



MARTYRS' SHRINE

SHRINE MESSAGE

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

"Each of us, filled with gratitude, labour with great anticipation for the coming season. Jesuits and staff stand poised to welcome our pilgrims, to prepare spaces of prayer, celebration and renewal, and to share with all the story of St Jean de Brébeuf and his companions."

I write to you, in this, my last Director's Message, with a spirit of heartfelt thanksgiving to God. This past autumn, I was given my new mission, and I will be completing my time as director of Martyrs' Shrine amidst this coming summer season.

My thanksgiving to God is for you, all of our pilgrims, Pilgrimage Leaders, numerous pastors, the local communities around Martyrs' Shrine, the Jesuits who labour here, the

members of our Board of Trustees, and our dedicated staff. For as I look back over the past seven years, I give thanks, for all that has been achieved by this remarkable body of people – with the help of our Lord and St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions.

Over the past seven years, almost half a million people have journeyed to Martyrs' Shrine to celebrate our faith, come to know St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions, learn of some

of the earliest moments of Canada's history, and deepen their relationship with God. Many of these pilgrims led to us by dedicated lay pilgrimage leaders and pastors. Moreover, and quite remarkably, to support their journey, the Jesuits here have offered over 25000 hours of pastoral care and 18000 hours in the confessional. They have said, amongst them, 4704 scheduled masses in the Church of St. Joseph, offered, collectively, just under 300 retreats of varying kinds, some 60 parish missions in 4 different dioceses, and 14 on-site university courses. All of this whilst also providing regular pastoral support in seven different parish settings, four schools, and various health centres. All of this supported by a modest number of very gifted permanent and seasonal staff. For these I give thanks to God.

It is also thanks to you, and all whom support our mission, that amidst





these labours, we were also able to care for the infrastructure of this sacred place. Our Church of St. Joseph had its sanctuary, windows, kneelers, and outdoor statuary restored. Its fire suppression system replaced, our relics given a sacred space, and a new chapel built for pilgrims underneath it. Our stonework throughout the property was restored. Our main washroom, office, and giftshop renovated, and our septic system under the process of expansion. All of our industrial vehicles have been replaced. Our onsite cottage and loft both remodelled, to house two families whose dedicated presence provide consistent on-call care and security. A residence for the permanent Jesuit community was built, and the Magis Guest House inaugurated as a place of rest and renewal for mostly priests and religious. We have a new website. New vehicle and pedestrian signage were placed throughout the site and new maps and guide brochures

produced. A new greenhouse provides our flowers and plants for the grounds, new sprinkler systems channel our aquifer water, over 100 new trees have been planted, and most of our gardens have transitioned to perennial plants. For these I give thanks to God.

Moreover, it was between the years of 2019 and 2021 that all Jesuits and staff, in many ways, felt most keenly the magnanimous gift of God's loving care and your support. Never, in the history of Martyrs' Shrine, had it been closed for a season, and we were obliged to stay closed for two. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jesuits continued to minister with regular Mass on-line, manning a spiritual hotline, and receiving thousands of prayer requests, all the while a skeleton staff, and several volunteers, cared for the site and its administration. Closed to the public, the hearts of pilgrims opened up to

us with letters of support, prayer, and generous gifts that kept us going. For these I give thanks to God.

Most importantly, I give thanks for the privilege of witnessing so many people share in Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, seek blessing in their lives, experience moments of profound healing in body and soul, celebrate their culture, journey in prayer with our martyrs, and deepen in faith – all here in a space where, one pilgrim leader said to me, they feel 'welcome, safe, and encouraged to praise Jesus Christ'.

As I prepare for my next mission, the Society of Jesus prepares to send a new director. As we come to know who this is, we will share the happy news with you. In the meantime, once again, I thank you all for the privilege it has been to share in your prayers and pilgrimage at Martyrs' Shrine. May the Lord bless you all.

WE RISE AGAIN: FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



\$284,500 Raised!
For Our Septic System Expansion

Our fall fundraising campaign, *We Rise Again*, featured a 30-minute documentary film exploring the natural world at Martyrs' Shrine and a Mass welcoming benefactors to join us during the Feast Day of the Canadian Martyrs.

