



MARTYRS' SHRINE

LE SANCTUAIRE DES MARTYRS

Weekly Church Bulletin | 5th Sunday of Easter | Sunday, May 10 2020

SERVED BY JESUITS

Rev. Michael Knox, SJ -
Director
Rev. Patrick Coldricks, SJ
Rev. Stephen LeBlanc, SJ
Rev. Adam Hinks, SJ

HOLY MASS

Online Weekly
Every Sunday at
www.martyrs-shrine.com/mass

MASS INTENTIONS

This week's Mass is celebrated for:

- Ethon Mariano & Vilma Figueroa & Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas+
- Joseph Tri Ngo+
- Theresa Shin+ and Joseph+ and Veronica Lee
- Christina Kusek Michalski+
- Lolita Ramos & Amy Antonio & family
- For the special intention of Ivy Carnelio
- For the special intentions of members of the Martyrs' Shrine Association

WEEKLY REFLECTION

'Love is as strong as death' (St. Jean de Brébeuf, 1636)

By Fr. Michael Knox, SJ

Whilst among the Wendat peoples, St. Jean de Brébeuf wrote with advice to young Jesuits interested in joining the mission to 'New France', and declared to them, 'love is stronger than death', suggesting that love for God, is a beautiful offering of ourselves to Him, a giving of our total being, a kind of death-to-self, that actually makes us all the more who we are. He wrote this in the mission field, amidst rising tensions, difficult living conditions, and the threat of death. But, did so, as a mark of hope and encouragement for his readers.

Our own lives, of late, amidst the COVID – 19 pandemic, might too seem to be filled with rising tensions, changed living conditions and, for some, the threat of severe illness, or even death. We are asked to remain indoors as much as possible. When we go out, some of us might have masks on. We have to be mindful of distancing ourselves from others. Many of us cannot return to work, nor can we really visit family or friends. The world we navigate has changed. Amidst these precautions, a noticeable tension is forming. Some are becoming frustrated about waiting in long lines, while others, seek out, in vain, basic items on empty store shelves. People in their vehicles seem a little more intense on the road, and many wonder how they will pay their bills. Sadly, others are sick with the COVID-19 virus, isolated in their homes, or at the hospital, facing the possibility of death.

In today's Gospel, when St. Thomas exclaims 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?', perhaps his words resonate with our inner anxiety. We might ask, 'Lord Jesus, why is this happening? What am I to do?'. The answer from Christ is clear, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life'. (John 14: 1-12) He does not offer a practical guide to being an apostle in His absence. Jesus does not offer Thomas a review of all His teachings, with possible answers to every question, He simply says, in effect, look to me, love me, follow me, and all will ultimately be well. Perhaps, for us, a loving reminder that being in union with Christ might not seem, to solve all of our immediate problems, but His way, His truth, will help us be the best of ourselves amidst this crisis.

Brébeuf tells us that love of God frees us to be who we are, it is 'as strong as death', and Jesus Himself today reminds us that, in union with Him, we will always find our way. Today we face new tensions, diminished landscapes, and sickness, but we do not face it alone, and our best roadmap in navigating these times is Christ Jesus our Way.

GARMS AUTO SERVICE

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In times such as these, as we navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our community businesses, many of whom regularly support Martyrs' Shrine in various ways, need your support more than ever.

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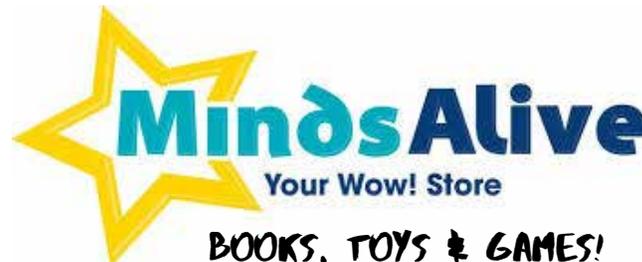
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Martyrs' Shrine is not a parish with regular financial contributors. We rely on the donations and gate fees we receive from visitors to meet our financial needs.

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