



MARTYRS' SHRINE

SHRINE MESSAGE

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A Message From **the Director of Martyrs' Shrine**

“As we prepare for the coming spring, I sense among the Jesuits and returning staff a spirit of gratitude for what has been, and what is to come. It is indeed our privilege to welcome you, and to serve you, and we very much look forward to journeying alongside you, walking with St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions towards a deeper union with Christ Jesus.”

‘The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He restores my soul’ (Psalm 23:1). These are words that echo so poignantly the spirit of gratitude that fills the Jesuit Fathers and staff of Martyrs’ Shrine as we reflect on the past months. Yes, months marked by continued uncertainty, amidst rising numbers of COVID-19 cases, but also by hard work, creativity, and the extraordinary generosity of benefactors, such as yourself, who have helped us continue to preserve this sacred site. In this edition of the Martyrs’ Shrine Message, you will read stories that reflect this generosity and illustrate God’s loving providence. After confirming that provincial health and safety policies necessitated our closure in 2022 to the general public,

we reached out to you online with our annual fundraising event entitled: *Love in Action*. In this documentary, Jesuits and staff candidly shared with you our struggles and grace amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and, as you will read, your response was incredible – providing for us over \$115,000.00 in much needed support. Moreover, with these donations came letters and e-mails of encouragement that mean so much to us!

As I have shared with you before, being ‘closed to the general public’ does not mean that we here are idle. Care for our Church, buildings, and grounds continue. In October, the roof of the Church of St. Joseph required repair, and thanks to a generous gift of over

\$25,000.00, this was completed in November. The roof of our Gift Shop needed replacement and, again, with the help of an anonymous benefactor who donated \$15,000.00, this was completed in January. Along with these, a hot water tank required replacement, all of our vehicles required servicing, our gardens put to bed, our aquifer water turned off for the winter, and the felling of several dead trees throughout the grounds. All of this largely undertaken by only our Caretaker and me.

All of the Fathers continue to share in the load of labours onsite praying





Masses and lighting candles for intentions you have sent us online, supporting parishes in the local community, clearing snow, organising our annual Project Santa, caring for our Magis Guest House, offering retreats, and beginning to reflect with me on how we are to open this coming May.

You will also read of an exciting new project completed this winter that brings hope and new life to Martyrs' Shrine. With the support of a benefactor interested in supporting projects that help our environment, we have built a greenhouse on the

grounds that will allow us to grow and care for our own flowers. Not only will this mean that all flowers and plants on the grounds come from our very earth, but also that we will save the expense of purchasing new ones each year.

The question that is before us this year is not if we will open, but rather how we will be open for others. Will large pilgrimage groups be permitted to gather on the grounds? Will the Church of St. Joseph be permitted to hold more than 50% of its capacity at any Mass? And, if so, what health and safety concerns must we address.

An important part of our opening is our desire to be all the more present to our Indigenous (status First Nations, Inuit and Métis) sisters and brother. A small gesture of this is our decision to provide these communities entry into Martyrs' Shrine at no cost.

As we watch, pray, and wait, we continue to work hard that our doors may open to the world once more, counting on the constant care of Christ our good shepherd. In the meantime, as we begin the Novena of St. Joseph, please count on our prayers for all of your personal intentions. St. Joseph: Pray for us.



LOVE IN ACTION: VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING



Love In Action, was a virtual fundraising event that took place on-line. This one-hour documentary covered Martyrs' Shrine's struggle, gratitude and hopes with respects to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also served as a thank-you to all those who had and those who continue to support the Shrine as we look to reopening for May 7, 2022.

Love In Action follows a journey through the experience of the Shrine team - the Jesuit fathers, staff and volunteers including the Board of Trustees as the Shrine struggled during the pandemic, saw challenges, and faced tough decisions. With God's grace, and the prayers of the martyrs, Martyrs' Shrine rose up from that experience working hard to maintain this beautiful holy and historic site.

\$115,000 Raised!
For Our Reopening

Gifts received through this event were used to support elements of the site that would facilitate a safe reopening including roof repairs to the Shrine Church and gift shop, replacement of interpretive and wayfinding signage across the property and helped to support the rebuilding our of gardens. All of these spaces serve to create spaces for the Shrine's guests to experience Christ and they walk with St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions.

Again, we sincerely thank all of our sponsors and benefactors for their overwhelming support in raising \$115,000! This generosity, and the many prayers that accompanied it, provide for us the resources and grace to welcome everyone back to Martyrs' Shrine this coming spring.

