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# 600 INDIANS JOIN IN HISTORIC PILGRIMAGE

## FOUR BISHOPS, FIFTY MISSIONARIES IN ATTENDANCE

OTTAWA — The last week in June marked the most widespread pilgrimage of North American Indians ever to take place, as some 600 Indians, representing 20 of the 25 tribes in the country, made their way to Cap de la Madeleine and solemnly consecrated themselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It was their Marian Year gesture.

Once, when the white man was new to America, these Indians' forefathers had been slow to accept the religion of the white man.

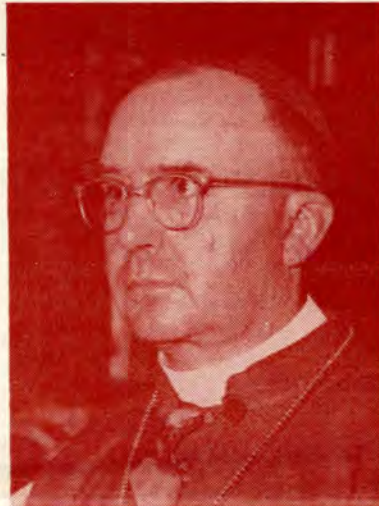
### Own native priests

Now, to pray at the Shrine of the Canadian Martyrs at Midland, en route, and to render a Christian homage to Mary, at Cap de la Madeleine, the Indians came, their native priests and nuns with them.

They also visited the Shrines of Ste. Anne de Beaupré, of St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal and of Kateri Tekakwitha; they were the guests of the Oka, Lorette and Caughnawaga Indians during their stay in Eastern Canada.

Near the Shrine at Cap de la Madeleine, they pitched camp in a city of 130 tents, colorfully surrounded by a palisade, as in days of long ago.

(Continued p. 2, col. 2)



His Excellency Bishop H. Routhier, O.M.I., President of the Oblate Indian and Eskimo Welfare Commission.

(Photo Prisma, No. 3056)

### League Established for the Indians of Canada

Cap de la Madeleine, P.Q. — On the occasion of the first gathering of all the representatives of Catholic Indians of Canada, from coast to coast, the "Catholic Indian League of Canada" has been established here, on Sunday, June 27th.

The purpose of the League is to promote Catholic action among the Indian peoples of Canada; to co-ordinate and to extend the work of the already existing organizations; to promote in every possible way to social and economic rehabilitation of the Indians, and, finally to help the High School graduates.

The League was established and approved of unanimously by the Indian delegates, at a special meeting held at the close of the pilgrimage at Cap de la Madeleine, presided over by His Exc. Bishop H. Routhier, O.M.I., President of the Oblate Fathers' Indian and Eskimo Welfare Commission.

The foundation of this league fulfils a long-standing need; as training is given in Catholic action in most every residential school, it is desirable that the

training in leadership initiated in the school should be continued on the reservations.

The secretary of the Indian and Eskimo Welfare Commission plans to publish a special bulletin to serve as link between the various local organizations. A second step will be the federation of local groups in regional or provincial sections and, later, a national federation is to be established.

Watch for our next issue,  
October 15th!

Lack of space prevents us to publish other news in this issue. The next issue of the Indian M. Record will publish a digest of the current events of the three summer months.



June 26, 1954 is a historical date for the Indians of Canada, as nearly six hundred pilgrims from all Provinces and Territories met in a pilgrimage at Our Lady's Shrine of Cap de la Madeleine, P.Q. Shown here, center: Rev. Fr. G. Laviolette, O.M.I., Director of National Pilgrimage; to his right: Chief Poking Fire, of Caughnawaga; a group of delegates from Oka, St. Regis, Caughnawaga, Lorette and Bersimis, P.Q.

(Photo Lanouette, No. 4)

# INDIAN RECORD



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## Words of Gratitude

On behalf of the 600 Indian pilgrims, and of the missionaries who accompanied them, the Director of the Indian Pilgrimage wishes to express his heartfelt thanks for the many courtesies extended to the pilgrims during their week-long stay in Eastern Canada.

The Director of the pilgrimage cannot express adequately his deep gratitude for the splendid co-operation he has received from all parts of the country in the organization of the pilgrimage.

Without the active support and the constant encouragement given to him by Their Excellencies the Vicars Apostolic and the Provincials of the Oblate missions, as well as from the Superiors of the Jesuit, Montfortains, Franciscans, as well as Sulpician Indian missions, the plan to initiate the Marian Year devotion at Cap de la Madeleine through the organization of a National pilgrimage for the first inhabitants of Canada to Our Lady's Shrine, could never have been realized.

Thanks first of all to the Directors and personnel of the Shrine of Our Lady at Cap de la Madeleine, where the Indians were guests during four days. Thanks also to the Directors of the Canadian Martyrs' Shrine, Ste. Anne de Beaupré and St. Joseph Oratory.

Thanks to the Oka, Lorette Hurons and Caughnawaga Iroquois for their very gracious hospitality; a special thank you to Msgr. J. A. Chapleau, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, and parish priest of St. Vincent de Paul in North Bay, for the hospitality extended during several days to the James Bay pilgrims.

Our very special and sincere thanks to the Right Honorable Louis St. Laurent, Prime-Minister of Canada who, notwithstanding a very heavy schedule, received the pilgrims personally in the House of Parliament. Thanks also to the Honorable Walter Harris, to MMssrs. Laval Fortier, H. M. Jones, and other officials of the Indian Affairs Branch, as well as to the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada, and to the staff of the National Museum, for their great kindness and attentions given to the pilgrims.

A word of gratitude to the representatives of the major dailies of the Canadian Press, of other national and international News Agencies, to CBC-TV, and to Time Magazine, for their splendid reports.

A word of thanks to the transportation companies, especially the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Colonial Coach Lines; our gratitude to the staff of the Sacred-Heart retreat house in Hull, P.Q. and of the Juniorate in Ottawa, for having received the Western pilgrims who spent there the first and last nights in Eastern Canada.

On behalf of all the pilgrims, and of those who shared in its organization and realization, we offer our most reverent, devoted and loving expression of gratitude and of filial love to Mary, the Immaculate Virgin, Protectress of the Missions, and Queen of all Canada.

G.L., O.M.I.

**ATTENTION!** We ask our correspondents to send in their news reports for the October issue, no later than September 25th. Thank you.



Rev. Fr. P. Mercredi, O.M.I., a native priest from Fort Chipewyan, leads his people in song and prayer at Cap de la Madeleine. He also preached an eloquent sermon at the Pontifical High Mass on June 26th.

(Photo Lanouette, No. 5)

## 600 JOIN IN HISTORIC...

(Continued from page 1)

When Canada was fighting to be born, there, Indians chanted their pagan war songs.

### From Western Canada

Some 200 pilgrims, coming from the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, arrived in North Bay, June 24th, in C.P.R. sleeping cars. Accompanying them, were V. Rev. Fr. P. Piché, O.M.I., Provincial of Manitoba Province, native priests, Fr. Pat. Mercredi, and Nap. Laferté, O.M.I., native lay brother Sanderson, O.M.I., of the N.W.T., four native nuns as well as numerous other missionaries.

Meanwhile, in North Bay, some forty pilgrims had arrived from the eastern and western shores of James Bay. They were under the direction of Father V. Bilodeau, O.M.I.; among these pilgrims were four native Grey Nuns: Sisters Marie Stella, Immaculata, Catherine and Louis Martin.

With them was a representative of the Eskimo race, Mrs. Jenny Witaltuk.

The James Bay pilgrims had come by boat and plane to Moosonee, thence by train as far as North Bay. There they were the guests of the St. Vincent-de-Paul Parish for two days.

They attended Mass daily and had special evening devotions. On June 24th, all the pilgrims from Western Canada and from James Bay, boarded a fleet of five chartered buses, and proceeded to Midland, Ontario.

### Canadian Martyrs' Shrine

Arriving there about noon, they paid tribute to the Canadian Martyrs at the Midland Shrine; after benediction of the Blessed Sacra-

## Oldest and Youngest Pilgrims

NORTH BAY, Ont.—The oldest Indian pilgrim to Cap de la Madeleine was Willy Etherington, 78, the youngest, Maurice Carpenter, aged 8 months.

ment, they venerated their relics. Then they visited the ruins of historic Fort Ste. Marie.

By mid-afternoon they proceeded through the picturesque farmlands of central Ontario, arriving in Ottawa about 11.00 p.m.

### Our Lady's Shrine, Eastview

When Father N. Laferté, O.M.I., of Fort MacMurray, Alberta, blessed the pilgrims at the end of the Mass which he had celebrated at Our Lady's Grotto in Eastview, all the Western pilgrims felt a legitimate pride.

By then the group had swelled to 250, with the arrival of pilgrims who came by car from Manitoba and from Western Ontario, as well as a few delegates from central Ontario.

They were received at the Eastview Shrine by Father X. Lauzon, s.m.m., who recalled his missionary work among the Indians of British Columbia.

Prayers and hymns in Indian languages were sung during Father Laferté's Mass; he was served by two Indian Boy Scouts.

The sermon was given by Rev. G. Laviolette, O.M.I., Director of the National Pilgrimage, who emphasized the deep meaning of this first official pilgrimage of the Indians of Canada at a Marian Shrine. During Mass many missionaries heard confessions and most pilgrims received communion.

Then they boarded their buses and visited the city, arriving on Parliament Hill shortly before eleven.

### Received by the Premier

They first visited the Supreme Court Building, where they were received by the Registrar Paul Leduc, Q.C., who explained at length the functions of the Supreme Court to his guests.

The Indians then proceeded to the main entrance of the Parliament Building, and were ushered in the Railway Committee room, where Father Laviolette presented

(Continued on p. 3, col. 1)

## Third Centenary of the Huron Mission on the Island of Orleans

QUEBEC — His Exc. Archbishop Maurice Roy, of Quebec, presided on Monday, June 28th, at the celebration held both in the Parish of St. Petronille, on the Island of Orleans, where he assisted at a High Mass, and, in the evening, at the pageant presented by the Huron Indians of Lorette, near Quebec city.

The Lorette Hurons were the hosts of some 500 other Indians who had come from various parts of Canada for the Marian Year Pilgrimage to Cap de la Madeleine.

On this occasion Archbishop Roy made the crossing to the island in a birchbark canoe, accompanied by Hurons, thus repeating the trip which was made 300 years ago by one of his predecessors, the first Catholic Bishop of Canada, Mgr François de Montmorency Laval.

He was accompanied by Chief Tahourenche (Alphonse T. Picard), and escorted by eight canoes filled with Indians in their native costumes.

High Mass was celebrated on the very spot of the former mission of Ste. Marie; hymns were sung in Huron by the choir. Attending this Mass we noticed Sister Jennie Shirt, of Saddle Lake, Alberta, who is a novice with the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood near Quebec.

### Pageant

In the evening all the Indian pilgrims were the guests of the Hurons, and after having prayed at the Lorette Indian Church, they gathered in the vast arena where the pageant was to be held, presided over by His Excellency Archbishop Roy.

Chief Picard pronounced a welcome speech; then singers and dancers, in their national costumes, sang and danced reviving old legends and the traditional entertainment of former days.

Their allies, as well as their enemies of yesterday, were all present, and their spokesmen expressed their appreciation to Father A. Pouliot, S.J., who organized the third centenary celebrations with the Indian chief, for graciously arranging these celebrations to coincide with the National Indian Pilgrimage.

(See photo below).



