



The *Great* Canadian  
Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the  
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,  
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.

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Projet de la *Grande* Histoire  
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des  
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,  
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

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**Free to Love ~ Free to Serve**  
**A Living Tradition**  
**The Religious Hospitaller of St. Joseph**

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St. Joseph Region Archives

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**FREE TO LOVE  
AND TO SERVE**



**Living Tradition**

**RELIGIOUS HOSPITALLERS OF SAINT JOSEPH**



The Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph are called to live the liberty of the children of God as women of faith, incarnating Christ's tender compassion in serving His members, especially the poor, the sick and the most needy, in union of charity..

Constitutions, 1979



***“YOU WERE CALLED TO BE FREE”*** (Gal. 5, 13)



The spirit of this family is that of the  
Holy liberty of the Children of God  
which makes the soul attentive to self  
faithful to God  
pure in her life  
simple in her intentions  
gentle in her conversation  
cordially united with her sisters  
tenderly charitable towards  
the sick poor  
stable and unshaken  
in all circumstances and events of her life  
and desirous above all  
to be pleasing to God

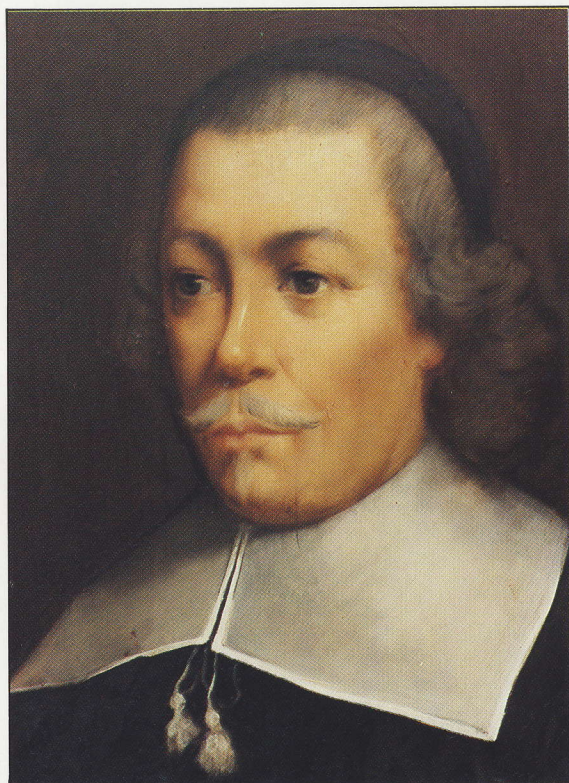


# AN EXTRAORDINARY PROJECT

# the father of a family Jérôme Le Royer de La Dauversière

**Historical context:  
the end of the XVIth and  
beginning of the  
XVIIth centuries**

*The wars of religion had just ended in France. The wounds caused by this battle of brother against brother had not yet been completely healed. Nevertheless a profound renewal was stirring within the Church in France. From this movement, called the French School of Spirituality, there emerged many holy people among whom were two great figures: Jérôme Le Royer de la Dauversière and Marie de la Ferre.*



Jérôme Le Royer was born in La Flèche, France, and baptized in St. Thomas Church, March 18, 1597, the eve of the feast of St. Joseph. Spreading devotion to this great saint was a mission he undertook throughout his life.

He studied at the Jesuit college, founded by King Henry IV in his native town. From among its faculty and graduates, there were many who were called to play important roles in the mission which Jérôme was later to accomplish.

He had, from an early age, a deep love for the poor and a strong desire to help them. At twenty years of age, when he left the college of La Flèche, he was prepared both intellectually and morally to face his future endeavors. In 1618 he married Jeanne de Baugé, indeed a worthy partner. Five children were born to them of whom two became priests and two Religious.

An agonizing question challenged Jérôme Le Royer and his contemporaries: How to help the poor? Jérôme was a man of both prayer and of action. His great devotion to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph led him to an ever growing awareness of the needs of the poor, to take the initiative and respond to these needs.

After receiving Holy Communion on February 2, 1630, the feast of the Purification of Mary, he felt overcome by an extraordinary fervour. He believed God was asking him to found at La Flèche, a congregation of Daughters Hospitallers dedicated to the Holy Family under the special protection of St. Joseph. The purpose of this community was to serve the "sick poor". While he waited to fulfill this mandate, he undertook a specific project for the poor. He rebuilt the dilapidated hospital at La Flèche. This hospital would become the nucleus for the future congregation.



# found a community of Religious Hospitallers...

## Triple mission

The mission which God gradually made clearer to Jérôme had two other facets. The first was to undertake the colonization and evangelization of the island of Montreal in Canada. The second facet was to establish a hospital there which would be served by the Daughters Hospitallers which he was to found.

As a man of faith and humility, Jérôme studied the events. Following the will of God he fulfilled this triple mission to the letter.

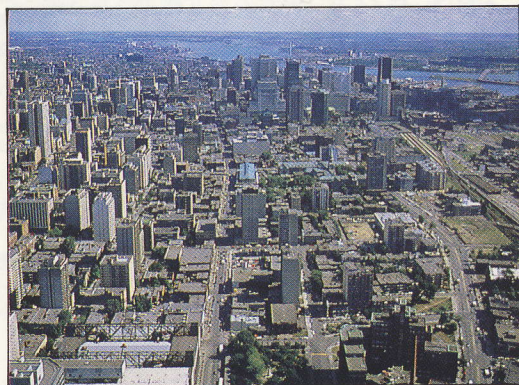
*When I dream of Ville-Marie,  
not today's MONTREAL,  
I recall the chosen ones of my Kingdom.  
There I find the flower of Ville-Marie.  
I ask you, says the Lord, what would Ville-Marie  
be without these chosen few in my Kingdom?*

*I love to look upon chosen ones  
such as this Jérôme Le Royer,  
this **Le Royer de La Dauversière**,  
this FATHER OF A FAMILY,  
this FOUNDER OF HOSPITALLERS,  
these unique HOSPITALLERS.*

*There are very few of these Jérômes who,  
on a Candlemas day  
would give themselves wholeheartedly to me.  
There are very few among these men,  
who upon hearing my call  
do not wonder whether or not I make sense.*

*When I dream of Ville-Marie, says the Lord,  
I look into my Kingdom and  
I see a Kingdom of friends.*

Marie Barbier (paraphrase of Peguy)



The Congregation of the Daughters Hospitallers of Saint Joseph was founded in 1636; Montreal and its hospital, in 1642.

After having accomplished the mandate entrusted to him by God, Jérôme died November 6, 1659, just as the first three Hospitallers were arriving at Hôtel-Dieu, Montreal.

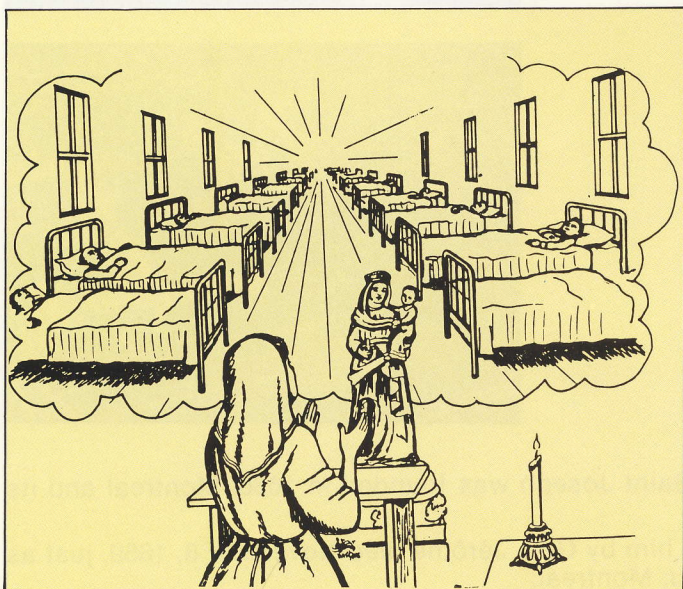


# with Marie de La Ferre



The village of Roiffé, where Marie de la Ferre was born in 1589, is situated near towns which had accepted the Protestant reform. While still very young, Marie heard lively discussions among both Protestants and Catholics. One day she was heard to affirm with determination, "I want to see and know the God of the Catholics".

Several years later she had to fight to remain true to the faith of her baptism. She even accepted separation from her father and went to live at La Flèche in Anjou.



## Servant of the poor

Another kind of trial awaited in La Flèche. Her aunt wanted her to lead a brilliant social life. Marie however decided to consecrate herself to the Lord. For health reasons she was unable to enter Religious Life of that time. She devoted herself to serving her aging aunt as well as the poor and needy of the area. The people who witnessed her charity, called her "the saintly lady".

