there is no place for the army in a monastery. They will deal with what comes. The most fraught scene comes when terrorists break in on Christmas Eve, demanding that old Luc come with them to care for a wounded comrade. Christian turns them away, after quoting from the Koran.

The film focuses entirely on the nobility of the monks in choosing to stay with their vocation and their duty in the face of quite probable death. Did they make the right choice? In their own idealistic terms, yes. In realistic terms, perhaps, no. They have the ability to help many who need it for years to come. It is egotism to believe their help must take place in this specific monastery. Between the eight of them, they have perhaps a century of life of usefulness remaining. Do they have a right to deprive those who need it of their service? In doing so, are they committing the sin of pride?

In this connection we may reflect on martyrdom in modern days as it is a much misunderstood word today. Both saints and criminals have been acclaimed as martyrs. They are used in different senses in various religious and political settings. For example, four Missionaries of Charity were killed a few years ago in Yemen. They had stayed on in a dangerous country to serve the poor and the needy of the place. It would be wrong and very offensive to compare them with those who volunteer to be suicide bombers, killing others and dying in the process. Is it death that qualifies someone as a martyr, or what one dies for and how?

Christin martyrdom is about love. One does not go in search of martyrdom. One accepts suffering and death if that is how one's fidelity is tested. The Christian martyr dies loving and forgiving, not hating. One's loving dedication to Christ or to people is so complete that one is willing to die for it, if need be. How we respond to loss, pain and the treat of death shows what we hold dear. St Thomas More, who reached the pinnacle of worldly success- the post of Chancellor of England, friendship of the King –as well as loving wife and children, was ready to lose it all when his conscience demanded that he challenge King Henry VIII. Writing from prison to his daughter, he said, Dearest Meg, of all the graces the good Lord has showered on me, this imprisonment is the greatest ". This is heroism! This is martyrdom!

**Join Fr. George for Watch & Pray: A Retreat with Movies - Wednesday evenings in August
at 6:00 PM in the St. Ignatius Chapel. Tickets \$10 includes all evenings.**



LE SANCTUAIRE DES MARTYRS

Bulletin hebdomadaire | 17 août, 2019 | 20e dimanche du temps ordinaire

COMMUNAL ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Martyrs' Shrine invites you to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick within Mass. Please join us **Thursday, August 22nd at 2:00 PM** in the Shrine Church for this sacrament as we continue our journey with St. Jean de Brebeuf and his companions into the healing arms of Christ.

TIAWENK FUNDRAISING DINNER & AUCTION

Our 6th annual Tiawenk fundraising dinner & auction will be held at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre in Midland, on **Saturday, September 28th** at 5:00 PM. Tickets are available at the Pastoral and Administrative Office or online for \$95.00. The ticket purchaser is eligible for a \$45.00 tax receipt per ticket. This year's Tiawenk proceeds will be directed towards the Fire Suppression System.

WATCH & PRAY - RETREAT WITH MOVIES

Join Fr. George Vallocheril, SJ for a retreat with movies where you will be invited to learn to use movies for prayer and spiritual nourishment.

The retreat will be held every Wednesday evening in August starting at 6:00 PM in the St. Ignatius Chapel and will include a brief introduction to the film with reflection points, followed by the screening, and group discussion. Tickets are \$10.00 and include all evenings. Tickets and info: www.martyrs-shrine.com/wap

ST. LOUIS CHURCH 180TH ANNIVERSARY

St. Louis Church is celebrating its 180th Anniversary Saturday Sept 14. One of the oldest churches in Simcoe County, St. Louis was also a mission outpost of St. Marie dating from 1638, over 380 years ago. Mass celebrated by Bishop Kirkpatrick at 10:30, followed by luncheon (\$10), and entertainment. Space is limited. Contact (705) 538-2353 or taycatholics@rogers.com for tickets.

ONLINE GIFT SHOP HAS LAUNCHED!

Martyrs' Shrine has been working to create an online store for the purchase of religious goods sold in our Gift Shop. We hope to make religious gifts more accessible to those who can't journey to our site, and more convenient for those who can.

Browse our online shop at www.martyrs-shrine.com/giftshop.
Your feedback is always appreciated!

MASS INTENTIONS †

17-SAT

- 9:00 Rebecca and George Wedge for their Wedding Anniversary
- 10:30 Romek Kalinowski +
- 12:00 Mary Brennan+
- 7:30 Cure for Cystic Fibrosis

18-SUN

- 9:00 Late Mr. & Mrs. Aseervaltham
- 10:30 Hurmuz Miho
- 12:00 Adrian Vanderhulst & Family
- 7:30 Elsie Lin family - Thanksgiving

19-MON

- 9:00 Alex, Dorothy, Dennis, Tom and Mary Erdman +
- 10:30 Moro Family+
- 12:00 Martyrs' Shrine Association
- 7:30 Anita A. Ang - Thanksgiving

20-TUE

- 9:00 Ferdinand Novelero
- 10:30 Nuluz Vilegas +
- 12:00 Bernadette Lynch
Thanksgiving 101 years old
- 7:30 Nenita Cabahug

21-WED

- 9:00 Martyrs' Shrine Association
- 10:30 Sarita and Arcadio Glipo and family
- 12:00 Anne Mc Cormack +
- 3:00 (St. Ignace) Aaron Benninger
- 7:30 John McSweenwy
Thanksgiving for a good life

22-THU

- 9:00 Mateo Ganelo
- 10:30 Salvee Lee
- 12:00 George & Gini Figueiredo
- 7:30 Martyrs' Shrine Association

23-FRI

- 9:00 Artur Medeiros +
- 10:30 Nicholas Iuglio+
- 12:00 Courtney Matches and family
- 7:30 Janet Erdman

Visit Our Website: www.martyrs-shrine.com