



Novena to the Canadian Martyrs

Day One:

St. Isaac Jogues

God is with us Always

Hymn: Holy God We Praise Your Name (CBW631)

Greeting:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Scripture:

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Listen to me, you who know righteousness, you people who have my teaching in your hearts; do not fear the reproach of others, and do not be dismayed when they revile you. For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my deliverance will be forever, and my salvation to all generations.

~ Sirach 51:1-8

Reflection for the First Day:

Isaac Jogues came to Canada only seven months after his priestly ordination. He helped to build Ste. Marie among the Hurons. He was captured by the Iroquois on a trip from Quebec City to Ste. Marie, and was tortured and made a slave for thirteen months. Through all of this, he maintained his trust in the Lord; he eventually escaped to France with the help of some Dutch merchants. He came back to Canada and volunteered to serve as a messenger to the Iroquois, knowing the danger but trusting in God's care. He was captured and killed on October 18, 1646.

Prayer:

All: Father, you consecrated the first beginnings of the faith in North America by the preaching and martyrdom of Saints John and Isaac and their companions. By the help of their prayers may the Christian faith continue to grow throughout the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen

Ask for the Grace:

"God of love, grant me a deep confidence and trust in your care and nearness."

Novena Prayer to the Martyrs

All: Holy martyrs and patrons of Canada, protect this land which God has blessed by the shedding of your blood. Pray for us, that God may renew in these days our Catholic faith which you helped to establish in this new land, and may bring all our fellow citizens to a knowledge and love of the truth. Pray for us, that God may make us zealous in the profession of our faith so that we may continue the work which you have begun with so much labour and suffering. Pray for our homes, our schools and our missions, for vocations, for the conversion of sinners, including ourselves, for the reconciliation of those who are away from the Church for whatever the reason, and for the perseverance of all the faithful. By your prayers encourage a deeper and increasing unity among all Christians. Amen.

St. Jean de Brébeuf, pray for us
St. Isaac Jogues, pray for us
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Holy Mary, Queen of Martyrs, pray for us



Novena to the Canadian Martyrs

Day Two:

St. Charles Garnier

God is Gentle and Wants to Heal Me

Hymn: Holy God We Praise Your Name (CBW631)

Greeting:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Scripture:

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me. So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout the country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Now the elder son was in the field: and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.

~ Luke 15:11-32

Reflection for the Second Day:

Charles Garnier came to Huronia at the age of thirty-one, and served the Native People for thirteen years. On December 7, 1649, he was killed, along with the people he served, by an Iroquois raiding party. Though severely wounded, his only concern was the care of those who had been hurt among his friends. He was gentle, innocent and fearless; it is said that people were won to the faith just by looking at his face, which shone with God's desire to heal the broken with gentle love.

Prayer:

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Ask for the Grace:

"God of love, grant me a deep awareness of your eagerness to heal me and forgive me."

Novena Prayer to the Martyrs

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Novena to the Canadian Martyrs

Day Three:

St. Noel Chabanel

God leads me to Greater Freedom

Hymn: Holy God We Praise Your Name (CBW631)

Greeting:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Scripture:

For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive in the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

~ Romans 7:14-24

Reflection for the Third Day:

Noel Chabanel had been one of the most successful teachers the Jesuits had in France. There was no language he could not learn. He wanted very much to come and serve as a missionary in North America. When he arrived, however, he found that he could not learn any of the Native languages, and that he could not find any work that he was any good at. In great despair, he began to experience a deep desire to give up and return to France. He knew that in some way, God had called him to Huronia, and that the desire to return to France was a temptation. He found however, that he was powerless to prevent the temptation. After much prayer, he made a special vow to God to remain always in Huronia, to be faithful to God's call. The temptations ceased.

Prayer:

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Ask for the Grace:

"God of Mercy, grant me a deep awareness of how only you can free me to respond to our call in my life."

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Day Four:

St. Jean de la Lande

God calls me to Repentance

Hymn: Holy God We Praise Your Name (CBW631)

Greeting:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Scripture:

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them a parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

~ Luke 15: 1-7

Reflection for the Fourth Day:

Jean de la Lande was young layman who offered his services to the Jesuits of New France. He accompanied Isaac Jogues on his second trip to the Iroquois, knowing the dangers that lay ahead. His youthful honesty and courage allowed St. Jean to always face the truth of his situation, and to trust in God's love.

Prayer:

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Ask for the Grace:

"God of Mercy, grant me sorrow for my sins with a deepening awareness of your merciful love."

