

## FEATURE

## St. Anne de Beaupre beckons pilgrims

By Art Babych  
Catholic News Service

ST. ANNE DE BEAUPRE, Quebec — North America's oldest shrine, located near Quebec City, draws more than 1.5 million pilgrims each year. Among them, for each of the past 52 years, has been Margaret Colasurdo, of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Clyde.

She is organizing her 53rd bus trip to Quebec's miraculous Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre for July 2, for parishioners from any part of the Rochester Diocese.

She remembers taking one of her sons on his 12th birthday. He turns 65 this year; she will be 85 in December.

In 1998, she was honored at each of three Canadian sites where the buses stop for the rosary, Mass, blessing of the sick, Stations of the Cross and other devotions.

"It seems like it was just yesterday that I started," she said, recalling that a former pastor urged her to start the pilgrimages. She leads a recitation of the rosary along the way, and looks forward to praying at St. Anne, St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal and the Basilica of Our Lady of the Cape. Colasurdo can no longer climb on her knees to the top of the Mount of St. Anne's, "but, other than that, I do everything else."

Judging from the stack of crutches, canes and walking sticks on either side of the main doorway to the tall, twin-spired basilica, many pilgrims have been healed through the intercession of St. Anne, the mother of Mary and the patron saint of Christian mothers.

The first such recorded cure dates to March 13, 1658, according to the Redemptorists, guardians of the shrine since 1878. The cure occurred after the blessing of the new chapel when local resident Louis Guimond, suffering from "rheumatism of



the loins" placed three stones in the foundations of the new building and was "suddenly and completely cured of his ailment."

The wooden church on the site became known as the "church of miracles," said Redemptorist Father Gerard Desrocher, a member of the pastoral team at the shrine.

"We often receive letters from people who say they have been cured or have received favors through the intercession of good St. Anne," he said in an interview.

Unlike the shrine in Lourdes, France, however, there is no office at St. Anne de Beaupre that verifies whether claims of healings are authentic, he said.



Margaret Colasurdo

File photo

"We prefer to accept the testimonies of people without distinguishing between what can be proven scientifically and what people report," the priest said.

Still, thousands of pilgrims from around the world arrive at the shrine each summer to make the novena leading up to the feast day of St. Anne, celebrated July 26.

"It's like a large family, and it's like good St. Anne, the grandmother, welcoming all her children and grandchildren," said Father Desrocher. "They celebrate the same faith, the same love for Jesus and the same devotion to St. Anne."

He estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 people turned out for events surrounding the feast day last year.

Back in Clyde, Colasurdo will host her annual novena to St. Anne July 17-26 at her home, with Father Jim Hewes, St. John's pastor, celebrating Mass outside on the feast day. In her back yard at 172 Lock St., she maintains a large shrine with a statue of Mary with St. Anne.

She also is taking reservations for the pilgrimage to Canada, and may be reached at 315/923-3261.

Includes reporting by Kathleen Schwarz.



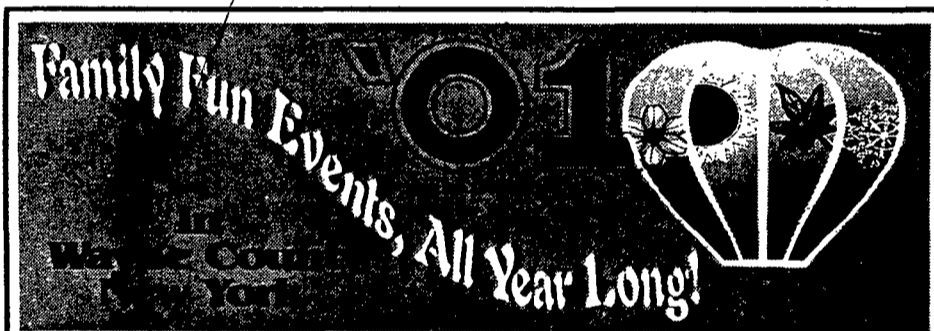
File photo

## Shrine recalls martyrs

The 2001 season at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs in Auriesville began May 5 with an afternoon Mass, and May 6 with a full day of religious devotions. The site commemorates the martyrdom of St. Isaac Jogues and his companions, and is the birthplace of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

Among special events planned are: a 28th Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service to honor all war dead at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 20; Ascension Thursday anticipated Mass at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 23; Ascension Day Masses at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday, May 24; and blessing of families Sunday, May 27, after each Mass.