Among the hundreds of Indians who attended Archbishop Roy's Mass on June 28th, on the Island of Orleans, we note Sister Jenny Shirt, of Saddle Lake, Alberta.

(Photo Lanouette, No. 14)

### 600 JOIN ...

(Continued from p. 2)

to them the Right Honorable Louis St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada. Mr. St. Laurent was accompanied by Citizenship and Immigration Minister Walter Harris, Deputy Minister Laval Fortier, Indian Affairs Director Colonel H. M. Jones, and other officials including MMssrs. Davey, Brown, D'Astous, division chiefs in the Indian Affairs Branch.

The Prime Minister addressed the Indians in English and in French, calling them "my dear co-citizens, descendants of the most ancient Canadians." Mr. St. Laurent emphasized the Canadian status of the Indian, as a citizen; he praised the work of the missionaries and asked the Indian pilgrims to pray for the successful fulfilment of his high duties, during their pilgrimage.

Mr. Harris said he was honored by his functions of Minister and General Superintendent of Indian Affairs. He explained how his Department endeavoured to work for the greater good of all the Indians of Canada; he begged the pilgrims to keep their faith in the Canadian Government. Having pledged that the Government wishes to respect all the rights of the Indians, Mr. Harris invited them to co-operate with the Government in implementing the new Indian Act; having spoken also in French, he made a few remarks on the work of his Department for the Indians, specially in the educational and welfare fields.

Upon their arrival at the Parliament, the Indian visitors were able to attend a session of the House of Commons. They later visited the Senate Room, the library, and other parts of the Buildings.

The pilgrims were quite impressed by their visit to the Parliament; they will always remember the words of the Premier urging them to remember all Canada and all the world in their prayers, "so that men of good



Four native nuns of the Congregation of the Grey Nuns of Ottawa came from James Bay to attend the pilgrimage. They are Sisters Marie Stella, Immaculata, Catherine and Louis Martin. They are shown here with Father Baril, O.M.I., of Moosonee, Ontario, and Chief Poking Fire.

(Photo Prisma, No. 3039)

will everywhere will achieve peace and the accomplishment of the will of their Divine Father on earth."

They will also recall Minister Harris' message: "I ask you to remember that Canada's future, for Indian and whites alike, rests largely of three principles: upon a devout and Christian attitude toward life, observance of law, and the close family ties."

### Reception at Oka

On their way from Ottawa to Cap de la Madeleine, the Western pilgrims stopped at the Oka Indian Village, where they were received officially by the Mayor, Mr. Ernest Cree and his wife Mrs. Cree. Father Hector Nadeau, p.s.s., Parish priest of Oka, also welcomed the pilgrims.

The members of the Reserve prepared lunch for the pilgrims in the Parish Hall.

Around 5.30 p.m., the pilgrims left for Cap de la Madeleine, where they arrived at 8.00 p.m.

### Official Welcome at Cap de la Madeleine

During the day hundreds of Eastern Indians had already arrived from the Quebec reservations of Weymontaching, Maniwaki, Betsiamits, Sept-Iles, Pointe-Bleue, Caughnawaga, and Maliseet, N.B. When the Western pilgrims moved in to Cap de la Madeleine, their ranks were swelled to nearly 500.

They were welcomed by the Superior of the Shrine, Father H. Barabé, O.M.I., who praised the pilgrims for having answered in such great numbers the invitation extended to them on behalf of Our Blessed Mother.

### Pontifical High Mass

By Saturday morning, June 26th, the number of Indian pilgrims was higher than 600, with the arrival of 40 Mohawks from St. Regis, P.Q. and N.Y., with Father M. Jacobs, S.J., 30 more Iroquois

from Caughnawaga and 60 Hurons from Lorette, P.Q. with Father A. Pouliot, S.J.

In Ste. Madeleine's Oratory at the Shrine, 50 missionaries and five Bishops: M. Lajeunesse, O.M.I., H. Routhier, O.M.I., H. Belleau, O.M.I., G. L. Pelletier, Bishop of Three-Rivers, and E. Mabathoana, O.M.I., of Leribe, Basutoland, S. Africa. The Oratory of Ste. Madeleine, where the Mass was sung, offered an unusual spectacle as the Indians from Caughnawaga and Lorette were wearing their full tribal regalia.

His Exc. Bishop Martin Lajeunesse, O.M.I., former Vicar Apostolic of Keewatin, celebrated the Pontifical High Mass. Bishop Pelletier assisted at the throne; at the end of the Mass, he thanked the Indians in the name of Our Lady, "for their gesture of faith and

(Continued on p. 4, col. 1)



V. R. Father F. O'Grady, O.M.I., Provincial of the English Oblates of Canada, read and commented the Act of Consecration to Our Lady, the evening of the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, June 26th, Cap de la Madeleine.



PREMIER PELERINAGE NATIONAL DES INDIENS DU CANADA A NOTRE-DAME DU CAP, 26 JUIN 1954 - FIRST NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE OF THE INDIANS OF CANADA AT CAP DE LA MADELEINE, JUNE 26, 1954

Here are several hundred Indians with the missionaries who accompanied them, at the close of the Pontifical High Mass celebrated June 26th, at Cap de la Madeleine.

We note in the first row: V. Rev. Fr. Paul Piché, O.M.I., of Manitoba; at right: Chief Poking Fire, of Caughnawaga; Their Excellencies Bishops H. Routhier, O.M.I. (Grouard, Alberta), M. Lajeunesse, O.M.I., who cele-

brated the High Mass, G. L. Pelletier, of Trois-Rivières, H. Belleau, O.M.I., of Moosonee, Ont., and E. Mabathoana, of Leribe, Basutoland, S.A.; V. Rev. Fr. A. Sanschagrin, Montreal; Chiefs Alphonse Picard and Eugène Sioui of Lorette, P.Q.; Fr. M. Jacobs, S.J., of St. Regis; Miss Esther Kane of Caughnawaga and Fr. G. Laviolette, Director of the National Pilgrimage.