THANK YOU! to the Morneau family, H.S. St. Amant and Sons Inc., Realty Executives On The Bay Inc. Brokerage, Mrs. Joyce Hamelin, Brendain, Mr. and Mrs. Nick and Anna Migliore, and GVS Sheet Metal and Perkinsfield Rustic Furniture and Custom Kitchens for sponsoring our Love In Action virtual fundraising event.

PREPARING TO RE-OPEN ON MAY 7, 2022

The Jesuit Fathers and staff of Martyrs' Shrine have been hard at work preparing for the long-awaited reopening of the site to our community. It is a momentous occasion marking the end of a nearly two-year shutdown to the public - a first in the Shrine's long history.

Of course, this has been a busy past two years for our resident priests, staff and volunteers who have been wrestling with reshaping how our ministry operates in this new environment, but as we look towards reopening on May 7, 2022, we aim to ground ourselves back into our core services - to be a site of pilgrimage and prayer - a home open to all.

We will be introducing a new COVID-19 Policy which will provide an operational framework that will guide our reopening to be in line with that of the province of Ontario. What this means is that we are anticipating some changes to our services and procedures that may change throughout the season. It will be important that our



pilgrims and visitors respect these policies and to be patient with our staff who will be enforcing them. Martyrs' Shrine sees our community safety as a top priority and we will be doing everything we can to protect those vulnerable to sickness.

These policies may include scanning of vaccine passports at our gate, use of masks indoors or in certain outdoor settings, and special precautions during in-person attendance inside of the Church of St. Joseph. It is important that our guests review

these policies which will be outlined on our website.

With that said, we are looking forward to safely bringing our community back to this holy site in that they may pray and walk with St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions again and perhaps have an encounter with Christ.

Please also note that our gate fees will be increasing this year to help compensate for increased health and safety costs.



FREE ADMISSION FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS

The Martyrs' Shrine remains committed to supporting our indigenous sisters and brothers. Beginning this year, admission to the Shrine is complimentary for the Indigenous community (status First Nations, Métis and Inuit) during regular operating times. Proof of Status Card will be required.

THE SHRINE NURSERY: MAKING USE OF THE GIFTS FROM GOD

A new project has begun. Over the past few years, we have been looking at more and more ways to bring the Martyrs' Shrine to a point where she could be all the more self-sufficient. One avenue that we are travelling down to make this dream come true, is to be able to take what natural beauty we have been given and build upon it.

One way in which this is being brought to life is with the addition of a new four seasons nursery. In the fall of 2021, the build started. In my almost nine years of service here at Martyrs' Shrine, this was likely the most ambitious task I have taken on solo. I thought, it was a big tent, how hard could it be? I go camping every

year ... piece of cake ... six weeks later we we'll have a 20' x 48' structure.

The better an idea the harder it will be to make it happen. This is a rule of thumb for any works at the Shrine – she wants you to know how important it is.

When we see you in the 2022 season stop by the nursery. If the door is open, come in for a chat.

Evan Lamoureux,
Caretaker at the Martyrs' Shrine



WELCOME TYLER KING



Tyler King will be joining our team as our new Manager of Marketing and Communications. Tyler joins us after many years working in local government and tourism, most recently as the Economic Development Officer for the Town of Wasaga Beach where he chaired the COVID-19

Recovery Task Force and led the development of their first Economic Development Strategy as well as their Comprehensive Wayfinding Strategy and branding initiatives.

“COVID-19 has been a long and challenging battle over these past couple of years and has forced many core community institutions like the Martyrs' Shrine to shutter their doors”, says King. “As we look to a careful reopening of our province, many of these services can come back online to fulfill the needs of our communities once again.

The reopening of Martyrs' Shrine comes with great excitement as the

Shrine not only serves a massive role in supporting our local and regional economy, but it provides a deeper, more profound and personal role for the members, pilgrims and families whom this ministry serves.

We open this year with renewed focus on visitor engagement and accessibility. We are working on developing a fresh new website and elevating the branding and signage across the grounds. The aim, of course, is to make it easier for our guests to immerse themselves in the Shrine story of love and discovery and to navigate the various amenities on this Holy and historic national site.”

MESSAGE FROM MR. BRIAN BEAL, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dear Pilgrims, Friends, Benefactors and Supporters of The Martyrs' Shrine:

It gives me tremendous pleasure to write to you on behalf of the Board of Trustees of The Martyrs' Shrine. I bring their greetings, and their hopeful prayer that each of you is doing well.

We are excited as we continue with our planning for our re-opening in May 2022. It is inconceivable

that when we closed our gates in October 2019, that we would not be operational until our 2022 season. Of course, we are still in the midst of our re-opening plans, and we will have to see what our re-opening actually looks like, given provincial guidelines, but we are convinced that once again the voices, sounds, prayers, songs and footsteps of the faithful will be heard at the Shrine.

