

The St. Michael Mural of the Five GA Martyrs

Father Tim has commissioned artist Clorinda Bell to paint a four foot by eight foot mural to advance the cause of canonization of the Five Georgia Martyrs, to be displayed here at St. Michael.

When completed it will be permanently displayed in the narthex near the Our Lady of Guadalupe stained glass.

We would like to thank our parishioners who made a donation to commission the mural, and especially Richard Fetsko, who has made a memorial donation of \$4,000 in memory of his loving wife, Sandra Fetsko, who died on July 18th, 2021 to have the mural completed.

We anticipate the mural will be completed in the first quarter of 2022.

In the late sixteenth century six Spanish Franciscan priests came to what is now the Georgia coast to minister to the native people called the Guale.

By 1597 there were five missions in Coastal Georgia where Franciscan friars preached the Gospel, learned the indigenous Guale language, and lived peacefully with the native population. Most Guale natives not only embraced

Christianity but also welcomed European goods such as glass beads, metal tools, various cloths and other luxury items.

The friars lived among the Guale without any military presence, giving evidence to the good relations between the Guale and the missionaries.

In September, 1597, due to the friars not allowing a baptized Guale man to take a second wife, the heir to the Guale chiefdom ordered the death of the friars. Over a three day period five of the six friars were killed.

The names of the five Georgia Martyrs are Friar Pedro de Corpa, Friar Blas de Rodriguez, Friar Miguel de Anon, Friar Antonio de Badajoz, and Friar Francisco de Verascola. The sixth Friar Francisco de Avila was kidnapped and tortured until he was liberated months later.

Please go to www.thegeorgiamartyrs.org to learn more of the cause for the five Georgia Martyrs canonization.