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Day Five:

St. Anthony Daniel

God Calls me to Conversion of Heart

Hymn: Holy God We Praise Your Name (CBW631)

Greeting:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Scripture:

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready: come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. God and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

~ Matthew 22:1-14

Reflection for the Fifth Day:

Anthony Daniel came to Canada soon after his priestly ordination, and immediately went to work on the missions. He learned the language of the Native People he served very quickly. Brébeuf wrote of him, "I never saw one more resolute to start out for Huronia even when he was told he might lose his life on the way." St. Anthony had the kind of holy zeal that comes from a life lived honestly and in God's freedom. He died when he tried to delay the Iroquois attack on his Church by standing in front of its entrance, thus giving the people of his village time to escape.

Prayer:

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Ask for the Grace:

"Compassionate God, grant me an awareness of my sinfulness that through your merciful love I may turn to you in repentance."

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Day Six:

St. René Goupil

God acts in Christ to make me Free

Hymn: Holy God We Praise Your Name (CBW631)

Greeting:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Scripture:

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean."

~ John 13: 1-9

Reflection for the Sixth Day:

René Goupil was trained in medicine, and offered his services to the Jesuit Missions in Canada. He arrived in Canada in 1640 and served French colonists and native converts in whom he saw Jesus' suffering and whom he treated with patience and charity. He was captured with Isaac Jogues in 1642 and was taken to the Mohawk country. He lived with St. Isaac among the people there, caring for them and healing them as he had always done. He was martyred for making the sign of the cross, the sign of God's healing love on a little child.

Ask for the Grace:

"Compassionate God, grant me an ever-deepening awareness of the freedom you give me in Christ Jesus."

All Pray:

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Novena to the Canadian Martyrs

Day Seven:

St. Jean de Brébeuf

Jesus Invites us to join him in Freeing Others

Hymn: *Holy God We Praise Your Name (CBW631)*

Greeting:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Scripture:

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

~ Luke 5:1-11

Reflection for the Seventh Day:

Jean de Brébeuf was the first Jesuit missionary to Huronia. He worked there for thirteen years, bringing the Good News to many people and helping to kindle the fire of God's love in their hearts. He knew how much Jesus had done for him, and his deepest desire was to be of service with Christ, to share in work, love, suffering and resurrection of Jesus, to be made "a man according to Jesus' heart." He made a vow never to refuse the offer of Martyrdom if asked to die for Christ. He was captured on March 16, 1649, tortured and killed.

Ask for the Grace:

"Jesus, let me not be deaf to your call, but alert to respond to you and join you in bringing your freedom to others."

All Pray:

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Novena to the Canadian Martyrs

Day Eight:

St. Gabriel Lalemant

God offers us strength for the Journey

Hymn: Holy God We Praise Your Name (CBW631)

Greeting:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Scripture:

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

~ Matthew 17:1-8

Reflection for the Eighth Day:

Gabriel Lalemant entered the Jesuit at a young age. He was of frail health and not very physically strong, but his deepest wish was to serve on the Canadian Missions. His superiors, anxious that he might not survive the harsh conditions, did not at first allow him to come to Canada. After many repeated requests, however, he arrived here in 1648, where in the words of Scripture, he was destined to complete a long time in a short space. He had been here only seven months when he was captured with Brébeuf. They were tortured together, but this frail and feeble man outlived St. Jean de Brébeuf by many hours.

Ask for the Grace:

"Without your grace, O God, I cannot follow Jesus along the way: Purify my heart and my mind that I may seek to serve and praise you in all things."

All Pray:

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Novena to the Canadian Martyrs

Day Nine:

Mary, Queen of the Martyrs

God offers hope for the Future

Hymn: Holy God We Praise Your Name (CBW631)

Greeting:

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Scripture:

And Mary Said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forever."

~ Luke 1: 46-55

Reflection for the Ninth Day:

Mary is the first disciple of Jesus to enjoy the fulfilment of God's promises. In her Immaculate Conception, she received the same freedom given to us in baptism. In the Assumption, she lives the fulness of Heavenly life, body and soul, which awaits all of us by God's promise. In her, as in the Martyrs, the Church enjoys communion with the Trinity in Jesus. The Jesuits of Huronia knew that Mary watched over them in a special way, and they tried to celebrate her motherly love and tenderness, honouring her by naming their residence Ste. Marie among the Hurons.

Ask for the Grace:

"Loving God, let me rejoice always in your love, let me deepen my faith in your promises, and let me live in the hope and freedom of the children of God."

All Pray:

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