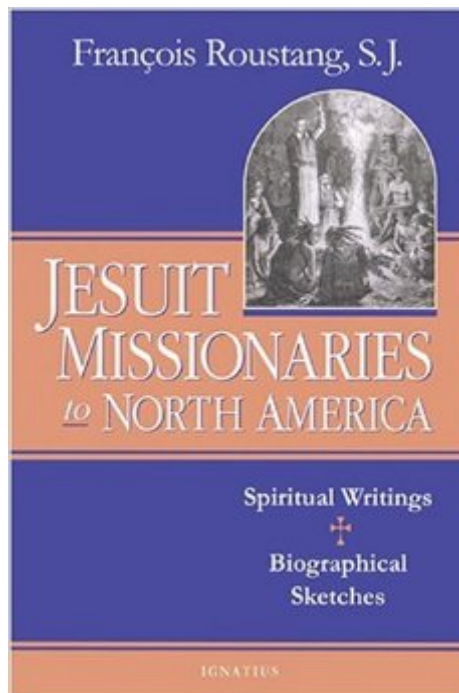


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The Jesuit Missionaries To North America: Spiritual Writings And Biographical Sketches



Synopsis

The story of the early Jesuit missionaries who arrived in North America between 1632 and 1637 is a remarkable by all accounts. For twenty long years, they toiled alone and unaided in the vast, wild regions of eastern Canada, bearing the hardships of a harsh climate, scarcity of food and inadequate lodging, as well as the constant menace of those inhabitants they had come to evangelize. Nevertheless, they worked and prayed unceasingly and bore all these hardships for the love of Christ and the salvation of souls, being filled with joy at the opportunity to suffer and bear fruit for our Lord.

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Customer Reviews

In 2014, I visited a friend who lived in upstate New York, and he took me to the shrine of the North American Martyrs in Amsterdam, New York. I didn't know much about who the North American Martyrs were. We walked down a trail which had excerpts on posted signs from the diary of Saint Isaac Jogues. These entries recounted the martyrdom of his companion Rene Goupil. I was struck to my core as I read the following: "One of the two young Iroquois then drew a hatchet that he had concealed under his blanket and struck Rene, who was in front of him. He fell motionless, his face to the ground, pronouncing the holy name of Jesus (We had often admonished each other to let his holy name end our voices and our lives.)" Even as I write this, I cannot help the tears swelling in my eyes. What a marvelous and glorious way to die! As soon as I read this, I knew I had to read more about the lives and mission of these brave and courageous men. BTW, it is related in the book that

the reason Goupil was struck three times in the back of the head with a hatchet is because earlier that day he had made the sin of the cross. Let that be a lesson to all of us who may be embarrassed or ashamed to make the sin of the cross before meals in public. Goupil received three tomahawks in the back of the head for it, and we are afraid that someone might snicker at us? This book under review contains many passages from the diaries and writings of the North American Martyrs- Paul LeJeune, Jean deBrebeuf. Isaac Jogues, Charles Garnier, and others. They were Jesuit missionaries sent to evangelize and preach to the Native Americans, roughly from 1630-1660.

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