The shrine is off Route 5, about 40 miles west of Albany. The National Tekakwitha Shrine is four miles away on Route 5, just west of Fonda.



JUNE	
2-3	ONTARIO SUMMERFEST
2-3	ALASA FARMS FIBER DAYS, Alton
8-9	ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH FESTIVAL Newark
8-10	NEWARKFEST, NEWARK
10	ANTIQUA AND CLASSIC BOAT SHOW, Sodus Point
16	WOLCOTT STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
16	CANOE TRIP ON GANARGUA CREEK, Swifts Landing, Palmyra
17	FATHER'S DAY FLY-IN BREAKFAST, North Rose
23-24	FINGER LAKES LIVE STEAMERS OPEN HOUSE
30	OLD FASHIONED FAMILY FUN DAY, Sodus Bay Lighthouse
30-July 2	SODUS POINT CARNIVAL ON THE BAY
JULY	
4	HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA, Sodus Bay Lighthouse
4	BAND CONCERT, Sodus Bay Lighthouse
6, 7, 10-14	HILL CUMORAH PAGEANT, Palmyra
14-15	PEPPERMINT DAYS FESTIVAL, Lyons
21	PULTNEYVILLE HOMECOMING ANTIQUE SHOW
22	ICE CREAM SOCIAL/BAND CONCERTS, Sodus Bay Lighthouse
28	ANTIQUA AND CLASSIC CAR SHOW, Sodus
28-29	ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL, Sodus
AUGUST	
1,8	BAND CONCERT, Lyons Central Park
4	BAND BLAST 2001, Bullis Park, Macedon
5	NORTH ROSE COMMUNITY AUCTION
5, 18	BAND CONCERT, Sodus Bay Lighthouse
5	CAR SHOW, L.W. Emporium, Ontario
13-18	WAYNE COUNTY FAIR, Palmyra
15	GIGANTIC FIREWORKS, Clyde
17-Sept 3	LOC TROUT AND SALMON DERBY, Lake Ontario
19	CORN FESTIVAL, Burnap's Farm Market, Sodu
19	VILLAGE CONCERT, Clyde
24	ST. PATRICK'S IRISH FAIR, Macedon

For complete Calendar of Events call 1-800-527-6510



Wayne County Office of Tourism

Dept. 01CC, 9 Pearl St. P.O. Box 131, Lyons, New York 14489-0131  
www.waynecountytourism.org



May 12-13: MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND AND LUNCH/BRUNCH WITH THE LOONEY TUNES CHARACTERS

Show your appreciation to mom with lunch/brunch and family fun, featuring special appearances by Bugs Bunny and friends. ADMISSION ONLY \$19.99 for family of four! Lunch/brunch, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.: \$12.99 adults; \$7.99 for children (12 and under) at Beaver Brothers Café in theme park. All moms receive complimentary necklaces upon park entrance and a flower during lunch.

May 18: GRAD NIGHT

High school graduating seniors and chaperones are invited to Six Flags Darien Lake's drug and alcohol-free graduation celebration. The 14th Anniversary celebration starts at 9 p.m. and includes a dance party, music and more! Advance ticket purchase (\$19.99 per graduating senior) required through participating high schools and Six Flags Darien Lake Group Sales.

May 26-28: NEW EVENTS! FAMILY-STYLE MARDI GRAS FEST AND THE FABULOUS 4-OH CELEBRATION!

All-star Memorial Day Weekend with a family-style Mardi Gras Fest with live performances, school marching bands, children's activities and more! It's also the Six Flags 40th Anniversary party! Event features an anniversary presentation May 26, at 10:40 a.m. with a GIANT birthday cake, character appearances, giveaways and more!

General information:  
(716) 599-4641

sixflags.com/darienlake

On-site HOTEL/CAMPGROUND

accommodations available.

BOOK ON-LINE OR

CALL (716) 599-2211.

Call ahead or refer to website for

park operating hours, etc.

Upcoming events include Annual Kingdom

Bound Christian Festival, Aug. 5-8.