

PANEL 2

Saints Jean de Lalande, Isaac Jogues, and Réne Goupil are among eight men venerated as the first martyr-saints of North America. Among the sites dedicated to their memory in North America is the Martyr's Court at Fordham University's Rose Hill Campus in the Bronx, New York and the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs located in Auriesville, New York, 9 miles from the site of their martyrdom.

SAINT ISAAC JOGUES was born on January 10, 1607 in Orléans, France, entered the Jesuit order in 1624 and was sent as a missionary to Canada in 1636. Traveling to the Mohawk to secure a peace treaty, he was taken captive and martyred with Saint Jean de Lalande in Ossernenon (New York State) on October 18, 1646.

SAINT JEAN DE LALANDE was born in Normandy, France. He arrived in Canada as a lay missionary brother with the Jesuit Order. He accompanied Fr. Isaac Jogues on his mission to the Mohawk and was martyred in Ossernenon on October 19, 1646.

SAINT RÉNE GOUPIL was born in France on May 15, 1608 and worked as a surgeon. Unable to join the Jesuits as a novitiate because of his deafness, Goupil volunteered as a lay missionary to assist the Jesuit fathers. He arrived at the Saint-Joseph de Sillery Mission near Quebec in 1640 where he cared for the sick and wounded at the hospital.

In 1641 Réne Goupil accompanied Fr. Isaac Jogues on a mission to the Ojibwa tribe in Sault-Ste-Marie. On their return travel to Quebec, the two men were captured by the Iroquois tribe on August 3, 1642 and brought as prisoners to their village at Ossernenon. They were tortured and on September 29, 1642 Goupil was murdered by several blows of a tomahawk to his head. Before being martyred he had professed religious vows as a Jesuit lay brother to Fr. Jogues.

After Goupil's death, Fr. Jogues endured 13 months of captivity by the Iroquois during which time his hands were mutilated and he lost several fingers. Dutch Calvinists at Fort Orange in Albany arranged for his release and he fled down the Hudson River to New Amsterdam (Manhattan Island). Fr. Jogues was the first Catholic priest to visit Manhattan Island. His written description of the colony is part of the documentary history of New York City. With Dutch aid, Fr. Jogues returned to France, landing on the coast of Brittany on Christmas morning 1643.

In 1644, Fr. Jogues returned to Canada and was sent to negotiate a peace treaty with his captors, the Iroquois tribe, in 1646. On September 27 he began his third and last journey to the Mohawk. Among the forty members of his mission was the lay Jesuit brother, Jean de Lalande. The Indians considered the Jesuits sorcerers and blamed them for a blight on their crops and a sickness that broken out in their lands. Lalande remained with Fr. Jogues after the others in their party had fled. The two men were captured and taken prisoner to the Mohawk village of Ossernenon.

On October 18, 1646, Jean de Lalande was struck with a tomahawk and afterwards decapitated. The following day, October 19, Jean de Lalande was also murdered.

Réne Goupil is venerated as the first Jesuit martyr of Canada and one of three martyrs of the present United States territory.

Eight North American Martyrs were canonized by Pope Pius XI on June 29, 1930

Symbols: the saints are shown with the tomahawk of their martyrdom; Fr. Isaac Jogues wears a Jesuit habit

Patron Saint: Réne Goupil is the patron saint of anesthetists and anesthesiologists

Feast Day of the collective eight North American Martyrs celebrated on October 19