

# opinion

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## Is Remembrance

### Service Necessary?

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is reprinted from the Royal Canadian Legion Award Winning Student Essays and Poems.

This essay was written by Maryln MacLean from Kinross, P.E.I. and was judged as First Place in the Senior Essay class.

I think the essay says everything that could possibly be said in regards to attendance at the Remembrance Day Services.

#### Is the Remembrance Service Necessary?

The annual Remembrance Day service is indeed very necessary. How else would people, like myself, who were born after the World Wars and the Korean War be made aware of and understand the sacrifices made on our behalf. Especially at these services we remember with gratitude all those who have laid down their lives in service of their country. "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old" is often quoted at Remembrance Day services. Its English author, Lawrence Binyon, was disillusioned with human society by the outbreak of World War I. Yet he lived to see the world plunged into the maelstrom of World War II.

Today, with the huge build-up of armaments, especially of nuclear weapons, it is so easy to despair of the future. Our Canada is benevolent and intelligent, yet there is still corruption and crime and unfairness. We have it presented to us daily through our news media. I'm sure all surviving veterans remain deeply perplexed why this modern era is so filled with their rebellion and lack of forgiveness and, above all, the unwillingness to understand that in the past, our nation was required to make the personal sacrifices it did.

We must remember always that we rob our honoured dead and surviving veterans of victory unless we carry on the race, pursue the struggle and do what they would have done to make this a better world so that the seeds that breed new wars will find no fertile ground.

Joining veterans in attendance at Remembrance services is a tangible way of expressing our thankfulness, gratitude and appreciation for the peace and freedom so many take for granted.

Remembrance Day should not become just another holiday, but must remain a day of memorial, a day of meeting, an opportunity for us to examine our own lives to find out whether we are worthy of the sacrifices made on our behalf and to determine our own commitment to world peace.

Attending a Remembrance service may jog our memory and help rekindle in us the sense of unity the wartime Canadians knew. At this time, when everyone wears a poppy and stands in silence, it is like "thank you" to those who fought and died for us. We honour their memory and cherish the freedom they bought so dearly.

**Remembrance is a golden chain,  
Death tries to break but all in vain.**

## anchor

### Holy Year of Redemption

On March 25, 1983, when the Church celebrates the Feast of the Annunciation (when the Lord Jesus took flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary), Pope John Paul II proclaimed a Jubilee Year, a Holy Year of Redemption for the whole church. He declared it is to be a time for special celebrations to commemorate the 1,950th Anniversary of the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a call to prayer and penance, to renewal and reconciliation, to conversion of heart, so that the mystery of Salvation will enter more deeply into the daily thoughts and actions of not only Catholics, but all Christians. He wants it to be a time for us all to proclaim the timeless message of Christ Jesus who came to preach the Good News to the poor, freedom to the captives and liberation for the oppressed. The Holy Year ends on Easter, April 22, 1984.

What is a Holy Year, a Jubilee Year? Even before the time of the coming of Christ, the people of Israel marked the great events of their lives by a Jubilee Year. This was first and foremost a sacred time, a time reserved for God, when economic and social measures were taken to aid those in need. Gradually these celebrations of a Jubilee Year became a sign of a future age, the age of the Messiah, who would reveal the fullness of God's love. It is Jesus Christ who brings universal salvation through His death and resurrection, freeing humanity from sin, forming a new people in whom there is no longer slave or free. This new people is the Church, past, present and future, the People of God, a pilgrim people, baptized in the Risen Christ and strengthened by the Spirit. Who amongst us are not in need of the saving love and power of Jesus? Are we not all called to be reconciled with God our Father, in Jesus Christ? To be reconciled with one another? Do we not need to be renewed and do penance, where we know in this world and around us there is such a lack of love and trust, such sinfulness, greed, hate, lust and evil. Do we not need to express solidarity with those whose lives are "one long penance", those who are sick, the loneliness of the elderly, the anxieties of parents for their children, the neglect and abuse of children and parents, the depression of the unemployed, the frustrations of so many young people who cannot find their place in our society.

In this Holy Year of Redemption, in which a call to repentance and conversion are necessary dispositions for sharing the grace of the Redemption of Jesus Christ, we can all truly help make this a Holy Year for ourselves and others by sharing the peace, joy and love of Jesus with others, working to heal wounds, to break down prejudices, to end injustices, to overcome indifferences and misunderstandings, to face important issues and to renew our efforts to make this a better world for all. Let us worship in our Churches, pray for one another and be His instruments of salvation.

**Rev. Kenneth W. Pottle,  
Pastor of St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church, Terrace Bay, Ontario**  
(with excerpts from Bishop John O'Mara's Pastoral Letter on the Holy Year of Redemption).

## Arthur Black

### Black's Irregulars ride again



Ahh ... late autumn. This is my favorite time of year. The time when Northerners fall back on all those "winter-coming-on" traditions ... clearing out the garden ... putting on the snow tires ... waxing up the skis ...

And reading travel brochures. That's what living in the North is all about: planning your getaway.

Don't get me wrong. I love the winter. I enjoy snowbanks and ice-crystal formations on the windows and blankets of snow on spruce boughs and black-capped chickadees pecking at the bird feeder.

I just don't love it forever. I mean, I like a good party too — but not one that goes on for six

months.

That's why I and the other members of Black's Irregulars look unnaturally cheerful at this time of year. We're already planning our midwinter break. Each year we try to spend a couple of weeks in some place as un-Northwestern Ontario as we can find. We don't ask much ... the sound of palm fronds rustling ... a view of the sun going down over an unfrozen body of water ... a climate where the mercury in the thermometer nestles in the 75-85 degree range ... a place where they don't even have a word for "snowball"...

In years gone by, we've tried Mexico, Florida, Georgia and Cuba. This year we're trying

something different.

A place called Antigua. Let me tell you what I know about Antigua. It's a tropical Eden in the Leeward Islands chain, farther south than Puerto Rico, not as far south as Trinidad.

Antigua's not a big island. Just 108 square miles (Thunder Bay covers more than 200 square miles). It's not crowded either, with a total population of 78,000 (not counting tourists). The mean temperature is 77.6 degrees, but it drops-off at night, thanks to cooling Trade Winds that sweep in from the sea. It has forts, museums, cathedrals and botanical gardens for sightseers. For the sports-minded, there's sailing, deep-sea diving, snorkelling,

scuba-diving, golf, volleyball, badminton and day-and-night tennis.

And for folks who don't want to do any of that, there are 365 white-sand beaches to lie around on and soak-up the sun.

Oh yes, there's also a casino and there's shopping. Of the duty-free variety.

I'm sold. I'm going to Antigua for two weeks, right in the ice-cold heart of winter. Late February.

But here's the good part: I'm not going alone. You can come too, if you want to. That's because, if I can find 28 people who want to come with me, we'll get a special, all-in price.

So what do you say? You want

to become a member of Black's Irregulars this winter and spend two of the worst weeks of the year lapping-up sunshine and Pina Coladas?

We've still got about a dozen seats left on the plane.

We'll have a ball, and I guarantee you that at least two weeks of this impending winter won't be hard to take at all.

Mind you ... you don't have to decide about this right away.

Talk it over with your partner. Think about it for a while. You can even sleep on it if you like.

Then, make up your mind tomorrow morning.

About the time you're scraping the windshield.