On voit ici un grand nombre d'Indiens et les missionnaires qui les accompagnaient à l'issue de la Messe Pontificale célébrée le 26 juin au Cap.

A l'avant plan on remarque le T.R.P. Paul Piché, O.M.I., Provincial des Oblats du Manitoba; vers la droite, le chef Poking Fire, de Caughnawaga; Leurs Exc. Nos Seigneurs H. Routhier, O.M.I., de Grouard, M. Lajeunesse, O.M.I., ex-Vicaire Apostolique du Keewatin et célébrant de la Messe; G. L.

Pelletier, de Trois-Rivières, H. Belleau, O.M.I., de la Baie James, E. Mabathoana, évêque Oblat noir de Leribe, Basutoland; le R.P. A. Sanschagrin, Provincial des Oblats de l'Est; les Chefs Alphonse Picard et Eugène Sioui, du Village-Huron; le R.P. Jacobs, Jésuite Iroquois de St-Régis; E. Kane, de la chorale iroquoise de Caughnawaga, et le R.P. G. Laviolette, O.M.I., organisateur du pèlerinage national.

(Photo George Héroux)

**600 JOIN...**

love, made so heartily and at the cost of such great sacrifices"; he also testified to the success of this first National Indian Pilgrimage.

The mixed choir of the Caughnawaga reservation, under the direction of Rev. Father J. Bruyère, S.J., sang remarkably well, a Mass in 4 parts; a great number of pilgrims used to the smaller choirs, and to the reed organ of their humble mission churches, were quite impressed.

**Sermons in four languages**

Sermons were preached in French, English, Iroquois and Cree.

Speaking in French first, then in English, Bishop Routhier said that "his dear Indians" felt deeply, for the first time in history, a communion of blood among the different tribes. "It is for the first time, said he, that one can feel the heart of the Indians so united in Mary's love."

Taking his illustrations from nature, which is so well known to the Indians, Bishop Routhier explained how the Blessed Virgin is still more beautiful than the lakes, the forests, the snows of the Rockies, the noblest animals, the greatest men and the most dignified women, more beautiful than the supernatural beauty which is admired in the lives of the saints and of the great missionaries.

"It is to honor this beautiful Queen", continued Bishop Routhier, "that you have come in a National Pilgrimage, you have come to ask Her to shed upon your peoples graces of conversion and to beg of Her that the light of Catholic faith may shine on your forest, your reserves and the whole country."

Bishop Routhier then recalled that it was to an Indian, Juan

Diego, of Guadalupe, Mexico, that the Virgin appeared for the first time in America.

He also recalled that since the colonization of Canada, missionaries had taught the love of Mary and had dedicated to Her a great number of Churches.

He ended his sermon by stating that the Indians should pray their Blessed Mother to help them cooperate with the whites in this

country, so that they may adapt themselves to a new way of life, where there is no longer wild fur and game, accepting generously the transition wherever it is necessary. Stating that more than 52% of the Indians of Canada are Catholics, he invited the pilgrims to exercise their apostleship among their brethren who are non-Catholics.

**Father M. Jacobs**

Then Father M. Jacobs, S.J., of St. Regis, P.Q., gave an impressive sermon in the Iroquois tongue; he was followed by Rev. Father Pat. Mercredi, O.M.I., of McMurray, Alberta, who preached eloquently in Cree.

Assisting Bishop Lajeunesse, at the Pontifical High Mass were Rev. Fathers M. Dutil, O.M.I., J. M. Houle, O.M.I., of Sanmaur, and

A. Giard, O.M.I., of The Pas, Manitoba. Bishop Pelletier was assisted at the throne by V. R. Fr. Sanschagrin, O.M.I., and V. R. Fr. Paul Piché, O.M.I.

**Holy Father's Blessing**

At the close of the Mass, Fr. G. Laviolette, O.M.I., read a cable received from the Vatican, bringing to the Indian pilgrims and to their missionaries the paternal

blessing of the Holy Father. **Missionary Association Meets**

At 3.30 p.m. in Ste. Madeleine Parish Hall, the pilgrims met with the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate. Father L. P. Pelletier, Director of the Association, addressed the Indians and the hundreds of white members of the association who had chosen the Indian pilgrimage day for their own pilgrimage to Cap de la Madeleine. These white Associates came from Ottawa, Hull, Montreal, Quebec and other points in the East.

Father Pelletier told them that they were seeing the missionaries from Western Canada and also the Indians who had been evangelized by them. Having welcomed the Indian pilgrims, he pledged himself to help the Western missions in all his power.

On behalf of the Indian members of the Association from Western Canada, Father Paul Piché recalled the work of the Association

among the Indians of the Prairie Provinces. He promised the Associates of Eastern Canada that their prayers and sacrifices were deeply appreciated.

Chief William Bruyère, of Fort Alexander, Man., an Indian leader in the Association, expressed his happiness at being at Cap de la Madeleine and thanked the Associates, and the missionaries for their devotedness.

Later in the afternoon, His Exc. Bishop Belleau, celebrated a low Mass at the Shrine, at which all the Indian pilgrims attended. The sermon was given by V. R. Father A. Sanschagrin, O.M.I., Provincial who stressed the missionary work performed in Western Canada.

**Consecration of the Indian Tribes to Our Lady**

At 7.30 p.m., the Indian pilgrims, led by Chief Poking Fire of Caughnawaga, and other Chiefs in tribal regalia, followed in procession, a float of Kateri Tekakwitha, recited

(Concluded on page 6)



The tent city which was set up at Cap de la Madeleine for a four day stay of the Indian pilgrims comprised 130 tents. A wooden palisade was erected as a remembrance of the old days; the statue of Mary stands

over the main gate, while at each end bastion, the Canadian flag and the Pontifical flag were unfurled.

