



# MARTYRS' SHRINE

## LE SANCTUAIRE DES MARTYRS

Weekly Church Bulletin | 6th Sunday of Easter | Sunday, May 17 2020

### SERVED BY JESUITS

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

### HOLY MASS

**Online Weekly**  
Every Sunday at  
[www.martyrs-shrine.com/mass](http://www.martyrs-shrine.com/mass)

### MASS INTENTIONS

This week's Mass is celebrated for:

- Angelito Mendoza+
- Michele and Don & Family
- Daniel Castaneda & the souls of Jorge and Alicia Castaneda
- Aurita Fernandes+
- Phylis Taylor+
- Beata Chojecka and Sylwester Stanczyk & family
- For the special intentions of members of the Martyrs' Shrine Association

### WEEKLY REFLECTION

#### **A Reflection on Suffering**

By Fr. Patrick Coldricks, SJ

Why is there suffering on this earth? It is a question asked since time and memorial, by Kings and beggars, saints and sinners, alike. Here at Martyrs' Shrine, we have received millions of visitors, many hopeful faces in search of deeper meaning in life, and an end to all their sufferings – on a quest for happiness. Many come here, in the light of their own sufferings, asking why the martyrs intentionally came to New France, to a land of daily hardships, and eventually suffered, by choice, such horrible deaths.

I remember once, when I was working in Mother Theresa's Ashram, Mumbai, India, I was cleaning the maggot filled wounds of an elderly man, and he, rather frustrated, asked me a similar question: 'why am I going through so much misery?'. 'After losing my wife and entire family in an accident', he continued 'I am out on the street with no one to care of me'. My simple answer to him, without hesitation, was that I felt blessed that we could serve him. Later on, I was pondered his question more and, as I did, it brought me to realise anew, in myself, that, as St. Ignatius Loyola rightly suggested, we are all called to follow Christ in a life of loving sacrifice and service. In that man's suffering, love surrounded him at the ashram – he was not alone after all – and from our conversation I was gifted with an all the more deepening desire to offer myself in service to others.

It is said, 'no pain, no gain'. Very true in many circumstances. I do believe, in fact, that suffering make us wiser and, in some cases, it teaches us, that from hard or bitter experiences, can come important human growth. Suffering, though we are not to seek it, is in fact evolutionary. Whatever the reasons for suffering in life, when offered in love to God, it can be transformed into new life. In it, we can find more reasons to live, and look beyond it to hope. Our world is fleeting, the material world passes away, trials come and go, but God, shows us through his Son, Jesus Christ, the way through death into life. This Christian witness can not only keep us sane, but gives us courage, resilience, and could even open our minds to understand what life is really all about, as we put of faith and trust in Him. The journey of life does not promise to be easy, but can be rich, even in suffering, if we look at through the loving eyes of Jesus.

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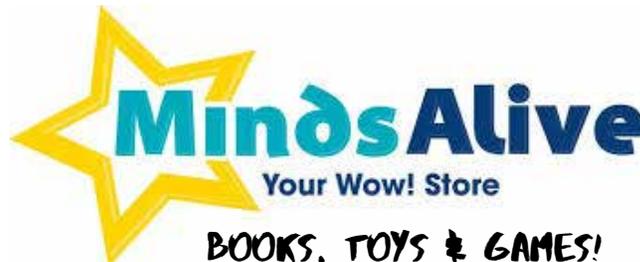
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Martyrs' Shrine is not a parish with regular financial contributors. We rely on the donations and gate fees we receive from visitors to meet our financial needs.

Please consider donating today:  
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