



## THE EXCHANGE

St. Isaac Jogues was the first and only curate from Montreal to be canonized. At the request of its founder, Jerome Le Royer de la Dauversière, Father Charles Lalemant, S. J., was sent to Ville Marie — Montreal's name in the first years of its

history. St. Isaac Jogues was assigned to accompany him. There he labored from 1644 to 1646. In the first register of the parish of Notre Dame, one can see his name after an entry concerning the burial of an Indian child, Mathurin Paschirini. The French settlers, who saw him at work, soon appreciated his virtue and held him in deep reverence.

On July 12, 1645, the Governor of Canada, Monsieur de Montmagny, called together at Trois Rivières a meeting of the Iroquois, the Hurons, the Algonquins and of the French to negotiate peace. He had the Iroquois present agree to have the treaty ratified at their next important assembly.

The governor decided to send a representative to this gathering in the Five Cantons, a missionary well known for his courage, quite accustomed to the Indian mores and perfectly acquainted with their language. He selected Father Jogues and so informed the Jesuit superior, Father Jérôme Lalemant. After consulting with his advisers, Father Lalemant approved this choice of Father Jogues.

Informed that he would be entrusted with this mission, Isaac Jogues wrote to his superior on May 2, 1646, from Montreal:

"Would you believe that on reading Your Reverence's letters, my heart was struck with apprehension at first? . . . My poor human nature remembered the past and was afraid. But Our Lord, in His goodness, allayed my fears and will do so still more. Yes, Reverend Father, I desire whatever Our Lord desires at the price of a thousand lives. O! how I would regret missing such a good occasion! Could I endure the thought that it was my fault if a few souls were not saved? I trust that His goodness, which never abandoned me in other conjectures, will assist me again."

On June 10, at the general reunion of the captains and elders of the Mohawk Canton, he arose and amidst a profound silence, expressed, in the French governor's name, the immense joy caused by the peace concluded the previous year.

The missionary departed for Trois Rivières on June 16, after leaving with the Mohawks a small chest containing several articles for his own use. As he planned to return that autumn, he wished to avoid the trouble of carrying the box all the way back and forth.

It was on September 24, that he set out anew for the land of the Iroquois. Before his departure, he had a foreboding of his martyrdom. Once again, from Montreal, he wrote to a Jesuit friend: