

immediately after his arrival here in 1615. Alone of white men he set out on the long journey of 700 miles up the Ottawa River, through the many lakes, paddling incessantly day and night, suffering from the stings of myriads of mosquitos, as he tells us himself, he "had the look of a hideous leper." First of white men and of missionaries, he penetrated in to the regions of the Great Lakes and beached his canoe on Penetanguishene Bay.



On August 12th, 1615, with Champlain (who had come later) and a few Frenchmen present, Father Le Caron offered the first Mass in Ontario, in his little cabin at Carhagoula, near the Georgian Bay. The event was worthily commemorated this year by His Grace, Archbishop Mc Neil of Toronto, who said the Tercentenary Mass on the spot where Fr. Le Caron had said it 300 years before. His Grace delicately invited two Franciscans to be present and to speak in French and English.

Father Le Caron did yeoman's service among the Indians. He learned several of their languages and, what is especially noteworthy, compiled a dictionary in the Huron tongue. The devoted missionary returned to France in 1629 and though he thus revisited his native-land, his heart remained with his beloved Hurons. He was to see them no more. He died at Trie, near Gisors, March 29th, 1632 in sentiments of profoundest piety at the age of 46 years. A third bas-relief on the Monument depicts Father Le Caron sojourning among the Hurons.

Brother Pacificus Duplessis was an apothecary before he became a Recollect Lay-Brother. He was endowed with a remarkable spirit of charity, and by his professional knowledge and his inexhaustible devotedness he rendered invaluable service to the nascent colony. His death took place at Quebec, August 23rd 1319.