



## North American Martyrs

October 19 is the feast day of Saints Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf and their companions. They were the first martyrs of North America. Isaac Jogues was first a teacher in France and then worked among the Huron Indians in Canada. He was joined by John de Brebeuf and companions. In a few years, Fr. Jogues, a Jesuit, was captured by the Iroquois and imprisoned for thirteen months. In his letters, he reveals how he and his companions were beaten and forced to watch as their converts were killed. He had the chance to escape but after some time he returned to minister to the Indians, eventually being killed by members of a tribe at war with the Hurons.

St. John de Brebeuf was a French Jesuit who came to Canada at the age of 32 and worked there for 24 years. He composed catechisms and a dictionary in the Huron language and saw 7,000 people converting to Catholicism before he died. The other Jesuits martyred were Rene Goupil, Anthony Danile, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garner, Jean de Lalande and Noel Chabanel.

Deep faith certainly was planted in North America, and from these martyrs came tremendous growth of the Church. The questions we ask today are, "Are we as eager to stand up for the cross of Christ? Do we bear witness to our faith...in our work, home, school and world?" St. Isaac Jogues wrote in his diary: "*My confidence is placed in God who does not need our help for accomplishing His designs. Our single endeavor would be to give ourselves to the work and to be faithful to Him, and not to spoil His work by our shortcomings.*" These men were canonized in 1930.

(Information on these saints came from "Saint of the Day," Leonard Foley, O.F.M., editor)

*Father David*

## Priests on Retreat

From Monday evening, October 17, through Friday afternoon, October 21, all Diocesan priests of the Joliet Diocese will be on retreat at Mundelein Seminary. Please keep all of us in your prayers during this time of prayer and reflection. We will also be remembering you in our Masses and prayers. Thank you!

*Father David*