After the death of her aunt, Marie visited the sick poor at the little "Maison Dieu" of La Flèche. In 1634 her vocation was clarified. One day after receiving Communion "she became enraptured and saw numerous beds. At the same moment an interior voice told her: "This will be your occupation and the means of fulfilling the precept of love...".



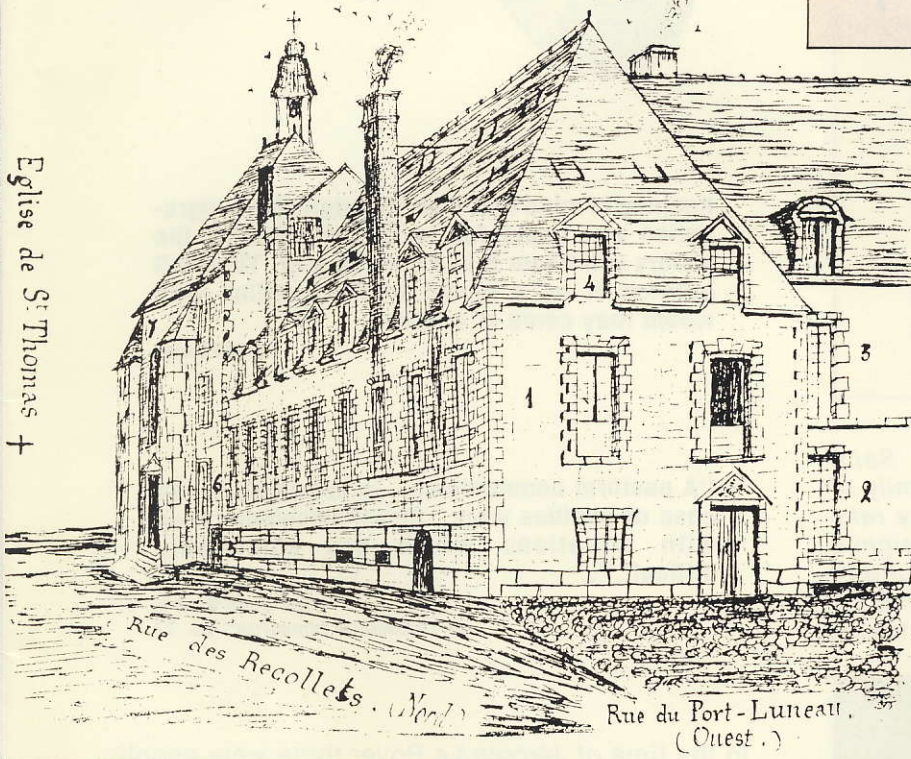
# a woman both steadfast and strong...

## LAST RECOMMENDATIONS

"May humility, charity and union of hearts be the principal study of your lives. God is our Father and He always will be... Place all your confidence in Him... I leave you in the hands of God, who, in His kindness, will provide for your needs. I pray for this with all my heart".

*Marie de la Ferre*

*Facade extérieure.*



Knowing of Jérôme Le Royer's experience in the spiritual life, she consulted him about this event. In his turn he shared with her part of the mandate he had received, saying: "God wishes to make use of us to establish a new community... We must work for this".

The Congregation was founded at the Hôtel-Dieu of La Flèche, on May 18, 1636. Marie de la Ferre, her cousin Anne Foureau and three servants of the patients formed a community. In 1643 the Constitutions were approved and on January 22, 1644, Marie de la Ferre pronounced her first vows and was elected superior of the young community.

As superior she acted with the gentleness, honesty and respect spoken of in the rule which she inspired. Marie de la Ferre urged her sisters "to preserve a humble, tender and compassionate heart, serving the poor with a modest, gentle and joyful countenance...".

She died in 1652, a victim of her charity, during an epidemic in Moulins where she had just established a house.





Regles des Filles de S. Ioseph. 3  


CONSTITUTIONS

DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ des Filles de S. Ioseph, établies dans l'Hostel-Dieu de la Fleche en l'honneur de la Sainte famille de nostre Seigneur, de l'autorité de Monseigneur l'illustissime & reuerendissime Euesque d'Angers.



LAVDE DE RVEIL  
 Par la grace de Dieu & du St. Siege Apostolique Euesque d'Angers, à tous ceux qui ces presentes Lettres verront, Salut.

Par nôtre Decret d'Erection de l'Hostel-Dieu de la Fleche, & de la  
 A 2

*"The religious family of Hospitallers of Saint Joseph to which I belong has the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a model. In my relationships with my Sisters, the spirit which reigned in Nazareth is my inspiration and guide; a spirit of respect, tenderness, simplicity and forgiveness".*

Sister Thérèse



and dedicated it



Keeping in mind that from its origin the Congregation was dedicated to the Holy Family, the sisters will honor it in a special way. They will propose it as a model to the families with whom they come in contact.

1985 Rules

**"A pastoral commitment... is called for in the case of families who... find themselves faced with situations which are objectively difficult."**

Pope John Paul II  
 in "Familiaris consortio" No. 77

In the time of Jérôme Le Royer there were people without "hearth and home". So also today there are victims of broken homes. There are battered and rejected women. There are teenagers who have run away from home. There are men and women of all ages who have problems with drugs and alcohol.

These people in distress need to be truly accepted in a place where they can receive tenderness and compassion. This is what the Hospitallers wish to offer in crisis centres, these "maisons-Dieu" of our times.

## A halfway house for men

*"I love these brothers whom life has led astray. We truly live a family life with them and they revive with the knowledge that they are not alone. It is so good to see them regain strength. Several have returned to normal life and work, some have married and started a family, others continue to have a more difficult time. The door is always open to our former residents and several return regularly. "Point de Rencontre" is a large family and the Father is always there, waiting for His sons to return".*

Sister Yvonne



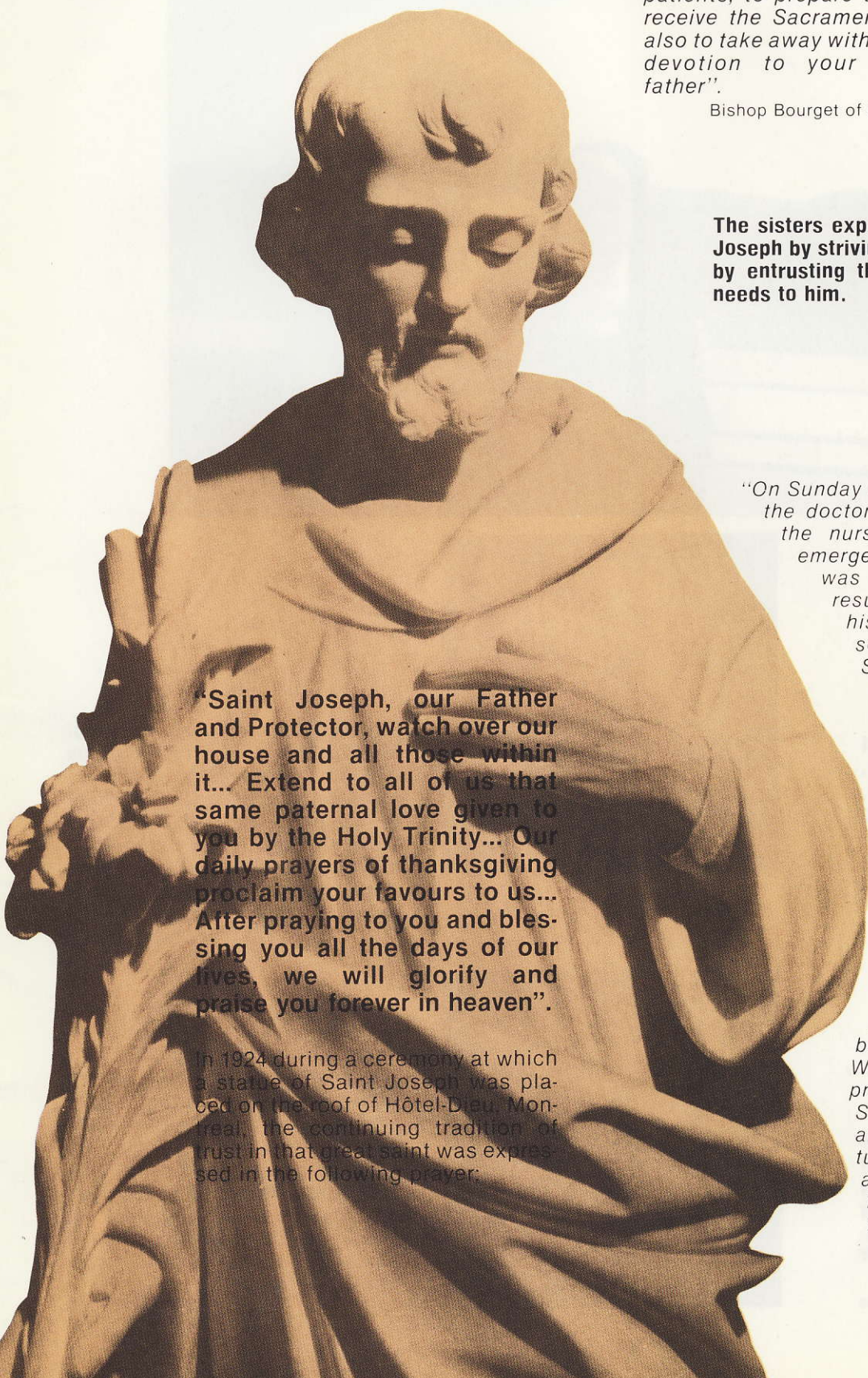
# the Holy Family under the special protection of Saint Joseph

