



# Echoes of Emilie

Let us celebrate together the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence!

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## 175 years of love and compassionate charity... and many more to come!

The last few months have been exciting at the Emilie Gamelin Center with the preparation of the festivities surrounding the closing week of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence.

On this occasion, visitors from different countries where the Sisters of Providence minister came to celebrate, with the sisters of the Congregation, 175 years of love and compassionate charity, by participating in the various special activities to be held from March 26 to 29.

It was a special week and full of emotion for all of us who have been, directly or indirectly, involved in the planning and realization of these anniversary events. For many friends, collaborators and Providence associates

who came from far away, it was their first time in Emilie's hometown, cradle of this great work of love.

On March 26 and 27, while some of the visitors were in Old Montreal, walking "In the footsteps of Emilie", others were at the Providence International Center visiting the museum and the Historical and Financial Archives. The division into groups facilitated the flow and the sharing of information.

Visiting the museum's rooms, accessing archival material and visiting the places where 175 years ago Emilie Tavernier Gamelin lived, aided and loved the people in need, was a source of inspiration for these Providence persons to continue their ministries in the context of the realities of today.



**175 years of love  
and compassionate charity...**

On March 29, 1844,  
at the Asile of Providence...

and 175 years later,  
On March 29, 2019,  
at the Chapel of the  
Mother House of the  
Sisters of Providence



For this occasion, we brought from the museum the chalice and the ciborium that were used on March 29, 1844, for the first Mass of religious profession. At this Mass, celebrated in the chapel of the former Asile of Providence, now the site of the current Place Émilie-Gamelin, seven novices, including Emilie Gamelin, pronounced their vows of *poverty, chastity, obedience* and *of service to the poor*.

Before taking their sacred place at this great celebration, 175 years later, these artifacts required a special cleaning according to museum standards.

More than 500 guests came to celebrate this Anniversary. With great simplicity, they plunged into the charitable legacy left at different times and places in the world by more than 6,000 women who, inspired by their foundress, Blessed Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, had dedicated their lives to alleviating human misery. 175 years later, they continue their mission with the poor and the marginalized in today's world.



The highlight of the week was Friday, March 29, with a special Mass celebrated in the Chapel of the Mother House of the Sisters of Providence by Bishop Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montreal.

**Nancy Prada**

Coordinator  
Emilie Gamelin Centre



*A photo review of the celebrations...*  
**AT THE MUSEUM,  
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EMILIE...**





**AND AT THE HISTORICAL AND FINANCIAL ARCHIVES**



**Pilgrims from Chile walked "In the footsteps of Mother Bernarda"**

On April 1, 2019, a group of Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates and lay collaborators, from Chile, made the pilgrimage "In the footsteps of Mother Bernarda" in Quebec as a part of the celebrations of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation of the Congregation. In Chile, Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates, and lay collaborators continue, as Emilie Gamelin and Bernard Morin<sup>1</sup>, their charitable and compassionate action in society.

In this journey, the group visited **the Saint-Pierre church in Sorel**, to remember the taking of the habit by Mother Bernard, which was celebrated in this church on August 22, 1852. The pilgrims from Chile and the guides, Sister Nancy Arévalo and myself were welcomed by the sound of bells and Father Gerald Ouellette and Mr. Samuel, the sacristan of this church. Both prepared for our visitors a very interesting guided tour with archival material.

The pilgrims commemorated the religious vows of Mother Bernard Morin with a historical reminder of this moment so important for the Sisters of Providence and for those who have been at the heart of her charitable mission in Chile. The group also said a prayer, performed a song, and had a moment for meditation and reflection.



In addition to this pilgrimage, the group from Chile visited the Providence Museum rooms, the Historical and Financial Archives and participated in many other activities included in the closing week of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation, celebrated from March 26 to 29.

We thank the pilgrims from Chile whose kind presence and great interest have left such good memories among us.

**Lorena Otero**  
Museum Tour Guide  
Emilie Gamelin Centre



After a happy lunch together, the group visited **the Notre-Dame-du-Cap Sanctuary**, a pilgrimage site, located in Trois-Rivières, dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

<sup>1</sup> To learn more about the history of Mother Bernard, please see the article "The Sisters of Providence in Chile I and II" published in the Echoes of Emilie newsletter (Volumes 39-2 and 40-1).



*A photo review of the celebrations...*  
**AT THE MASS**



**AND AT  
THE DINNER**



# *As we conclude this Jubilee Year... Emilie, you speak to our hearts!*

As the celebrations of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence come to an end...

**another page of our history is being turned...**

**an evangelic message is given to us...**

And with our Blessed Emilie we are able to sing:

***"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord" Lk 1: 46***

Certainly, during its 175 years of existence, our Congregation has received many blessings from God Providence: favours, protection, growth, achievements, all for the relief of human suffering, while inspiring, generous souls, willing to work in Emilie's vineyard, as members of her Institute, as lay associates or as collaborators. *Providence of God, we thank you for all!*

*Thanks be to God eternally*, for the 11,485 young women who, one day, as a response to God's call crossed the threshold of the novitiate in the congregation of Providence, and for the 6,196 sisters who, up until today made their profession of vows.

Our reflections during this jubilee year have undoubtedly revealed the fact that, more than a century before the *"Apostolic Exhortation: Evangelii Gaudium"* by Pope Francis was published, our Mother Gamelin and predecessors were living *"the Joy of the Gospel"* in their own way, through the service of the people of God.

