

EARLY JESUIT / LAY COLLABORATION STORY OF TWO MARTYRS

As members of Christian Life Community (CLC), we enjoy a long history of collaboration with the Society of Jesus. Inspired and guided by Ignatian Spirituality, we desire to be companions of Jesus in this world.

Laypersons and the Jesuits first worked together in Canada at Sainte-Marie-among-the Hurons. The mission was founded in 1639 by French Jesuits, Frs Jerome Lalemand and Jean de Brebeuf close to where Midland, Ontario is now located

The site was ideal, sitting, as it did, on the Wye River, which flows into The Georgian Bay. The Wye acted as an artery, bringing supplies, weapons, and news to the mission. Verdant, well treed, and close to the water, the mission location was ideal. Among the priests, devoted laymen served at the mission, working alongside the Jesuits in their mission to bring the Gospel to all peoples as small communities do today all over the world.



Tent covered with bark

Two of these laypersons, forerunners in a way, of today's CLCers, stood side by side with the Jesuits when conflict arose between some native tribes and the priests.

Sadly, the Mission was subject to devastating attacks by the Iriqous, who

were spurred by many factors, including the outbreak of small pox.

The priests and two lay people who fell during this period are known as The Canadian Martyrs. The priests were: Frs. Anthony Daniel, John de Brebeuf, Charles Garnier, Noel Chabanel, Gabriel Lalemant and Isaac Joques. The two laypeople were Rene Goupil and [John de Laland](#).

Rene Goupil entered the Jesuit noviate in Paris but was forced to leave because of deafness and poor health. His heart continued to call him to mission and, after becoming a surgeon, we went to work with the Jesuits in Quebec. In 1640, he became a lay assistant at Saine Marie among the Huron Mission. In 1642, he was captured by Iriqous and tomahawked to death.

Goupil's legacy is one of healing and care. His personal mission was to serve both French and Indian patients at the settlement with love and kindness. His martyrdom exemplifies his commitment to the Jesuit Mission of spreading the Gospel, regardless of personal danger.

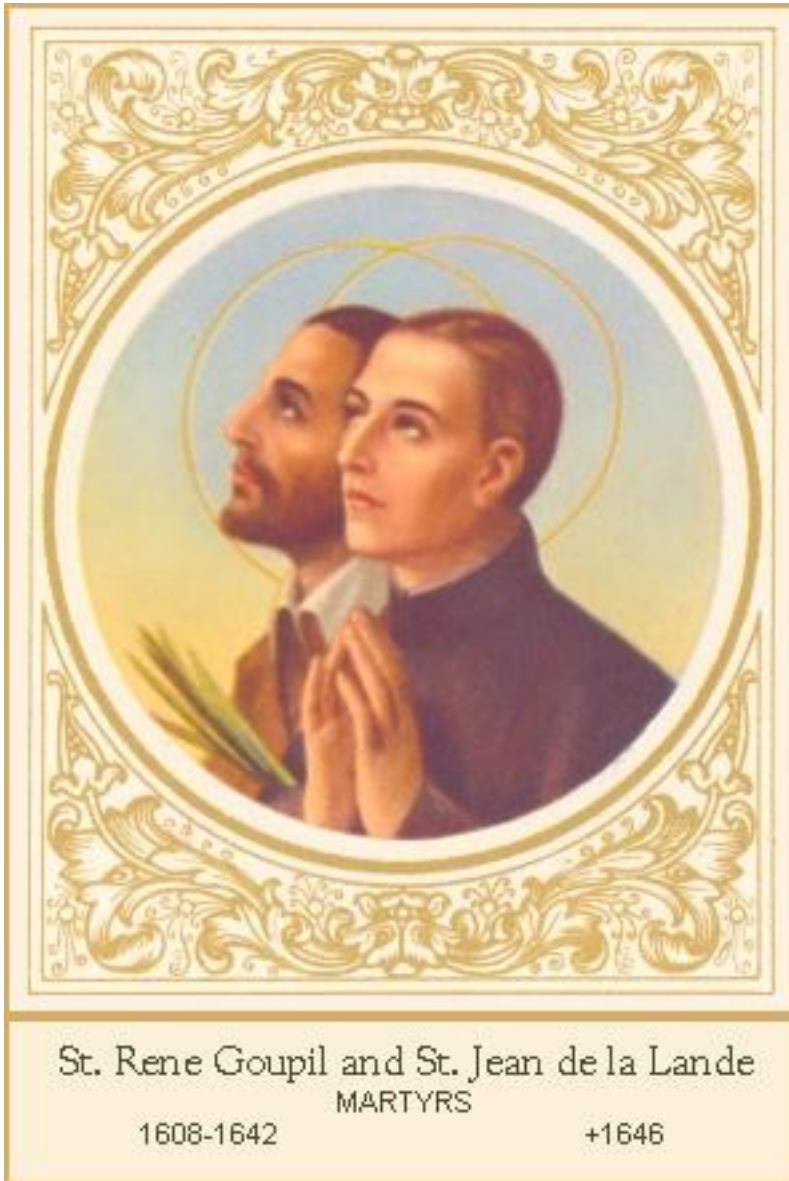
John De Laland was born in Dieppe. Like Goupil, he was a *donne*, that is, he was not bound to the Society of Jesus by religious vows but by a contract by which he placed himself in service to the missionaries in exchange for food, shelter and medical care.

In 1646, the Superior sent two people to the Iriqous Country as peace ambassadors. Fr. Ignace Jagues and De Laland set out with a few Hurons. The latter group soon turned back, leaving the two Frenchman on their own with only one Huron. The Iriqous treated them as enemies and killed them.

In 2013, General Council of Canada CLC gathered at the reconstructed site of Saine Marie among the Hurons for its annual face-to-face meeting. We toured the re-built mission; a historical as well as religious spot, heard Mass in the splendid church and walked where Pope Paul XX11 did in 1984. All of us felt the Spirit moving in our hearts. Many of us felt a re-commitment to our calling as CLC.

For me, I left with a wondrous sense of identity as a member of CLC. Our history is so rich. The example of Goupil and De Laland made me wonder what I am willing to give up for the Gospel; I have not been called to martyrdom, for which I think I am ill-suited, but I am challenged to lay aside

my ego, live with a deep awareness of how my lifestyle affects the third world and to walk gently on this beautiful planet.



Submitted by Pat Bremnar, Rockies Regional Representative