

(4) In the northeast the picture was somewhat different. After Cartier's exploration of 1534, considerable work was attempted among the Hurons and the Iroquois. De Brebeuf was the prime worker among the Hurons after 1625 and by 1640 had established five "chapels". The massacre of Christian Hurons in 1659 and the martyrdom of deBrebeuf himself, set this work back to a large degree

(5) The work of Father J. Joques was particularly demonstrative of the Roman spirit in this work. A Jesuit, he sought to expand the work into the central area (eventually founded St. Saint Mrie) and served as a "peacemaker" among the five nations. His life is almost a fabled account of mission service, torture, release, escape, and eventual martyrdom. The French military presence did a lot to keep the Indian population in turmoil and alliances, easy and uneasy, would exist with the French and Indian forces for another 100 years.

(6) But a great many frontier mission points were established although the continuous hostility of the Indians among themselves, to say nothing of relations with outsiders, made any sort of real progress difficult. With the conquest of the English (French and Indian wars--1760's) a century later, much of the Catholic influence would be downplayed.

b. Catholic missions in the west:

(1) The bulk of substantial Catholic work was in the west and southwest. This was most proximate to the European interests and the reports of treasures, etc., in this part of the world were considerable. The tendency of the Roman church was to deplore the greed policies of the conquistadores...but in such a way as to not get shot or lose its percentage. Alarmed at Spanish policies, Fr. Bartholomew Las Casas had offered a strong protest to the Emperor and the Pope and was appointed a sort of Indian public defender about 1516. He saw a hopeless task and Paul III issued a pronouncement in 1537 to protect the natives. There were tiny movements against giant economic forces and they are recorded only as protest notes today...given but unheeded.

(2) By 1539 much of what we know as Arizona, New Mexico, etc., had been explored by the Franciscan Monk, Brother Mark. Coronado followed him..not as a missionary but as a conquistador looking for the treasure cities of Cibola. Immediate attempts to set up missions were met with resistance and little was achieved before 1600.

(3) By 1610, however, Santa Fe ("Holy Faith") had been founded and by 1630 its church number included about twenty priests. Within the next 20 years more than 100,000 converts were