The film, which is now opened to the public on our YouTube page, takes viewers on a journey around our sacred site and what makes it so special from an ecological and spiritual point of view. It covers what we have been doing to help preserve and protect this land, the wildlife that depends on it and how our outdoor spaces create a landscape for intimate encounters with God.

The fundraising efforts in 2022 were aimed at supporting the expansion of our septic system - a critical piece of infrastructure that supports overall visitor experience

here at the Shrine and controls our waste. As Martyrs' Shrine has grown through the years in visitation, so too have the demands on this infrastructure. Our septic system, which is located underground, requires expansion to accommodate the current demand safely. Without this necessary expansion, the septic system is susceptible to failure and can lead to negative repercussions for the natural world in our area.

As custodians of our land, we must take the necessary precautions to protect what we have both for today, and for future generations of people.

It is with great joy that we can announce that we have nearly attained our fundraising goal of \$300,000 (half of the cost of the expansion project) thanks to the many sponsors and benefactors. This generosity, and the many prayers that accompanied it, provide for us the resources and grace to expand our septic system in 2023. May this help to strengthen our resolve coming out of the pandemic and allow us to serve the faithful and visitors for years to come.

A special thank you goes out to a silent benefactor whose generosity allowed us to reach our fundraising goal.

ANGEL SPONSORS

Contribution:
The Morneau Family



FORGING SPONSORS

Contribution:
Mrs. Joyce Hamelin



SUPPORTING SPONSORS



FRIENDS SPONSORS



Contribution:
Dr. Steven Frey

OUR NEW ROSARY LANE

As the psalmist looked out over God's creation he wrote: 'Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let the tree of the forest sing for joy!' (Psalm 96:12).

As we who are blessed to every day look out over the beauty of nature, at Martyrs' Shrine, and give thanks for all that God has done, our faith resonates with this proclamation. For on these sacred grounds, holy creation of God, touched by the life and death of St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions, and filled by the prayers of millions of pilgrims, it is, at times, as if every field and tree sing out praise to God.

Throughout these past years, we have wanted to share this reality with each visitor. We have come to see and experience the powerful ways in which the natural world of Martyrs' Shrine, with the Church of St. Joseph nestled at its heart, is filled with spaces where pilgrims have experienced God, spoken with Him

in prayer, and shared in both worship and family life.

Many different pilgrimage groups have noted this, and one, the Tamil Pilgrimage, has, this past autumn, very generously contributed to it. When next you visit Martyrs' Shrine, you will see a new laneway of trees planted across the Papal Fields from the Papal Altar – a space we now call Rosary Lane. Each tree, of some 70, was sponsored by a family, who have dedicated it to God for someone they love, or in memory of someone who has passed on to God, or for some private intention. In a certain sense, the prayers of different pilgrims, among the Tamil Community, have

planted these trees. And, when this Rosary Lane is not used by them, on the day of their pilgrimage, it remains, for all to use, as a place of quietude and contemplation, a place to tread, rosary in hand, asking the help of our Blessed Mother Mary, to grow ever closer to her son.

With this in mind, these trees 'sing out with joy' as those who journey through them rise up prayers to God. A beautiful gift of the Tamil community to Martyrs' Shrine for which we offer humble thanks.

Fr. Michael Knox, SJ



WELCOME BACK ALELI PAGUIO

Being in a place that you're not familiar with is kind of scary and exciting at the same time. I was a recent immigrant to Canada from my home country, the Philippines, when I got my first job at Martyrs' Shrine as the Front Office Clerk in 2019.

I am grateful to be back as a part of this organization and this family and have learned a lot during my time here. This will be my fourth season

with Martyrs' Shrine and I'm pleased to be returning as the Personal Assistant to the Director following my recent maternity leave.

Having witnessed the closure of the Shrine from the pandemic and its resurrection last year as it reopened to the public, I must say that I am looking forward to the 2023 season and beyond.



MESSAGE FROM MRS. LOUISE LEONE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dear Pilgrims and friends,

I am so pleased to be communicating with you again and to report that our first full season since COVID shut us down was a wonderful success. This is due to many reasons that I am deeply thankful for:

- Pilgrimages were back in full force and the Shrine was abuzz with loving energy.
- We filled every weekend with activities, organized inspiring outdoor masses and we warmly received visitors from across our great country.

