

Sunday, November 23, 2008

Vietnamese martyrs honored during Bren Center service

Annual celebration draws more than 5,000.

By CHRISTINA HOUSE
For The Orange County Register

Vibrant, traditional garments graced UC Irvine's Bren Events Center during Sunday's celebration of Vietnam's Catholic martyrs – symbolically represented by 117 saints.

The celebration, which coincides with the church's annual feast day for those killed during persecution of Catholics in the region, drew more than 5,000 people.

The event also honored Cardinal Thuan Van Nguyen, for whom the church opened a beatification process in 2007. Beatification is one of the steps toward being declared a saint.

The annual event included a procession of faith by various religious groups, a martyr reenactment of a European missionary to Vietnam in the 16th Century, and the celebration of the Eucharist by Bishop Tod Brown.

A carriage carrying sacred items is led into the Bren Events Center at UCI for The Great Annual Celebration of the Vietnamese Martyrs on Sunday.

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A group of young dancers passes by a row of priests as it enters the Bren Events Center at UCI for The Great Annual Celebration of the Vietnamese Martyrs.

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