We are so thankful to the many thousands of people who helped to take care of this sacred space during our pandemic closure. Donations, prayers, acts of kindness, and hours of volunteering have helped to sustain the Jesuit Fathers during the past two years. The board is also so appreciative of the efforts of Father Michael, the Jesuit Fathers, and the staff, for their ongoing efforts to keep the spirit of the Shrine alive during this time that our gates have been

closed. We also know that the Jesuits and the staff are so anxious to unlock the gates and open the doors to the church once again, to welcome you back in person.

We ask you to check our website in the next several weeks as we finalize our plans for our re-opening. We invite you to come visit and pray with us when you are able, and we ask you to remember that you are always in the prayers of the Jesuit Fathers.

Once again, on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees of The Martyrs' Shrine, I thank you for your unwavering support of the Shrine. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Brian Beal
Chair
Board of Trustees
The Martyrs' Shrine

VISION

That all people have joined St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions in building a culture of love with Jesus Christ.

MISSION

Martyrs' Shrine offers a holy and historic space of education, spiritual conversation, and Sacrament, sharing with people, of every faith and community, the divine mystery of self-sacrificing love, witnessed in the lives of St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions, and fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

VALUES

Loving Service
Sacramental Life,
Stewardship,
Hospitality, and
Education

2022 EVENT SCHEDULE

MASS TIMES

May - October

SAT-SUN 09:00, 10:30, 12:00, 15:00, 19:30

May, June, September & October

MON-FRI 09:00, 12:00, 3:00

July & August

MON-FRI 09:00, 10:30, 12:00, 19:30

Mass is celebrated at 15:00 every Wednesday during July and August at St. Ignace II, site of the martyrdom of Sts. Brébeuf and Lalemant.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

- Outdoor Stations of the Cross
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Praying and Blessings with the Relics of the Canadian Martyrs
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Shrine Shops

SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY

Sat 07 Opening Day Mass
Sun 08 Mother's Day Blessing

JUNE

Sun 05 Blessing of Community Friendship Gardens
Sat 11 Feast of Corpus Christi Procession
Sun 19 Father's Day Blessing
Tue 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day

JULY

Fri 01 Canada Day
Sun 31 Feast Day: St. Ignatius Loyola

AUGUST

Fri 12 Memorial Mass at Caragouha
Sat 13 Polish Candlelight Procession
Sat 20 Anointing of the Sick

SEPTEMBER

Sun 18 Novena to the Canadian Martyrs
Sat 24 Feast Day: Canadian Martyrs
Sat 24 Tiawenk Fundraising Dinner

OCTOBER

Mon 10 Closing Day

PILGRIMAGES

JUNE

Sat 04 Byzantine Romanian Pilgrimage
Sat 04 Czech Walking Pilgrimage
Sun 05 Czech Pilgrimage
Sun 05 Blessed Trinity Pilgrimage
Sat 11 Vietnamese Pilgrimage
Sat 11 Slovak Walking Pilgrimage
Sun 12 Slovak Pilgrimage
Sun 12 Belarusian Pilgrimage
Sat 18 First Nation Pilgrimage
Sun 26 Italian Pilgrimage

JULY

Sat 02 Korean Pilgrimage
Sun 03 Holy Crucifixion Pilgrimage
Sat 09 Chinese Pilgrimage
Sat 09 India/Pakistan Pilgrimage
Sat 09 Syro Malabar Pilgrimage
Sat 16 Tamil Pilgrimage
Sun 17 Croatian Pilgrimage
Sat 23 Holy Family Pilgrimage
Sun 24 Sri Lankan Pilgrimage
Sat 30 Konkan Family Pilgrimage

AUGUST

Sat 06 Filipino Pilgrimage
Fri 12 Polish Biking Pilgrimage
Sat 13 Polish Walking Pilgrimage
Sat 13 Hispanic Pilgrimage
Sun 14 Polish Pilgrimage
Sat 20 St. Josephine Bakhita Pilgrimage
Sat 20 Irish Pilgrimage
Sun 21 Goan Pilgrimage

SEPTEMBER

Sun 04 Dolorosa Pilgrimage
Sun 04 Albanian Pilgrimage
Sat 10 Hungarian Pilgrimage
Sat 10 Slovenian Pilgrimage
Sat 10 Western Pastoral Pilgrimage
Sun 11 Rosary Sunday Pilgrimage
Sat 17 Lithuanian Pilgrimage

NEW ADMISSION FEES FOR 2022

Indigenous Persons	Free
Youth (Under 12)	Free
Adult (12+ years)	\$10
Parish Bus	\$200

Please see our online Event Calendar for our full updated list of events and details at:

www.martyrs-shrine.com

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