*"Never cease speaking about St. Joseph to your dear patients, to prepare them to receive the Sacraments and also to take away with them a devotion to your loving father".*

Bishop Bourget of Montreal,  
1862

**The sisters express their devotion to Saint Joseph by striving to imitate his virtues and by entrusting their spiritual and temporal needs to him.**

1985 Rules



**"Saint Joseph, our Father and Protector, watch over our house and all those within it... Extend to all of us that same paternal love given to you by the Holy Trinity... Our daily prayers of thanksgiving proclaim your favours to us... After praying to you and blessing you all the days of our lives, we will glorify and praise you forever in heaven".**

In 1924 during a ceremony at which a statue of Saint Joseph was placed on the roof of Hôtel-Dieu, Montreal, the continuing tradition of trust in that great saint was expressed in the following prayer:

*"On Sunday March 17 around 9:00 p.m., the doctor came to the door to tell the nurses that there would be emergency surgery. The patient was a young man who as the result of a fall had torn open his abdomen. Assisted by some friends he arrived in San Pablo after a twelve hour journey on the Amazon. The operation began at 9:30 p.m. and finished at 1:00 a.m. Sister Emilie and Sister Carmela assisted the doctor. During Mass the next day, which was the day before the feast of St. Joseph, we confided this young patient to our beloved patron. After only three days the man was up and about to the great surprise of the doctor, who believed he had lost him. We continued our fervent prayers with confidence in St. Joseph and they were answered. Our patient returned home perfectly well after a mere eight days in hospital. Yes, we have confidence in you, dear St. Joseph, pray for us".*

Peru, 1980



# A FAMILY SPIRIT WHICH

*“By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples” (Jn 13, 35)*



Inspired by the love of Christ and faithful to their tradition, the sisters share their time, prayer and companionship especially with those in greatest need.

1979 Constitutions



*“God called me with a personal love to follow Him, in religious life. To make me grow in this love, He gave me a family which is indispensable to me. With my Sisters I form a community in prayer, affection, mutual forgiveness, sharing and trust. For all this I give thanks to Him”.*

Sister Thérèse

They will live, speak and communicate with one another with sincerity and cordiality like true Sisters and worthy daughters of the holy and peaceful family which is their model.

1643 Constitutions



*“For me, community life is a place where I commit myself with others in the mutual receiving and sharing of the same faith and hope. It is also a place for growth, since welcoming another leads me to go beyond my prejudices, fears and lack of confidence in order to choose to discover another in her uniqueness.*

Sister Anne-Marie



# EXPRESSED... IN WELCOMING

Inspired by the first Christian community which was of one mind and one heart, the sisters give witness of community.

1979 Constitution



## ...PRESENT TO THE PEOPLE

*"Welcoming people is one of our community's apostolic priorities and each Sister contributes to this apostolate according to her strength and ability."*

*Being close to the people of the neighbourhood has made us aware of their needs. We try to respond in a personal way by offering food and clothing. We also provide shelter for the poor and unemployed young people in our "Hospitality House" which is next door to the convent. As needed we direct people to the appropriate social agencies as well. We visit the sick, the lonely and the depressed in the hospital and in their homes. In consultation with the priests of the parish and the persons themselves wish, we take Communion to them. Even though we are no longer living in the hospital, we remain in charge of the chapel and ensure liturgical animation, which helps to maintain our contact with the poor and needy at the hospice. We have many opportunities to practise the apostolate, so many in fact, that we need to establish priorities".*

Community of La Flèche, France



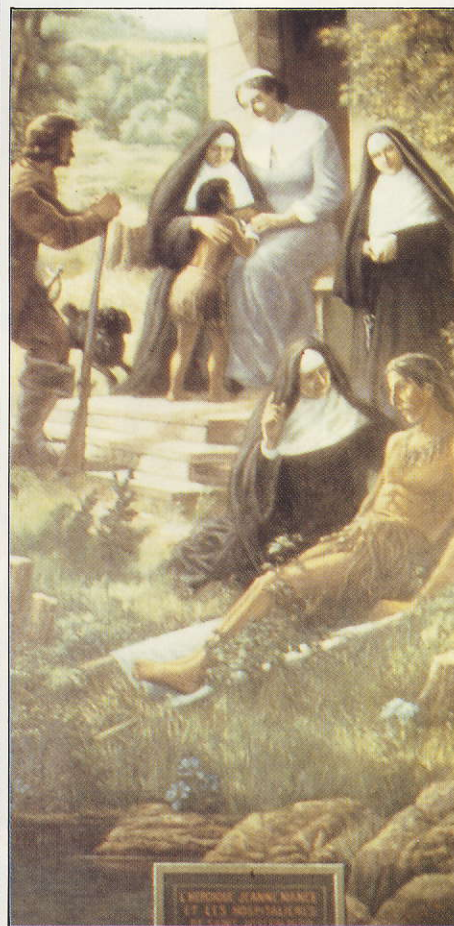
# DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF JESUS

*“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of these... you did it to me”.*

(Matt. 25, 40)

The Daughters of Saint Joseph must be persons entirely consecrated to God to serve Him piously in the exercise of the spiritual life; and in the practice of perfect charity towards their neighbor, and especially dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ in the person of the poor who are His members.

1643 Constitutions



*“I don't know how I am made,  
but I cannot refuse the poor.  
I prefer to sleep outdoors rather than  
refuse one of the poor of Jesus Christ”.*

Sister Amanda Viger, 1904

*“Oh, Sisters, what great pleasure it gives me  
to keep watch over our dear patients through  
the night and to sacrifice for them  
the sweetness of repose. In serving them,  
I can offer to the Lord both their sighs  
and my vigil”.*

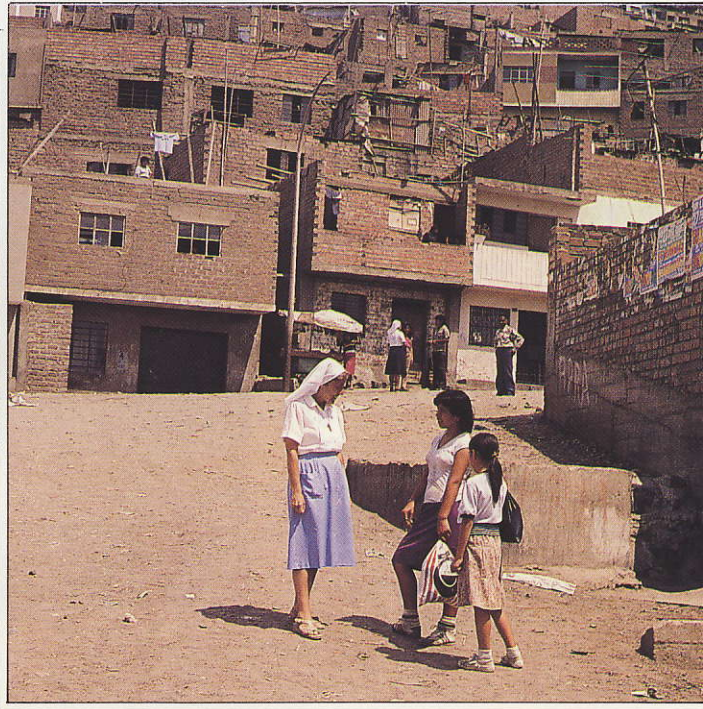
Sister Jeanne Hardouin, La Flèche, 1734



# - CHRIST IN THE PERSON OF THE POOR

A service which has continued throughout the centuries

Faithful to its mission, the Congregation continues to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ by service to the poor, the sick and by education. The sisters participate in this mission by the quality of their being and service, revealing Christ's compassionate love wherever they are missioned by their superiors. The sick and the aged sisters continue their service to the Church through their lives of serenity, prayer and suffering. 1979 Constitutions



