



YEAR OF FAITH 2012  
2013

LIVING  
OUR  
*Relationship*  
WITH  
JESUS CHRIST



"I shall die here  
to save you; we  
shall see one  
another again  
in heaven!"

*St. Anthony Daniel*

# Witnesses of Love

*Living signs of Christ's  
presence in the world*

## North American Martyrs

**W**hat draws ordinary people to accept, even to desire martyrdom? October 19th is a good day to consider this question. It's the feast of the North American Martyrs who preached and ministered to the Indian people in North America. The Jesuits priests were **John de Brebeuf** (1593-1649), **Anthony Daniel** (1608-1648), **Isaac Jogues** (1607-1646), **Charles Garnier** (1606-1649), **Gabriel Lalemant** (1610-1649), and **Noel Chabanel** (1613-1649). **Jean de la Lande** (?-1646) and **Rene Goupil** (1608-1642) were their lay associates.

When they arrived in Canada, beginning in 1625, the group included a professor of literature, two surgeons, and one who had practiced law before entering the Jesuits. They came originally to minister to the French settlers and traders; but their ministry soon turned to serving

several Indian tribes, especially the Huron. The Jesuits evangelized and baptized them, founded a school for their children, and protected them from warring tribes. Then, from 1642 to 1649 these heroic Frenchmen ended their lives in martyrdom after being brutally tortured for days, some for months. Why? After baptizing a dying Indian child, John de Brebeuf answered that question: "For this one single occasion I would travel all the way from France; I would cross the great ocean to win one little soul for Our Lord!" Judging by the intensity of their lives in ministry, that evidently, was the attitude of the other seven as well. They all were canonized in 1930 and are the patron saints of Canada. A shrine to them is in Auriesville, New York.

*Sister Regina Alfonso, SND*

*"My confidence is placed in God who does not need your help for accomplishing his designs. Our single endeavor should be to give ourselves to the work and to be faithful to him, and not to spoil his work by our shortcomings."*

*Isaac Jogues*

### For Reflection

1. How passionate am I about spreading the goodness of God's Kingdom?
2. What is my attitude toward serving those who cannot help themselves?
3. What is my attitude toward dealing with other cultures?

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