(Photo Lanouette, No. 7)

**POPE'S BENEDICTION**

CITTA DEL VATICANO, JUNE 23, 1954.

"ON OCCASION MARIAN YEAR INDIAN PILGRIMAGE CAP DE LA MADELEINE HIS HOLINESS SENDS ALL PARTICIPANTS, PARTICULARLY MISSIONARY PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS, HIS FATHERLY APOSTOLIC BLESSING."

(MONTINI, pro-secretary).

**Bénédictio apostolique de Sa Sainteté Pie XII**

CITTA DEL VATICANO, JUIN 23, 1954.

OCCASION PELERINAGE ANNEE MARIALE INDIENS CAP DE LA MADELEINE SA SAINTETE ENVOIE PATERNELLEMENT TOUS PARTICIPANTS PARTICULIEREMENT MISSIONNAIRES ET RELIGIEUSES LARGE BENEDICTION APOSTOLIQUE.

(MONTINI, pro-secrétaire).



His Exc. Bishop H. Belleau, O.M.I., Vicar Apostolic of James Bay, led 41 of his flock, including one Eskimo, at the National Indian pilgrimage. Were also present four native Grey Nuns from James Bay. His Excellency is shown here reading in Cree the Act of Consecration of the Indian tribes to Our Lady.

(Photo Prisma, No. 3048)

## 600 JOIN . . . (Concluded from p. 5)

ing the Rosary and singing hymns in their own native tongues. Their Excellencies Bishop Routhier and Belleau took part in the procession.

The float showed Kateri Tekakwitha, kneeling in prayer, besides a wigwam, surrounded by spruce trees. On the float sat an invalid Indian, in a wheel chair; he had come all the way from Maliseet, N.B., to obtain his recovery through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

At the Shrine, the Indian pilgrims filled the small church as well as the annex. Bishop Belleau explained in Cree and in French the meaning of the Consecration. He said: "This Consecration, on the occasion of your visit to Mary's Shrine, has a very special significance for you. Mary is the protectress of the Indians and she will defend you against the devil. If you give yourselves to her she will truly be your Mother."

Bishop Belleau first read the Consecration of the Indians in the French language; then he translated it into Cree.

This was followed by V. R. Father Fergus O'Grady's, O.M.I., address in English, with the reading of the Consecration. Then Father N. Laferté, O.M.I., spoke and translated the Consecration in the Chipewyan language and finally Father Arthur Bilodeau, O.M.I., of Saskatchewan, read and explained it in the Saulteux language.

Followed, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament by His Exc. Bishop H. Belleau, O.M.I.; singing was performed by the Caugh-

nawaga mixed choir in the Iroquois language.

After a brief concert given at the Cap de la Madeleine bandstand, the Indian pilgrims took part in the traditional candlelight procession on the Shrine grounds, while reciting the Rosary in their various native tongues.

The Shrine grounds were brilliantly illuminated, and the pilgrims were quite impressed by the atmosphere of piety and sincere devotion to the Blessed Virgin of a vast throng which had gathered for the occasion.

Thus ended a memorable day, that of the National Indian Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine, and everyone who had witnessed it noted that this had been an unprecedented event in the history of the Church in Canada.

### Missionary Departure

On Sunday, June 27th, all the pilgrims received communion early in the morning, then returned to the Shrine grounds to attend the Mass of the departure of Missionaries.

At noon they were the guests of the Guardians of the Shrine, who received them at dinner together with the missionaries who were about to leave for foreign countries.

At 2.30 p.m. the pilgrims witnessed the moving ceremonial of the departure of the missionaries, at which more than 25,000 persons were present. Took an active part in this ceremony, Their Exc. Bishops H. Belleau, O.M.I., Philippe Côté, S.J., and Emanuel Mabathana, O.M.I.

One after the other, the Indian pilgrims kissed the missionaries' feet and bid adieu to the valiant priests, nuns and brothers who were about to depart for Africa, Asia, South America and Japan.

### Catholic Indian League of Canada

At 7.30 in the evening, a special meeting of the Indian pilgrims was held in the Parish Hall, presided over by His Exc. Bishop Routhier, President of the Indian and Eskimo Welfare Oblate Commission. Bishop Routhier was accompanied by Rev. Father Laviolette, General Secretary of the same organization.

Having explained in detail the purpose of the league, its opportunity, the ways and means through which it can be made effective, Bishop Routhier proposed to the gathering to vote by a show of hands in favor or against the opportunity of such a foundation.

The Chiefs, leaders, and selected representatives of more than 20 Indian tribes, from the Maritimes to the Yukon Territory, gave a unanimous vote of approval.

(See special story on the Catholic Indian League in this issue of the I.M.R.)

### Island of Orleans, Beaupré, Lorette, Huron Village

On Monday, June 28th, having risen early, the pilgrims, 600 strong, proceeded by bus and private cars to the Isle of Orleans; on the way they visited part of Quebec city, and arrived at the Isle of Orleans at the close of a High Mass celebrated on the site of the first Huron mission founded by the Jesuits 300 years ago.

(A complete report is to be found on page 3.)

Then the pilgrims proceeded to Ste. Anne de Beaupré, where they held devotions to Mary's Mother, singing hymns in their native tongues, and attending Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

After visits to the various chapels of the famed Shrine of Ste. Anne, the Indians embussed for Quebec, where they were met by a police escort which cleared all the traffic for them through the old city.

The pilgrims were able to visit Chateau Frontenac, the Terrace, the Plains of Abraham, the Parliament Buildings and other points of interest in the city, arriving at Centre Durocher for dinner in the evening.