*"The essential spirit which guides my life as an Hospitaller of Saint Joseph centers around three questions: How am I to live the Hospitaller's charism today? Why am I to live it? For whom do I daily live? My life as an Hospitaller is most clearly presented and interpreted through bedside nursing within an institutional setting. I strive to be technically competent in the care which I give. For each patient I try to be an Hospitaller who cherishes the charism of Jérôme Le Royer. This is to say, that for me, tenderness and compassion supercede technical expertise. Modern technology tends to dehumanize health care. Living Jérôme's charism as an Hospitaller is an integral part of our mission".*

Sister Nico



# ... CALLED TO INCARNATE THE

## ... Toward the handicapped

*"My personal difficulty lies in getting beneath the surface of the physical, sometimes repulsive, aspects of the handicapped. I think of Jean-Félix who has a face, human in name only, but who, by his loving look, reminds me that Love is present in his heart. There is also Alain whose face expresses only suffering. It occurs to me many times to pass him by without stopping... and to come back. The face of Christ suffering in His members..."*

*It is for me a great grace to incarnate the tenderness of Christ to those wounded by life. It is also a great grace to experience their interior richness. At the same time it is a test, which challenges me to banish from my behaviour any show of pity".*

Sister Louiseette



## ... Toward the chronically ill

*"Each morning is a challenge as I go forth to face another day. I feel called not only to minister to our patients but also to my co-workers, for the work is hard and demanding both mentally and physically. To do our kind of work means living with the cons-*

*tant moans, confusion, repetition, struggle and at times even hostility. We persistently need to draw our patients out of their protective, defensive shells to a sometimes painful reality especially when it comes to washing and various other exercises.*

*As I begin my morning task I go to the patients and greet each*

*with a "good morning"; some will respond and others will not or cannot. Yet, I am acknowledging them rather than simply positioning them for breakfast. Too easily we can become involved in conversation with a fellow worker and disregard the patient for whom we are caring. One needs a special vocation to work with the chronically ill".*

Sister Bernice.



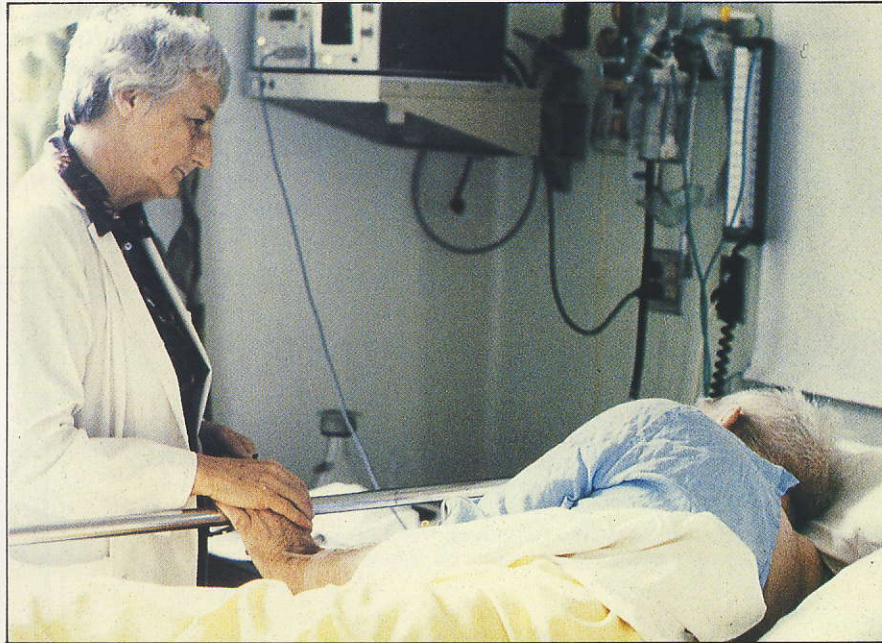


# TENDERNESS AND COMPASSION OF CHRIST IN SERVING HIS MEMBERS.

## ... In pastoral service

*"As we look at our ministry, we would do well to constantly look at the ministry of Christ himself. We can see through His words and actions that He cared for the whole person with a tender compassion which we are called upon to integrate into our own apostolic service today. It is well for us to recall frequently that*  
**WE MEND... GOD HEALS".**

Sister Monica



## ... In other countries

*"We have, in San Pablo, Peru more than thirty handicapped lepers who have no feet or legs or who have limbs maimed to such a degree that running sores keep them in bed for weeks or even months, totally dependent on others. I have learned how to make prostheses for these deaf patients. The necrotic parts are first amputated. This frees them of the sores and nauseating odours, increased by the hot humid climate (up to 40°C). After the stump has healed, we make a prosthesis, a "pegleg" of cedar with leather and iron braces. The patient can then learn to regain a sense of balance and retrain muscle. Little by little the patient learn to walk. Finally the new artificial foot is fitted in place.*

*Imagine the exuberant joy of a man who has not walked for ten, fifteen or twenty years! Here, then, is our contribution to helping the most needy.*

Sister Emélie





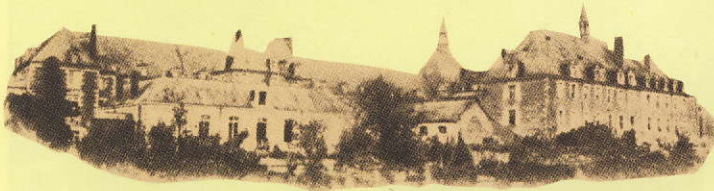
First Hôtel-Dieu of St. Joseph at La Flèche 1636, the eradle of the Institute.

# FROM LA FLECHE :

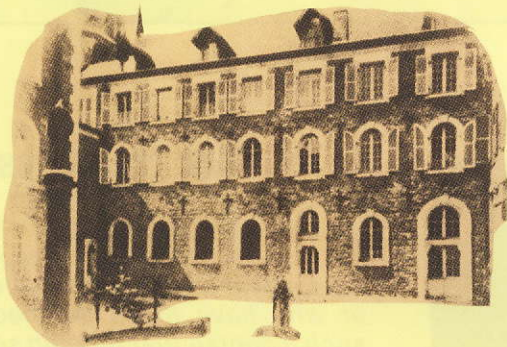
## An unfailling availability

The contracts for every foundation reiterated that, "*The Daughters*" give themselves to the Hôtel-Dieu "*body and goods*" committing themselves "*to pay an additional sum for their room, board and maintenance;... they will give their care gratuitously and work until their last breath*", "*turning over 300 pounds to the poor six months after the death of each sister...*".

The hospiti  
more than  
tramps refe  
welcomed



The town of Baugé welcomed the Daughters Hospitallers from La Flèche to a practically completed hospital on November 25, 1650.



One month later, on December 5, 1650, another group of Hospitallers responded to a request from the administrators of the Hôtel-Dieu of Laval in Mayenne.

The following year the town of Moulins, whose "*hospital was in great disorder*" appealed to the dedication of the Daughters of Jérôme Le Royer. The foundress, Marie de la Ferre, and four other Hospitallers, undertook this charitable work on June 24, 1651. The Sisters remained there until the French Revolution.



In spite of the trials experienced by Religion beginning of the XXth centuries, the Hospitallers adapt to the changes in the world today



In 1663, the Hospitallers arrived in Nîmes where they found a hospital "*in the last stages of confusion and universal disorder*". They soon made it a place of order and cleanliness.

In 1910 the Hospitallers leave. The exiles they founded ano



# EXPANSION IN FRANCE



Fort-en-Vallée, which "was no  
ol where the sick and even the  
because they were maltreated",  
s from La Flèche in 1671.



gregations in France at the end of the XIXth and  
of Saint Joseph remain close to the sick as they



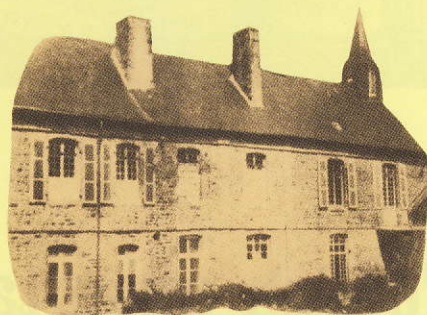
Avignon were forced to  
Lobbes, Belgium, where  
al.



And so the foundations followed one another. The  
papal city of Avignon which had had a "splendid hospi-  
tal" from the XIVth century felt the need "to halt the  
disorder which reigned within it and provide better ser-  
vice to the suffering members of the Lord". The request  
was made to the Hospitallers of Nîmes who responded  
affirmatively on February 2, 1672.

