

October 19, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

Memorial of Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Responsorial Psalm

*From the depths I call to you,
Lord, hear my cry.
Catch the sound of my voice
raised up, pleading.*

*If you record our sins,
Lord, who could survive?
But because you forgive
we stand in awe.*

*I trust in God's word,
I trust in the LORD.
More than sentries for dawn
I watch for the LORD.*

Reflection

During the 1600s, as Europeans explored and colonized the Americas, the French settled in the area around the Great Lakes and north of the St. Lawrence River. The French were more interested in trading than farming so they were not as interested in acquiring Native American agricultural land as the English and Dutch. However, like other European settlers, they took what they did want, i.e., the best hunting areas.

Early on, French Jesuit missionaries came to evangelize the Native American peoples. They began with the Hurons, who had a more settled lifestyle than other tribes. A mission center was built that included a fort, a small hospital, and a cemetery. From this center, the missionaries visited other tribes. However, because of their friendship with the Hurons, the Jesuits were hated by the Iroquois, the enemies of the Hurons. Within an eight-year period, seven lay missionaries and priests were killed. Among those who died was John De Brébeuf, the leader of the missionary team, who had worked in the area for 24 years, composing catechisms and a dictionary in the Huron language. These men were the first Christian martyrs of North America. Their shrines can be found in Midland, Ontario, and Auriesville, New York.

Today's responsorial psalm is a standard complaint or lament addressed to the LORD in time of deep-felt trouble. Perhaps this was one of the psalm prayers used by the missionaries of this memorial feast day? Amidst pain and suffering, the psalmist calls to a God who is known to be attentive and to be moved by the cry of an individual calling from the abyss of her/his despair. The human response to this Divine Presence of compassion is awe and dependence.



"File:Martyrs' Shrine Midland, Ontario.jpg" by Mykola Swarnyk is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0?ref=openverse>.

For Prayer

Thoughtfully, pray Psalm 130 out loud. Be attentive to your “depths” out of which you call to the LORD. What is holding you in darkness today? How does your “awe” of God shine light on that darkness? What does trusting in God look like for you?

Reread the Psalm out loud again. End with “thanks” and “Amen.”

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support Us Here



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



[Visit Website](#)

714-744-3172

[Join Mailing
List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by thecsd@csjorange.org