### St. Joseph's Oratory

Having returned to Cap de la Madeleine after the pageant, the pilgrims stayed there overnight; they boarded their buses early the next morning, en route for Montreal; they arrived at St. Joseph's Shrine, on Mount Royal, for the 10.00 o'clock Mass, celebrated by His Exc. Bishop H. Belleau, O.M.I.

During the Mass, the famed Caughnawaga choir was in attendance and sang hymns in Mohawk.

In the afternoon the James Bay pilgrims returned to North Bay by bus, in order to make connection with the weekly train for Moosonee. The others toured the city of Montreal, making a brief appearance at the Belmont Park, on

the occasion of the first Welfare Festival for the children of the city, and then proceeded to the Shrine of Maria Goretti at Pointe-aux-Trembles.

Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was held there; the church was filled to capacity with the pilgrims and a great number of parishioners. Father René Pelletier, Parish Priest, spoke eloquently on the virtues of Maria Goretti, in the French language; Father Laviolette expressed his appreciation for the hearty welcome extended to the pilgrims, preached a sermon in English and officiated at Benediction.

As it was late afternoon, a police escort sped the buses on to Jacques-Cartier bridge and thence to Caughnawaga Indian Reservation, where they were expected for supper in the Parish Hall.

### Caughnawaga

The hospitality extended to the Western pilgrims by the Jesuit missionaries of Caughnawaga, and by the Iroquois, was truly wonderful. Everyone felt right at home there, enjoying a hearty meals.

Then devotions were held in Parish church; Fr. Georges Brodeur, S.J., Parish Priest, welcomed the pilgrims; Fr. H. Béchard, S.J., Vice-postulator of the cause of Kateri Tekakwitha and Guardian of her relics, told of the virtues of the saintly Indian Maiden.

During benediction the Iroquois choir sang and after benediction, during the Veneration of relics, the Western pilgrims sang hymns in their native dialects.

### Honorary Chief

Later in the evening, all the pilgrims were invited by Chief Poking Fire, to attend to the investiture, as Chieftain of the Mohawks, of the Director of the Indian Pilgrimage. Traditional songs and dances accompanied the ceremonial. Father Laviolette was then presented by Chief Poking Fire with a beautiful headdress and a peace pipe.

This honor was given the director of the pilgrimage to thank him for the work he had done in organizing the National Pilgrimage. The name given to him is: "Ran-Ni-Neh", which means "Leader".

Returning to Ottawa the same evening, the pilgrims stayed there overnight; having visited the National Museum, famed for its collection of Indian exhibits, they departed for North Bay in the afternoon of June 30th, where their sleeping cars were waiting for them. Meanwhile, the pilgrims who had come from Quebec and the Maritimes had been returning home aboard their own chartered buses.

Thus ended a week long trip in Eastern Canada, of which every day had been filled with spiritual and educational treasures. The coming of the Western pilgrims to Eastern Canada is a trip never to be forgotten. Plans are being made to repeat this pilgrimage within a few years.

## Editorial Comment on the Indian Pilgrimage

The National Indian Pilgrimage received a great deal of publicity in the press, on the radio, television and newsreels. While many Eastern newspapermen expected to see more buckskins and feathers, their disappointment was quickly changed into admiration as they witnessed the strength of the religious convictions of the Indians and their fidelity to Our Heavenly Queen.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the major dailies of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec for the splendid news coverage and photographic reporting done on the occasion of the pilgrimage.

According to "Le Droit", Ottawa :

"The representatives of Indian tribes of all Canada, who were gracious enough to come out of geography and history books, and out of the fantastic novels of Fenimore Cooper, in order to pay a visit to Eastern Canada, have shown themselves to be what they were in real life. While attending a session of the House of Commons, they gathered a good idea of the proceedings of the House and especially of the white people who, too often, take the attitude that they come from a superior race.

"This event goes far beyond the staging of a show in the House of Parliament. This visit should contribute in a very large measure, not only to draw out the Canadian Indian from his isolation with respect to us, but for us also to draw us out of our isolation in their respect."

"Le Soleil", Quebec :

"During the past centuries, the work and the devotedness of the missionaries among the warlike Indian tribes of Canada, is now manifest, since they are converted to the religion of the true God. This pilgrimage is the witness to the strength of their religious convictions and to the love and fidelity they have for our Blessed Mother whom they respect and honor instinctively since a long time."

"L'Action Catholique, Quebec :

"One can draw two lessons from the National Indian Pilgrimage : the first is religious. Indians who have come as far away as the Yukon Territory, accompanied by some 50 missionaries, witness to the care of the Church in teaching religion in the language of the people to be converted and to respect their tradition in so far as these are not contrary to Divine law.

"We could witness that the missionaries can speak the language of the Indian people. We have witnessed the degree of esteem which the Indians hold for missionaries.

"The second lesson is to the praise of our Canadian way of life. While we do not pretend

The parchment on which the text of the Consecration, and signatures of Bishops, Missionaries, Indian Chiefs and delegates are written, has been placed in a glass case as an ex-voto, in the Shrine at Cap de la Madeleine.

that our laws have always been perfect in regard to the Indians, we can assert that the natives have been generally treated as human beings, that they have enjoyed a great degree of freedom and that they have been able to develop themselves according to their own traditions.

"Everyone who came in contact with the Indian pilgrims has been able to realize the great evolution of the natives since the early days. In these visitors we salute our brothers, brothers in faith and brother Canadians."

Bernard Dubé, of the Montreal Gazette, wrote two editorials which will be published in a condensed form at a later date, in the I.M.R.

**W**E acknowledge with thanks, a letter from Councillor Cyprien Larocque of Hobbema, who, on behalf of all the other Indian pilgrims took an opportunity to write to the Director of the pilgrimage, expressing his appreciation in these words:

"I wish to thank you for having taken so much trouble and time in order to make our pilgrimage a very good and successful one. I also thank all the other priests who have in any way given help.