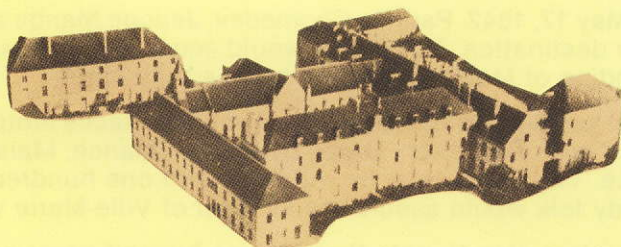


The first era of expansion in France ended with the  
foundation of an Hôtel-Dieu at Isle-sur-Sorgue in 1685  
an another in 1698, at Rivière-de-Teyrargues in the dio-  
cese of Uzes.



In 1819 a community of Canonesses of St. Augustine  
in Ernée joined the Institute of the Hospitallers of Saint  
Joseph.

After the suffering of the Revolution, most of the com-  
munities returned to their houses under precarious  
conditions. With Napoleon's approbation (1809), they  
continued to care for the poor and the sick, a service  
always close to their hearts.



In 1904 a diocesan community founded in Beaupréau  
became affiliated with the Congregation.



# FROM FRANCE TO NEW FRANCE



## “A foolish undertaking”

As the Congregation of the Hospitallers of Saint Joseph were strengthening their roots in France, Jérôme Le Royer, faithful to the Spirit, was making preparations for colonizing and evangelizing the island of Montreal and for founding a hospital which would serve it.

To accomplish these goals Jérôme chose two key people: Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve to govern the Island and Jeanne Mance, a nurse, to found the Hospital. The funds for the hospital had been given by Jeanne's generous benefactress, Madame Claude de Bullion, widow of the Finance Minister of the King of France.

On May 17, 1642, Paul de Chomedey, Jeanne Mance and thirty colonists... all chosen by Jérôme... arrived at their destination. There they would accomplish what their opponents called “the foolish undertaking”: the founding of Montreal known then as Ville-Marie.

Soon serious difficulties arose. Iroquois attacks mounted in intensity. By 1651 the colony found itself threatened with extinction. Urged by Jeanne Mance, Maisonneuve sailed for France seeking help to save Ville-Marie. Two years later he returned with one hundred colonists, all chosen by himself and Jérôme. These sturdy folk would assure the survival of Ville-Marie which had been confided to the care of Our Lady.

It is interesting to note that Jérôme himself never came to America.

During a second voyage to France, Jeanne Mance recruited the Daughters Hospitallers of Saint Joseph for her hospital. Jérôme himself again made the choices for the Montreal Foundation.





After a last blessing from their Founder the three Hospitallers from La Flèche: Sisters Judith Moreau de Brésoles, Catherine Macé and Marie Maillet, left the port of La Rochelle, July 2, 1659. They were accompanied by Jeanne, Marguerite Bourgeois and more colonists. During the crossing an epidemic broke out on board and the ship became a virtual hospital. The sisters began their compassionate service to the sick and poor earlier than they had anticipated.

They landed at Quebec on September 8: arrived at Hôtel-Dieu Montreal, October 20 and that day established the first religious community on the island.

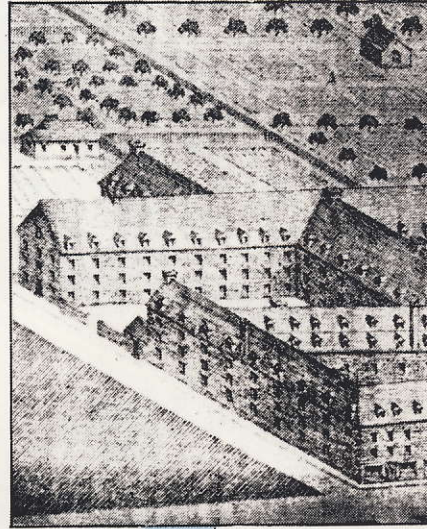
With Jeanne Mance who remained a lay woman, the three Hospitallers began a long tradition of lay religious collaboration which has continued to this day.





# FROM HOTEL-DIEU OF MONTREAL... T

## The Hospitallers at Hôtel-Dieu Montreal



Three years after their arrival in Montreal, the Hospitallers received their first Canadian vocation, Marie Morin. She began a long line of Hospitallers from the Americas.

Marie and her companions showed great courage and tenacity. They braved the harsh climate, privations, and poverty. Although the menace from the Iroquois kept them constantly alerted, they remained faithful to their charism by caring for the seriously ill and severely wounded.

*Sœur Marie Morin*

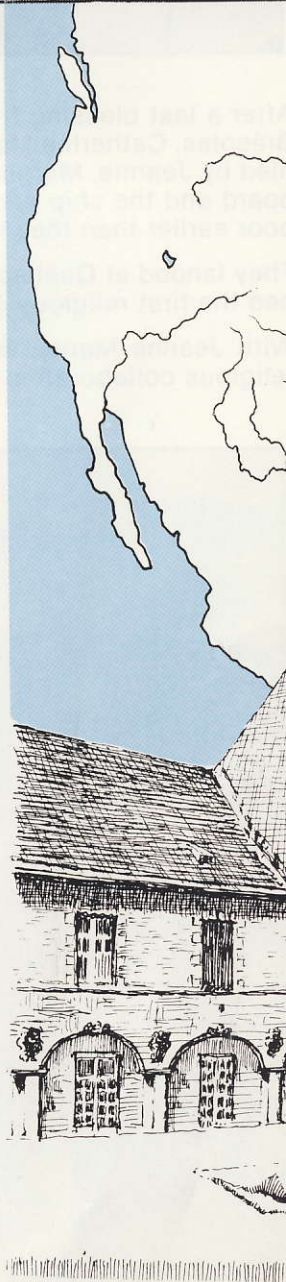
First Canadian Hospitaller

Jeanne Mance died in 1673. That year the Sisters became the administrators of "the goods of the poor" at Hôtel-

Dieu. In 1694 they constructed a three-story building. The following year it was totally destroyed by fire. This trial was repeated twice more, in 1721 and 1734. Undaunted in service to the sick, they rebuilt without ever giving up hope.

Until 1822 the Hôtel-Dieu was the only hospital in Montreal. In 1861 the hospital on St. Paul Street was demolished and rebuilt on Pine Avenue, its present site, then called Mount Holy Family. There, they welcomed the sick, the orphaned and the aged. With the evolution in medicine and in hospital care the Religious decided to include lay people in the direct care of the sick. Thus the School of Nursing was inaugurated in 1901.

Over the years the Hospital has grown. New pavillions have created space for 750 patients. These pavillions have also allowed the staff to modernize the medical and pastoral services without losing the sense of mission and the spirit of tender compassion engendered by the Hospitallers and handed on to their followers.





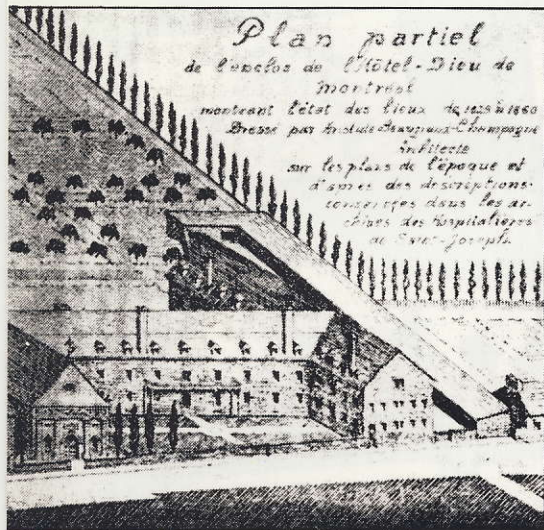
# THE FOUR CORNERS OF NORTH AMERICA

## ... To English

### Canada and the United States

After a lengthy period of consolidation, the Hospitallers of Montreal accepted a call to establish a hospital in Kingston, Ontario, in 1845. Besides caring for the patients, they were called upon to shelter orphans and nurse typhus victims.

Hôtel-Dieu Kingston, in its turn, became a centre of charity from which were founded other Hôtel-Dieu hospitals in English Canada and the United States.



## ... To Acadia

In 1868, one year after Canadian Confederation, the Hospitallers accepted an heroic mission to the lepers at Tracadie, New Brunswick. The first foundation on Acadian soil opened the way to a rich period of expansion. Chatham followed Tracadie by only one year. Then came Saint Basile in 1873 and Campbellton in 1888. Apostolic vision also broadened. The Sisters became educators, founding academies, boarding schools, schools of nursing and even a college for young women.

## ... In Quebec and beyond

In 1884 the Sisters founded an Hôtel-Dieu in Arthabaska, Quebec. In addition to the hospital they established an orphanage and home for the aged.

Windsor, Ontario, in 1888, welcomed a group of Montreal Hospitallers who founded an Hôtel-Dieu and an orphanage for black children.

