

September 26, 2018

Readings: no. 662, p. 1842 1st Reading: Revelation 7.9-17 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 4.7-15

Gospel: Luke 9.23-26

**ST. JOHN DE BRÉBEUF and ST. ISAAC JOGUES and Companions**

St Damien and St Cosmos

Along the shores of Lake Huron is a historic site, dedicated to our Canadian Martyrs. Near this location holy men and women, shed their blood, with bringing the Gospel to pristine places. St Jean Brebreuf, St Isaac Jogues, and others, like The Twelve, faithfully preached and ministered, far from the familiar surroundings of colonial Europe. Just some of the conditions, I suppose, of discipleship! As the Church was born in the blood of Christ, Canada's Indigenous People welcomed Christianity great greatest mark of discipleship. Far from being a tragedy, martyrdom, for the sake of Christ, align generations and nations, bringing glory to God. St Kateri and so many other Indigenous People's of Canada continue faithful devotion to the teachings of Jesus

The Baptized sense the urgency with which Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations. Some joyfully embrace that call, while others struggle under the weight of a daily cross. Illness, Marriage breakdown, under and unemployment, and family problems leave no one without a cross to carry. Still, we are bound to our faith and God's promise through all circumstances that come our way.

The demands of daily Christian living can and do overwhelm at times. But what does it profit anyone to be acclaimed by the world only to forfeit eternal life? This is the big question humankind has pondered from time immemorial. Is there reason to imagine that we might live forever fully aware we are in the presence of God? Nothing answers this question but Jesus the Christ of Nazareth who gave his life to show us the way to eternal life. If you believe the truth of that event it becomes possible to imagine we too as beloved children of God may expect the same. Not an easy request until you get to know Jesus intimately at the cross where He shed his blood that we might live forever.

Amen