"And all the Indians from the province who have contributed food and accommodation for all of us Western Indians especially from Alberta.

"May we meet again with the help of Our Blessed Queen Mother, B.V. Mary, if not in this world, may we all meet in Heaven."

### Photos of Indian Pilgrimage For Sale

All the photos published in this issue of the Indian Record are available for sale. Write to the Director of the Indian M. Record, P.O. Box 94, Ottawa.

The large photo on pages 4 and 5 of the current issue of the I.M.R., showing all the Indians who attended the pilgrimage at Cap de la Madeleine, costs \$2.00. It measures 8 by 27 inches.

The other photos are 8 by 10 inches, commercial glossy; they sell at \$1.00 each.

Besides the ones published in this issue, your Editor has a selection of 30 other photos available at \$1.00 each. Here is the list.

#### 1) Photos Louis Lanouette:

- No. 1: The Indian encampment, showing the 130 tents.
- No. 2: Lorette Indians taking pictures. (This photo was published in Time Magazine).
- No. 3: The Indians, in tribal regalia, arriving in procession at the Shrine of Cap de la Madeleine.
- No. 6: The Indian encampment, showing the palisade.
- No. 8: Group of Seven-Islands Indians, Cap de la Madeleine.
- No. 9: Chief Poking Fire, Lorette Indians, with Father J. Rinfret, Director of Pilgrimages, at Cap de la Madeleine
- No. 10: A group of ladies from Lorette.
- No. 11: Group of Indians, near Hotel Bel-Air, Island of Orleans.
- No. 12: Arrival of Bishop Roy in canoe, at the Island of Orleans.
- No. 13: Group of Indians, at the Island of Orleans Mass.

#### 2) Photos Prisma:

- Nos. 3017, 3030 and 3015: Procession of Indians in tribal regalia.
- No. 3016: Fathers V. Bilodeau, P. Mercredi, L. Labrèche, with a group of Indians of Bersimis and Chief Poking Fire.
- Nos. 3046 and 3059: The famed Caughnawaga Iroquois choir, singing at Cap de la Madeleine.
- No. 3022: Three Indians from Fort Resolution.
- Nos. 3028, 3050-A, 3060; Group of Indians after the Pontifical High Mass, June 26th at Cap de

- la Madeleine.
- Nos. 3062 and 3051: Group of Bishops who attended the Pontifical High Mass, June 26th, with Father Laviolette.
- Nos. 3044, 3038, 3037, 3036, 3035, 3034: Lorette Indians performing their native dances.
- Nos. 3047 and 3047A: His Exc. Bishop Belleau reads the Act of Consecration; we see a large number of Indians inside the Shrine.
- Nos. 3018, 3019, 3020, 3031; Chief Poking Fire in tribal regalia.
- Nos. 3058 and 3057: Indians kissing the feet of the missionaries on the occasion of their departure for foreign missions.
- No. 3052: V. R. Father F. O'Grady, O.M.I., reading the Act of Consecration.
- No. 3055: His Exc. Bishop Routhier preaching in the Oratory at Cap de la Madeleine.
- No. 3053: Rev. Father P. Mercredi, O.M.I., preaching in the Oratory at Cap de la Madeleine.
- Nos. 3027 and 3040: Mother and child from James Bay.
- No. 3045: Father V. de Varennes (Fort Frances, Ontario) in the dining hall, with his six High School pupils.
- Nos. 3024, 3023, 3043 and 3033: Indians of Lorette in tribal costumes.
- No. 3029: A group of Bersimis Indians.
- No. 3026: Fr. A. Pouliot, S.J., with Chief Poking Fire.
- No. 3021: Fr. Labrèche with Chief Paul Rock and other Bersimis Indians.



At the close of the pilgrimage to the Shrines of Eastern Canada, the Director, Rev. G. Laviolette, O.M.I., was inducted as honorary Chief of the Iroquois Indians of Caughnawaga, by Chief Poking Fire, on June 29th. His name: RA-NEN-RI-NEH, which means Chief Leader.

## Grand spectacle historique chez les Hurons de Lorette

Les Indiens de Loretteville ont présenté un spectacle extraordinaire au cours de la dernière semaine de juin, dans l'enceinte de leur bourgade, où ils recevaient près de 400 représentants des autres tribus indiennes du Canada.

S. E. Mgr M. Roy, Archevêque de Québec, présidait à cette soirée qui a donné lieu à une saisissante démonstration de fraternité entre tous les Indiens du Canada. Les spectateurs ont été éblouis par les danses merveilleuses impressionnées de mysticisme et d'un mystérieux enlèvement.

La danse du soleil, celle du blé d'Inde, la danse de l'aigle, étaient accompagnées de mélodies interprétées en sourdine par une voix féminine, mélodies qui se rapprochent curieusement des émouvantes complaintes de nos folkloristes canadiens.

Le tambour joue un rôle merveilleux de maintenir l'ardeur de la danse tout au long du spectacle. Ce n'est pas simplement le tambour qui scande le pas, maintient le rythme durant l'exécution, mais l'instrument qui, entre les diverses danses, continue son rythme comme s'il regrettait que les danseurs aient quitté la place.

Spectacle présenté dans l'atmosphère des forêts canadiennes, dans l'enceinte d'une palissade garnie de sapins, plongeait les auditeurs en plein dans le début du 16ième siècle alors que les blancs prirent pour la première fois contact avec les races indiennes.

### Au Cap de la Madeleine

Deux jours auparavant, le même groupe avait pris part à une grande démonstration populaire donnée par les pèlerins au parc de l'Étang au Cap de la Madeleine; la chorale mixte de Caughnawaga y chanta ses plus brillantes pièces. Mlle Grace Lavallée, de Lebrét, Saskatchewan, chanta plusieurs solos fort bien exécutés; les Hurons de l'ancienne Lorette ont pris une part très active dans les chants et les danses.