In 1894, Winooski, Vermont, was the site of the first New England foundation. The hospital was named after Fanny Allan the first Hospitaller from that area.





Hôtel-Dieu, Montréal, Qué. Canada

# FROM A MUSTARD SEED

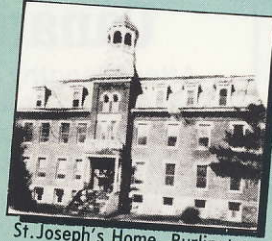
The eight foundations established by the Montreal community became in their turn, sources of works in Canada and the United States. Today there are sixty houses which owe their origin to the Hôtel-Dieu of Montreal, appropriately called "the Motherhouse".



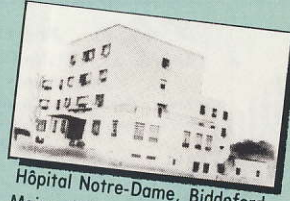
Hôtel-Dieu, Arthabaska, Qué. Canada



Point de rencontre Hauterive, Qué., Canada



St. Joseph's Home, Burlington, Vermont, E.U.



Hôpital Notre-Dame, Biddeford, Maine, E.U.



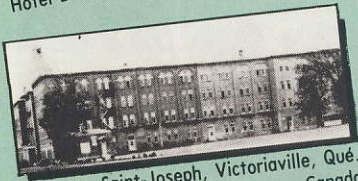
Hôtel-Dieu, Whitelaw, Alberta, Canada



Hôtel-Dieu, Saint-Jérôme, Qué. Canada



Hôtel-Dieu, Windsor, Ont. Canada



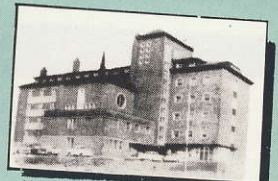
Ermitage Saint-Joseph, Victoriaville, Qué. Canada



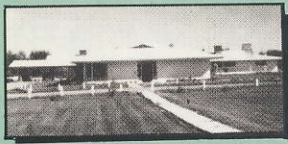
Fanny Allen Hospital, Winooski, Vermont, E.U.



Bishop DeGoesbriand Hospital, Burlington, Vermont, E.U.



Hôtel-Dieu, Hauterive, Qué. Canada



Foyer McLennan, Alberta, Canada



Hôtel-Dieu, Kingston, Ont. Canada



Hôtel-Dieu, Cornwall, Ont. Canada



Résidence Villa-Maria, Windsor, Ont. Canada



Hôtel-Dieu, St. Catharines, Ont. Canada



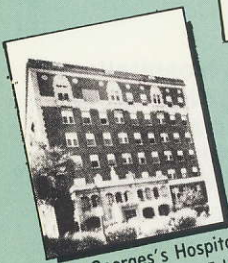
Community Hospital, New London, Wisconsin, E.U.



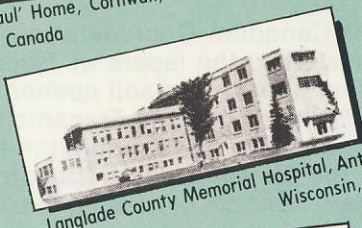
Hôtel-Dieu, Chatham, N.-B. Canada



St. Paul Home, Cornwall, Ont. Canada



St. Georges's Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, E.U.



Langlade County Memorial Hospital, Antigo, Wisconsin, E.U.



Hôtel-Dieu, Polson, Montana, E.U.



Barrhead, Alberta, Canada



St. Michael's Academy, Chatham, N.-B. Canada



Villa St. Joseph, Cornwall, Ont. Canada



St. Bernard's Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, E.U.



New-London, Wisconsin, St. Joseph Res. St. Joseph's Residence, New London, Wisconsin, E.U.



Mount St. Joseph, Chatham, N.-B. Canada



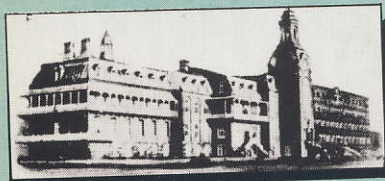
St. Joseph's Hospital, Hartford, Wisconsin, E.U.



Ancien Hôtel-Dieu Macdonell Memorial Hospital, Cornwall, Ont. Canada



# TO A GREAT TREE



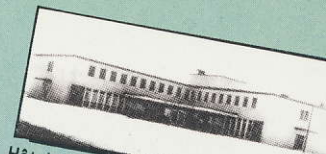
Hôtel-Dieu, Saint-Basile, N.-B. Canada



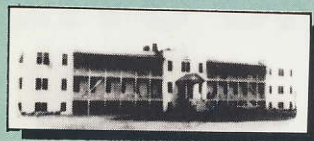
Foyer St. Joseph, Saint-Basile, N.-B. Canada



Académie Sainte-Famille, Tracadie, N.-B. Canada



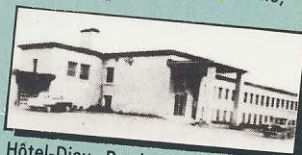
Hôtel-Dieu St. Joseph, Lamèque, N.-B. Canada



Foyer Saint-Camille-de-Lellis, Bathurst, N.-B. Canada



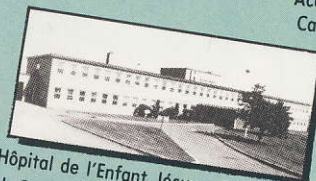
Hôtel-Dieu de St. Joseph, Saint-Quentin, N.-B. Canada



Hôtel-Dieu, Perth, N.-B. Canada



Accueil Sainte-Famille, Tracadie, N.-B. Canada



Hôpital de l'Enfant Jésus - Caraquet, N.-B. Canada



Grand Sault, N.-B. Canada



MAISON MÈRE, MONTRÉAL

Maison Mère, Montréal, Qué., Canada



Hôtel-Dieu, Sorel, Qué. Canada



Hôpital de Van Buren, Maine, E.U.



Hôtel-Dieu, Edmundston, N.-B., Canada



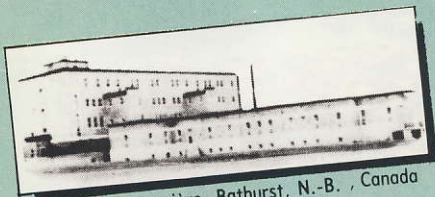
Hôtel-Dieu, Campbellton, N.-B., Canada



Foyer Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Bathurst, N.-B., Canada



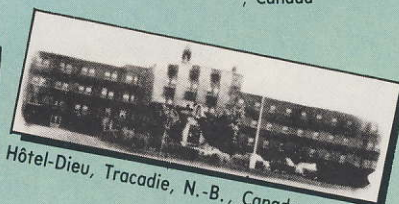
Villa St. Joseph du Lac, Yarmouth, N.-E., Canada



Pavillon La Dauversière, Bathurst, N.-B., Canada



Collège Maillet-Saint-Basile, N.-B., Canada



Hôtel-Dieu, Tracadie, N.-B., Canada

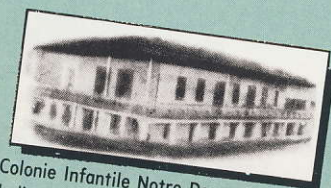


Hôtel-Dieu, Bathurst, N.-B. Canada

The mid-twentieth century saw the North American Hospitallers of Saint Joseph become in their turn missionaries to the Third World. In 1948 they answered a call from the lepers in San Pablo, Peru. In 1956 Dahomey (Benin) welcomed its first Hospitallers. In 1964 the Sisters went to the Dominican Republic to exercise their charism of tenderness and compassion to the most needy.



Léproserie, San Pablo, Pérou



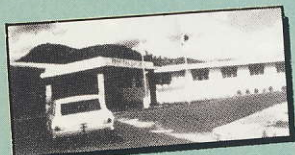
Colonie Infantile Notre-Dame-des-Anges, Indiana, Pérou



Chabicouma, Dispensaire-maternité, Bénin, Afrique



Hôpital de Huaraz, Pérou



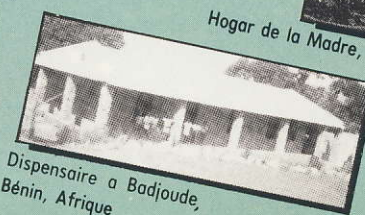
Hospital San José, Ocoa, Rép. Dom.