- The new food truck, *The Big Canoe*, was an unequivocal success. Chef Jason Reynolds created many delicious dishes that appealed to both young and old, giving everyone a chance to share and give thanks for the harvest we were blessed with.
- Our gift shop this year elevated their offerings with appealing products such as soaps made from our own aquafer water and scented using our lavender and herbs.
- Our documentary, *'We Rise Again'*, was released. In it, Father Michael takes us on a 30-minute journey of our land and how the Martyrs would have discovered its beauty and gifts: water, trees, flora and animals. The extraordinary aquafer that lies beneath the grounds of the Shrine is a true blessing from God.

This year, our goal is to continue raising money for our new septic system. So far, we have raised \$284,500. Work will begin this spring.

I continue to focus on growing the Board of Membership and we are getting ready to welcome two new members in the coming months.

Finally, like all of you, I have learned that Father Michael will be moving on to the next phase of his spiritual journey in September. While I am saddened that he is leaving us, I share in his joy at this new chapter and rejoice at the fact that he will be with us for the majority of 2023. Father Michael will accompany us through the process of finding his replacement. We will always carry Father Michael's friendship in our hearts and we will look forward to news of his new experiences.

I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing many of you during the coming season.

Louise Leone
Chair of the Board of Trustees

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

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, 15:00, 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 (Confession)
- Shrine Shoppes

SPECIAL EVENTS**MAY**

Sat 06 Opening Day Mass
Sun 14 Mother's Day Blessing

JUNE

Sun 04 Blessing of Community Friendship Gardens
Sat 10 Feast of Corpus Christi Procession
Sun 18 Father's Day Blessing
Wed 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day

JULY

Sat 01 Canada Day
Mon 31 Feast Day: St. Ignatius Loyola

AUGUST

Fri 12 Memorial Mass at Caragouha
Sat 12 Polish Candlelight Procession
Sat 19 Anointing of the Sick

SEPTEMBER

Sat 09 Martyrs' Shrine Gala Dinner
Mon 18 Novena to the Canadian Martyrs
Tue 26 Feast Day: Canadian Martyrs

OCTOBER

Mon 09 Closing Day

PILGRIMAGES**JUNE**

Sat 03 Byzantine Romanian Pilgrimage
Sat 03 Czech Walking Pilgrimage
Sat 03 Slovak Walking Pilgrimage
Sun 04 Czech Pilgrimage
Sun 04 Blessed Trinity Pilgrimage
Sun 04 Slovak Pilgrimage
Sat 10 Vietnamese Pilgrimage
Sat 17 First Nations Pilgrimage
Sun 18 Belarusian Pilgrimage
Sat 24 Korean Pilgrimage

JULY

Sun 02 Holy Crucifixion Pilgrimage
Sat 08 Chinese Pilgrimage
Sat 08 India/Pakistan Pilgrimage
Sat 08 Syro Malabar Pilgrimage
Sat 08 Konkan Family Pilgrimage
Sat 15 Ukrainian School Pilgrimage
Sun 16 Croatian Pilgrimage
Sat 22 Tamil Pilgrimage
Sun 23 Sri Lankan Pilgrimage
Sat 30 Holy Family Pilgrimage

AUGUST

Sat 05 Filipino Pilgrimage
Fri 11 Polish Biking Pilgrimage
Sat 12 Polish Walking Pilgrimage
Sat 12 Hispanic Pilgrimage
Sun 13 Polish Pilgrimage
Sat 19 Irish Pilgrimage
Sun 27 Goan Pilgrimage

SEPTEMBER

Sat 02 Hungarian Pilgrimage
Sun 03 Dolorosa Pilgrimage
Sun 03 Albanian Pilgrimage
Sun 10 Rosary Sunday Pilgrimage
Sat 16 Slovenian Pilgrimage

OCTOBER

Sat 07 Ukrainian Pilgrimage

Regular Admission (12+ years) \$10
Youth & Indigenous Free

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

www.martyrs-shrine.com

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