



Father Bressani

May 6

Who was Father Bressani?

Francesco Giuseppe Bressani, more commonly known as Father Bressani, was an Italian-born priest who served as a missionary in New France between 1642 and 1650. He became the first Italian Jesuit Priest and missionary to the Canadian Missions. His Feast Day is celebrated annually on May 6th.

At age 14, Francesco entered a seminary. He was immediately drawn to foreign missions and left for New France in 1642. After his time in Quebec, he made his way to Trois-Rivieres, where he worked with the Indigenous people in the area.

Not long after his arrival, Bressani began to pursue the challenging task of entering the area where the Hurons lived. He did so with a Frenchman and several Christian Hurons. On the 3rd day of travelling, the Iroquois attacked the group, who then took them as prisoners. During this time, Father Bressani was subject to torture and was handed over to an Iroquois woman to replace her recently deceased Grandfather. Shortly after, the woman sold him to the Dutch, who treated him well. He returned to France in 1644.

In 1645, he returned to New France and regained access to the Huron land with the help of the Quebec Governor. He found the Iroquois had burned down the mission. As a result, over 700 Hurons were killed. Father Bressani attempted to build another mission in the region, but ultimately it was decided that it would be best to bring the remaining Hurons back to St. Lawrence. Father Bressani was sent back to Italy since there was no longer a Huron mission. During his remaining years, he was devoted to preaching and his apostolate.



Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Heavenly Father,

of God, whose unwavering devotion continues to inspire us today.

We pray for our students that they may emulate the virtues of Father Bressani: resilience in the face of adversity, compassion for all, and an unyielding commitment to serving others. May they find strength in their studies, wisdom in their decisions and joy in their journey of learning and growth.

We pray for our staff, who work tirelessly to nurture the minds, hearts and souls of our students. Grant them the wisdom to guide, the patience to understand and the compassion to uplift those entrusted to their care. May they be beacons of light, illuminating the path of knowledge and virtue for all.

We pray for our community, bound together by our shared values and common purpose. May we continue to support and uplift one another, fostering a culture of inclusion, respect and love. May the spirit of Father Bressani inspire us to reach out to those in need, to extend a helping hand and to build bridges of understanding and unity.

As we celebrate this Feast Day, may we be reminded of the profound impact one individual can have on the world around them. May we be inspired to follow in the footsteps of Father Bressani, living lives of faith, service and love.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.





York Catholic District School Board



**FEAST DAY:
May 6**

**SCHOOL LOCATION:
Woodbridge, ON**

Father Bressani's life teaches us that adversity is not a deterrent but a catalyst for growth. His unwavering commitment to his calling serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the light of compassion and resilience shines brightest.

**Father
Bressani**