Hôpital de Porto-Novo, Bénin, Afrique



"Posta de salud", dispensaire à Valdiviezo (bidonville de Lima), Pérou



Dispensaire a Badjoudé, Bénin, Afrique



Hogar de la Madre, Lima, Pérou



# THE HOLY SPIRIT JEROME LE ROY THE MISSION IS STILL



## *Black ghetto in Chicago*

*"My involvements at Saint Bernard Hospital and in the Englewood area have led me to see myself as a chaplain, educator and enabler. There are unlimited opportunities to bring Good News to the poor, show the Lord's compassion, and bind up hearts that are broken".*

Sister Margaret-Ann



## *Project for the promotion of women in Peru*

*"Four years ago we formed a committee of Christian women with the hope of building a centre for the advancement of women. The centre came into being and today comprises space for instruction in reading, sewing, cooking and personal development, a nursery school and day care centre. In this centre we have contributed towards improving the quality of life for women by developing their natural abilities and by promoting home industries which are a source of revenue in the local area".*

Sister Marie

## *Faith enrichment centre*

*"After a period of experimentation and reflection, the centre ("Coin de la Foi Catholique") was begun. The goal of this work is to contact the Baptized who are no longer affiliated with their Church. We offer individual assistance and group support in order to help them evaluate their position. Companionship and support are our response to the needs of Christians who are searching. In the two years in which the "Coin de la Foi" has been open more than thirty have come for consultation".*

Sister Pauline



## *At the bedside of persons with Aids*

*"I believe, first of all, that through their history, Religious communities have sought to meet needs that no one else has responded to. I have been looking for a way of coming closer to patients rejected by society. Contacting patients with Aids helped me to live more fully the image of Jesus who without reproach or condemning loved all who followed Him. They are not indifferent in the spiritual domain. Perhaps because they have often been rejected by society, but I sometimes have the impression that God always has been a part of their lives. When they feel He is the only One who can accept them. However I believe there exists a Church of faith and charity which precedes the Church of the Sacraments. It is in this Church that they participate".*

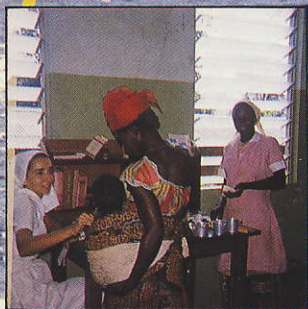
Sister Françoise



# WHO PROMPTED TO UNDERTAKE ENTRUSTED TO HIM OPERATIVE TODAY

1979 Constitutions

Today Sisters everywhere are undertaking new apostolates both inside and outside their institutions. In fidelity to their specific charism the Hospitallers of Saint Joseph respond to present needs; to mention but a few:



## At a public university

*"I believe that my apostolic activity as professor of French at the University Centre is part of the mission of the Hospitallers. First of all I have a mandate to be present as a vowed Religious. I am called to announce the Good News within the secular milieu of the University and to support my words by acting as Christ would act. He spoke and acted against certain currents of His age. So do I!"*

Sister Bertille

## A food bank

*"After assessing the needs of the region, Saint Joseph Province decided to organize a food collection for the needy of the Kingston area. It began with donations of food collected after the Masses in several local parishes. There was an immediate response and now there is participation by fifty churches as well as by other groups and individuals who give food to aid three hundred families weekly. As Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph we are aware that, if we cannot accomplish everything ourselves, we can work with others either to initiate projects or help them in theirs so that in the name of tender compassion the poor and needy may be helped."*



## A centre for those in the terminal phase of cancer

*"At 'Vallée des Roseaux', the sick person and those close to him or her are welcomed humanely; with tenderness, compassion and love. We believe these persons have a right to die with dignity, truth and respect... We must allow them to be themselves with their values, needs, fears, joys and sadnesses. The Lord lives here in a permanent way, thanks to a chapel containing the Blessed Sacrament and open twenty-four hours a day. However, each person's beliefs and expression of faith are respected"*

Sister Odette

Sister Evelyn





# WITH ONE HEART AND

Called in a special way to desire above all to be pleasing to God, the Religious Hospitaller of Saint Joseph lives in intimate union with Him. This personal encounter with the Father, realized by the Spirit in the Risen Christ, transforms her life and gives ultimate meaning to it.

1979 Constitutions



*"So that my apostolic activities may be permeated with the supernatural, I need to be faithful to prayer, to my morning meditation. That is where I draw the interior strength to keep my relationship with God alive. I find it also in the spirit of our Congregation, to know 'the holy liberty of the children of God' which makes the soul attentive to self'... attentive to God, who is present in my life, in events, in persons; attentive to His grace which is with me every moment".*

Sister Denise

*"I am certain that Jesus loves me and that He wants to do marvels in me... I then, accept his 'Great Love', I listen to His Word in the silence deep in my heart and I allow Him to gaze on me. Jesus' look is very important to me. Sometimes He does not speak... but I am there before Him. I have only one thing to say: 'Lord I abandon myself to you, may Your will be done, not mine'. Jesus loves me... I love Him and I am happy".*

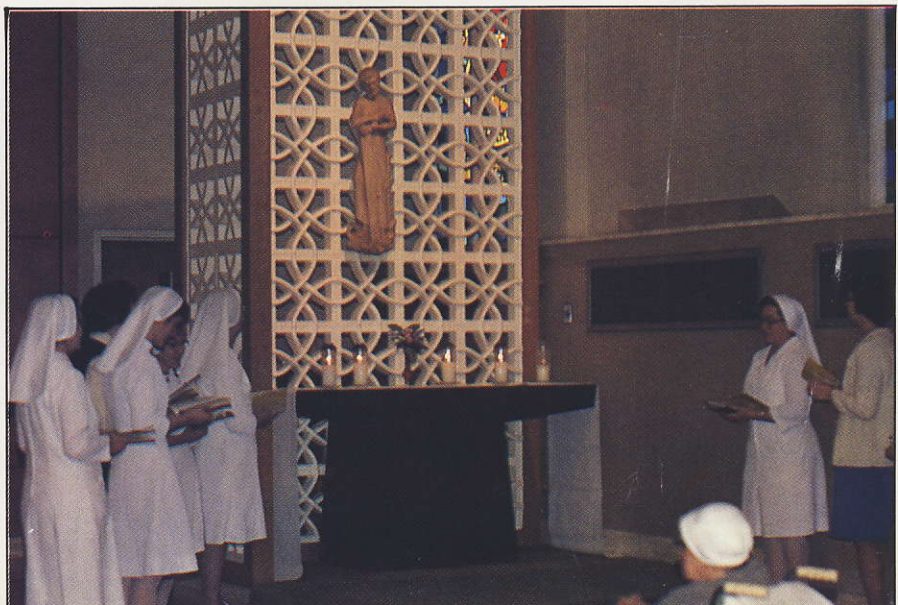
Sister Yvette

*"My faith life has been enriched and challenged by the women of prayer with whom I live. The fidelity of these Sisters to prayer and silence calls me to a deeper relationship with God. I feel united with each sister as we pray the Office together and share our faith during prayer and community meetings".*

A novice

*"After experiencing many episodes of sickness, the Lord made me understand interiorly that the value of life is in being loved by the Father where you are, no matter what you do. This awareness of the love of the Father has for some time given meaning to my life, one which is more and more limited in activity. The 'Our Father' has become the prayer which spontaneously arises to welcome the highs and the lows of each day. It is a prayer for all God's children who like me, with me, go to meet Him.*

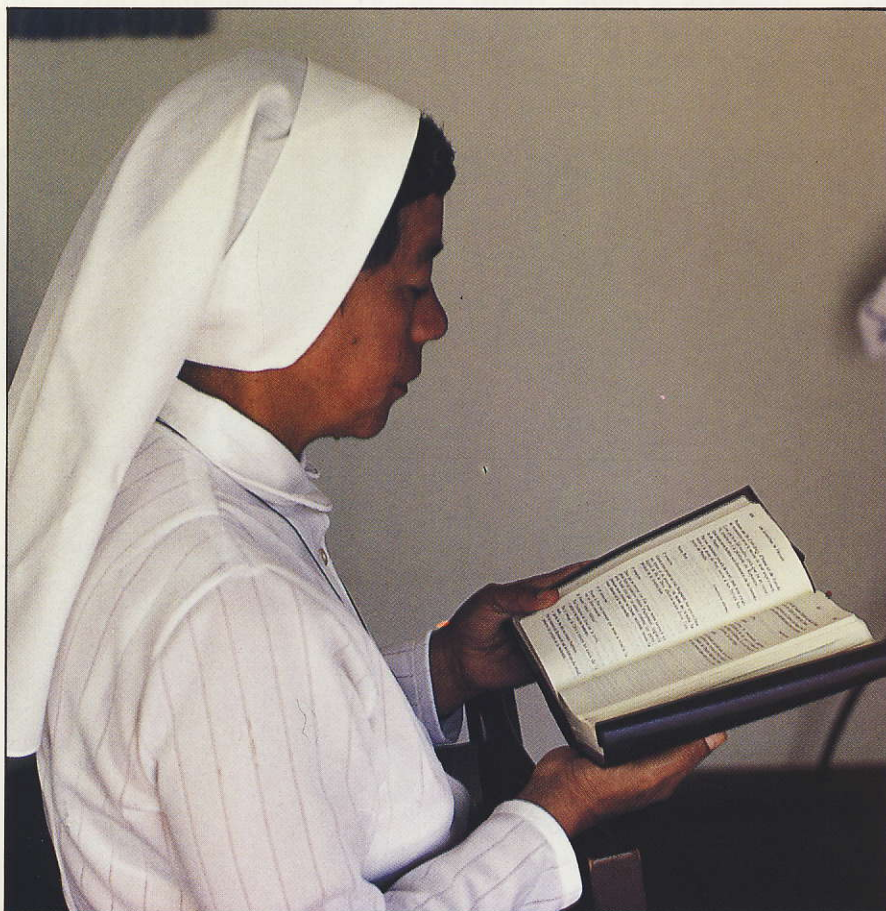
Sister Annonciade





# ONE VOICE TO GOD...

**Free us from all that is not you Lord,  
help us to give you space,  
so that we will no longer create  
obstacles to Your Love,  
to Your divine will for us;  
so that we may portray to all our brothers  
and sisters  
Your face of tenderness and compassion.**



