

Martyrdom of Brébeuf and Lalemant—Martyrs' Shrine, Midland, Ontario.



The Shrine of Martyrs erected near Midland, Ontario, commemorates the death of eight heroic Jesuit missionaries in 1648 and 1649. Fathers Brébeuf and Lalemant were captured by Iroquois Indians at St. Louis, a few miles south, on March 17, 1649. Brébeuf, a giant in stature was bound to a stake and scorched from head to foot. His lower lip was cut away, and a heated iron thrust down his throat. A collar of red hot hatchets was hung around his neck, and in travesty of the rite of baptism, kettles of boiling water were poured over his head. When he did not flinch, the Iroquois cut strips of flesh from his limbs, tore out his heart, devoured it, and drank his blood. Lalemant, physically unable to manifest the same fortitude, was flung half roasted into confinement, tortured a whole night, and finally killed. Their bodies were taken to Fort St. Marie and buried.—(Drawing copyright by C. W. Jefferys).