Peu longue, mais très significative, cette démonstration a mieux fait connaître aux blancs les coutumes et traditions des Indiens qui ont conservé au cours des années leurs beaux chants et leurs danses rythmées.

Le Père G. Laviolette, O.M.I., organisateur du pèlerinage, agissait comme maître de cérémonie; l'Union Musicale du Cap de la Madeleine a présenté quelques pièces de fanfare.

La prochaine livraison de l'Indian M. Record sera consacrée à la publication des nouvelles et événements de l'été 1954. Nous avons cru bon de consacrer cette livraison de septembre exclusivement à un reportage sur le pèlerinage national des Indiens.

### ATTENTION

Nous prions nos correspondants de nous envoyer leurs communiqués pour la livraison d'octobre, au plus tard le 25 septembre.

Merci.

## Ligue des Indiens Catholiques

Cap de la Madeleine, P.Q.— A l'occasion du pèlerinage des Indiens, le 27 juin, sous la présidence de Son Exc. Mgr H. Routhier, O.M.I., une assemblée spéciale des chefs et délégués de toutes les réserves représentées au pèlerinage national, approuvait à l'unanimité la fondation d'une ligue pour les Indiens catholiques du Canada.

Le but de cette ligue est de coordonner le travail des organisations catholiques déjà existantes, d'organiser l'action catholique sur les réserves où elle n'est pas déjà implantée, de promouvoir chrétiennement le relèvement social et économique des Indiens et de mettre en oeuvre le désir de l'épiscopat de former des chefs à l'action catholique.

Le secrétariat de la Commission Oblate des Oeuvres Indiennes maintiendra l'esprit apostolique de cette ligue en publiant un bulletin d'information pour les différents groupes en existence. On prévoit, pour plus tard, une fédération des groupements en sections régionales ou provinciales et, finalement, une fédération sur le plan national.

## Photos du Pèlerinage

Ceux qui désirent des photos du pèlerinage Indien, peuvent se les procurer chez le rédacteur de l'Indian Missionary Record, C.P. 94, Ottawa.

La grande photo panoramique en pages 4 et 5 (8 po. par 27 po.), se vend au prix de \$2.00.

Les autres photos (8 po. par 10 po.) qui paraissent dans cette livraison, se vendent au prix de \$1.00 chacune.

(Voir la liste sur l'annonce anglaise en page 7).

## Pèlerins Indiens à St-Célestin

ST-CELESTIN, P.Q. — 42 Indiens des missions Oblates du St-Maurice sont venus en pèlerinage au sanctuaire des Martyrs de St-Célestin; ils étaient dirigés par le R.P. J.-M. Houle, O.M.I., de Sanmaur; ces Indiens venaient de Weymontaching, de Mannoan et d'Obedjiwan.

Ils ont assisté à une messe célébrée par le Père Houle et ils ont chanté durant la messe en leur propre langue. Les Soeurs Grises leur ont servi un goûter en plein air.



Le char allégorique de Kateri Tekakwitha, sur lequel un indien invalide de Maliseet (N.-B.) a été transporté à la grotte avant la consécration de la tribu à Notre Dame, le 26 juin.

(Photo Prisma, No. 3054)

## L'archevêque de Québec préside à la célébration du tricentenaire des missions Huronnes

QUEBEC, P.Q. — Son Exc. Mgr Roy, archevêque de Québec, s'est prêté à reconstitution d'un geste historique qui dut être posé maintes fois par le premier évêque du Canada, Mgr François de Montmorency Laval.

Mgr Roy a débarqué d'un canot le 28 juin, sur la berge de l'Anse du Fort, à l'Île d'Orléans, pour assister à la célébration du troisième centenaire de la fondation de la première congrégation mariale du Canada en 1654. Une vaste foule d'Indiens l'accueillit; à peu de distance du débarquement un autel était dressé. Le R.P. A. Dugré, S.J., célébra la Sainte Messe.

Le chant de la Grand'messe fut interprété par la chorale d'enfants de la desserte Huronne à la Jeune Lorette; deux Hurons ont rendu chacun une pièce dans leur langue nationale: Mlle Colette Vincent et M. J.-P. Lainé.

A l'issue de la messe les Hurons ont présenté à l'Archevêque un Wapum, ex-voto offert au nom de tous les Hurons de l'Amérique. Mgr Roy a béni l'ex-voto.

Parmi les notables de Huronie et membres du clergé, on remarquait en plus du Grand Chef des Hurons, Alphonse T. Picard, une religieuse des Dominicaines Adoratrices, Sister Jenny Shirt, de Saddle Lake, Alberta, qui appartient à la nation des Cris; M. l'abbé G.-S. Gagnon, desservant de la paroisse Huronne; les RR. PP. Mercredi et J. Laferté, O.M.I.,

des Territoires du Nord-Ouest; le R.P. S. Côté, o.f.m., Supérieur de la mission à Maliseet, N.-B., et le R.P. A. Pouliot, S.J., en charge de l'organisation des fêtes du tricentenaire.

## "La Presse" et le Pèlerinage Indien

"La Presse" du samedi 31 juillet a consacré 4 pages de son supplément en rotogravure au pèlerinage Indien. La première page, photo en couleurs, montre le Chef Poking Fire, de Caughnawaga, accompagné de sa femme et d'une jeune Iroquoise.

Huit autres photos dans le supplément sont consacrées au pèlerinage; ce sont: les Indiens devant le Sanctuaire, les Indiens à la sortie de la messe, les quatre religieuses Indiennes de la Baie James, la chorale de Caughnawaga, 3 photos d'Indiens de Lorette et une de Son Exc. Mgr Belleau lisant l'Acte de Consécration.

Des copies de ce supplément peuvent être achetées du Directeur de l'Indian Record. (10 sous chacune, afin de couvrir les frais).