*"Prayer for me is a look of mutual understanding between the Beloved and myself. A look which is an exchange. It says everything, it gives everything".*

Sister Claire





# CALLED ... CONSECRATED

**In response to a personal call to follow Christ, the Religious Hospitaller of Saint Joseph offers her whole being to the Lord.**

1979 Constitutions



*“Jesus, I want to follow you wherever you go...’ To my great surprise, His invitation attracted me calmly and quietly to religious life with the Hospitallers. I was ‘captivated’ by ‘the spirit of this family’, the liberty of the children of God... I have not finished my discovery of what it means to be universally desirous for all that will make me pleasing to God, the fruit of this freedom. In my prayer I am more and more attracted to the contemplation of His Word and I experience ‘the fulness of joy in His presence’”. (Ps 15).*

Sister Cécile

**The Religious Hospitaller of Saint Joseph responds to this call by her preferential love for Christ who liberates her heart for a greater love of others.**

1979 Constitutions

*“Consecration?... It is a love story between God and myself. It begins with a thirst to know each other to speak with each other... pushed to the highest degree, it is a mystical marriage and God wants that more than I do. When He called me, God loved me very much and He wanted me to love Him in return. He still does. Mission?... it is to extend the Reign of God on earth. There is no other mission except that of Christ. For me, mission it to give my whole life to loving Him and letting myself be loved by Him. To love... everything else will come after that. If I love, the little I do has an eternal value. ‘There is nothing insignificant in the service of the Master...’ (Marie de la Ferre). Those who love will understand. Those who thirst to love and be loved understand this crazy love of a God who gives His life, a God who wants to love us and fill us with happiness... all that is a journey in faith”.*

Sister Noëlla



***“I will betroth you to myself forever,  
betroth you with integrity and justice, with tenderness and love,  
I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness,  
and you will come to know Yahweh”.***

Hosea 2, 21-22



# FOR THE MISSION

*"I had been seriously considering religious life and I was almost certain that God was calling me to live it but where? I was 22 years old. One day one of my friends invited me to go with her to visit her sister, a novice who had just taken the habit with the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph, a community unknown to me. Behind the huge white grill, which greatly impressed me, the novice appeared like a vision. She looked beautiful, peaceful and smiling under the white veil which she wore with a serious air. She spoke softly and with simplicity. I saw that we were taking her away from her silence and from something which fascinated me. She was interested in us as if we were part of her life. She resonated with us as we spoke about our experiences as young people, our studies, the little happenings. Her steel blue eyes penetrated to the depths of our hearts. The regulation half-hour ended, she left us, still radiant and disappeared behind the cloister door which she closed without a sound... or a regret. I was shaken to the core as I left the large austere parlour with its framed mottoes on eternity. I had had an intense experience. I am still astonished that this profoundly emotional moment did not clarify my decision to choose religious life on the spot. It was only several months later after I had returned home that something clicked making it clear and plain. Why not enter Hôtel-Dieu Montreal where I had been struck by a 'thunderbolt'?"*

Sister Lucie, 67 years in Religious Life



*"Often in life there is someone who has a significant influence on us. For me it was a Sister, no longer young, whose look is like the purity of a child, whose words contain the wisdom of a sage and whose actions reflect the goodness of God. I am certain that the Lord set her on my path, this Hospitaller whose influence was decisive in my vocation. Without realizing it, she was one of the instruments whom God used to call me into this Religious family".*

A novice from Per



# CREATORS, INNOVATORS AND FREE...

*"Our existence, God's gift from the beginning, is not something to be received as a treasure, which is passed on intact from one generation to another. It is the seed of life which is only transmitted on the condition that it flourish and be transformed as the years go by. A small fragile sprout when God's Spirit made it spring from the soil, each generation must cultivate it and help it to grow; otherwise it will soon disappear. Its only future is ours to provide".*

Jean-Claude Guy, S.J.



*"Tomorrow cannot be the same as today. We need to be attentive to the calls of the Spirit. This leads me to a constant conversion of heart".*

*"Be open! Welcome new situations... Many people count on us: the young and the restless, the aged and the lonely, and the broken hearted. Be women of faith, prayer and compassion".*

## Faith in God who calls

*"The Holy Spirit is at work in the Congregation. The mission of the R.H.S.J. of tomorrow will certainly be lived in different ways from the ones we have known".*

*"Let us renew our faith in the God who calls us. Let us challenge you people by the witness of our lives. Let our lives reflect a simple joy in union with God".*

***There is always hope for a tree:  
when felled, it can start its life again;  
its shoots continue to sprout.  
Its roots may be decayed in the earth,  
its stump withering in the soil,  
but let it scent the water, and it buds,  
and puts out branches like a plant new set.***

(Job 14, 7-9)



Dear readers,

You have just read this album. You have learned something of the "sacred" history of the Congregation of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph, over more than 350 years.

Sisters have given witness to a three-fold life - prayerful, communal, apostolic. Perhaps you may wish to become better acquainted with the Hospitallers and their mission today.

You are invited to write to us at any of the following addresses:

#### **CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES:**

##### **GENERALATE**

5621 Canterbury Avenue  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3T 1S8

##### **VILLE MARIE PROVINCIAL HOUSE**

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Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3T 1B1

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##### **MAISON PROVINCIALE NOTRE-DAME**

**DE L'ASSOMPTION**

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##### **MAISON PROVINCIALE SAINTE-FAMILLE**

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75017 Paris, France

#### **AFRICA:**

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République Populaire du Bénin

Afrique Occidentale

#### **PERU:**

##### **RELIGIOSAS HOSPITALARIAS DE SAN JOSÉ**

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Lima, Perou, A.S.

#### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:**

##### **RELIGIOSAS HOSPITALARIAS DE SAN JOSÉ**

16 de Agosto - KIMO

San José de Ocoa

Republica Dominicana

This album was produced by a team of Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| THE SPIRIT OF THIS FAMILY .....  | ..... |
| AN EXTRAORDINARY PROJECT :<br>JEROME LE ROYER, FATHER OF A FAMILY FOUNDS A COMMUNITY OF<br>RELIGIOUS HOSPITALIERS .....  | ..... |
| WITH MARIE DE LA FERRE, A WOMAN BOTH STEADFAST AND STRONG .....  | ..... |
| AND DEDICATED TO THE HOLY FAMILY UNDER THE PROTECTION OF SAINT<br>JOSEPH .....   | ..... |
| A FAMILY SPIRIT WHICH IS EXPRESSED IN WELCOMING .....  | ..... |
| DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF JESUS-CHRIST IN THE PERSON OF THE<br>POOR .....  | ..... |
| CALLED TO INCARNATE THE TENDERNESS AND COMPASSION OF CHRIST<br>IN SERVING HIS MEMBERS .....                              | ..... |
| FROM LA FLECHE, EXPANSION IN FRANCE .....  | ..... |
| FROM FRANCE TO NEW FRANCE .....  | ..... |
| FROM THE HOTEL-DIEU OF MONTREAL TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF NORTH<br>AMERICA .....  | ..... |
| FROM A MUSTARD SEED TO A GREAT TREE .....  | ..... |
| THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO PROMPTED JEROME LE ROYER TO UNDERTAKE<br>THE MISSION ENTRUSTED TO HIM IS STILL OPERATIVE TODAY ..... | ..... |
| ONE HEART AND ONE VOICE TO GOD .....   | ..... |
| CALLED... CONSECRATED... FOR THE MISSION .....   | ..... |
| CREATORS, INNOVATORS AND FREE .....  | ..... |

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