The following biblical passages help us to discover how Emilie, inspired by the charismatic gift of the Holy Spirit, lived these Scriptures concretely in view of the common good of the congregation of which she became the foundress:

***"The Spirit of the Lord... has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Lk 4: 18-19***

Mrs. Gamelin, already as a lay woman, had devoted herself to the poor "as long as her strength would allow her" (February 2, 1842), and later, after the founding of the Institute, in accordance with the mandate she received from Bishop Ignace Bourget, the founder: "You will be happy to do the good works that other communities do

not do."<sup>1</sup> And many needs surfaced: orphaned children, elderly persons, elderly, sick and infirm priests, prisoners, people suffering from epidemics (cholera and typhus) or psychiatric illnesses and alcoholism, the hearing-impaired, the homeless, etc. Always, the Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor, made themselves available to generously face the challenges these needs presented. The dedication and self-giving of the foundress, Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, and of the first sisters who responded to the needs of their time, according to the desire of the founder Bishop Ignace Bourget, allowed the mustard seed, having been sown in a field, to grow...

***"...when full-grown it is the largest of plants... and the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches." Mt 13: 32***

In the congregation of Providence, the tree of charity sheltered all those who were afflicted by misery, by physical, intellectual or spiritual needs, and who searched for comfort, assistance, support, refuge, and understanding. Everyone could count on a helping hand, a compassionate heart, an unconditional welcome, because the motto *"the love of Christ urges us"* has always inspired and motivated the Sisters of Providence.

***"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Lk 10: 2***

Soon a new field of action presented itself. In 1846, Bishop Augustin-Magloire Blanchet was entrusted with the direction of the Walla Walla diocese in the United States. During his visits to Montreal, he shared his concern about the missionary works with Bishop Bourget and also with Emilie Gamelin, the superior of the Asile of Providence, who recognized a new call for self-giving, for her and for her small community. Bishop Blanchet wrote to Bishop Ignace Bourget on November 22, 1850: *"[...] As for the Sisters of Providence, their place has been reserved for them for a long time and they can begin to prepare themselves[...]."* However, we know that, unfor-



tunately, Mother Gamelin herself succumbed, in a period of twelve hours, to the cholera epidemic on September 23, 1851. But Providence is always watchful!

The following year, on October 18, 1852, five Sisters of Providence, including Sister Bernard Morin, embarked for the Oregon Territory. The sisters faced insurmountable difficulties on their arrival and were forced to return to Montreal. On their return, they had to travel around Cape Horn, so they took, without knowing it, a Chilean freighter which, after countless adventures, landed in Valparaiso, Chile. It seems Providence had other plans...the Spirit of Mother Emilie Gamelin, her charity and compassion, were to be implanted in that region. The obstacles of distance from and communication with Montreal led Mother Bernard to become the superior of a new Congregation, that of the "Sisters of Providence of Chile", independent of Montreal. However, after long and fruitful process, there was much joy when the two communities merged, becoming one again for the General Chapter of 1970.

In 1856, a new team composed of five daughters of Emilie Gamelin once again responded to the dream of Bishop Blanchet. With great courage and firm faith, they went to the American North-West with Mother Joseph-du-Sacré-Cœur as superior. There they accomplished many works of love and compassion. Always available, the daughters of Emilie also crossed the American-Canadian border and began to work in the Canadian west, in the missions with the native peoples.

**"She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard." Pr 31: 16**

Then *the vine grew, it spread...* several decades passed... the years went by... And it took "the good Pope John XXIII" to think about calling the Vatican Council II in the Catholic Church... One of the results of this Council was the call to religious congregations to work in "countries of mission".

Faithful to their foundress and mother, the Sisters of Providence heard this call for help. Several sisters responded to the invitation to work in countries of mission and foreign missions were accepted because the daughters of Emilie always say: "Here we are!" And we witnessed many new works of mercy:

- 1963 **Argentina:** Comodoro-Rivadavia, Caleta-Olivaria
- 1963 **Syria:** Aleppo
- 1970 **Cameroon:** Etam Koma, Yaoundé, Koudandeng, Febe
- 1971 **Maghreb: Tunis and Algeria:** Jerba
- 1973 **Nigeria:** Koton Karfe, Lokoja



- 1976 **Haiti:** Milot, Pont-Sondé, Rendel, Port-au-Prince, Torbeck
- 1977 **Egypt:** Minya, Alexandria
- 1989 **Philippines:** Manila
- 1995 **El Salvador:** La Papalota

Always, as Emilie did in the course of her life, the Sisters of Providence sought to discern the call of God in new situations and in the invitations extended to them, seeking to know the place where they can best serve the poorest people in today's world.<sup>2</sup>

In the twilight of the celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their foundation, the Sisters of Providence can joyfully sing *Te Deum* in gratitude for the Gospel mission given to them and for which they have been anointed!

**Sister Yvette Demers, SP**  
Vicepostulator  
Cause of Emilie Gamelin

- 1 Words Bishop Bourget said to the novices at the preparatory retreat for the first profession, on March 29, 1844. Cf. *Histoire de l'Institut (History of the Institute)*, by Mother Marie-Antoinette, Volume I, 100.
- 2 *Adventurers of the Shadows* by Denise Robillard, third quarter 2002, translated by Sr. Mary Kaye Nealen, SP, 556.



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# Objects that are filled with history

The collection of the Sisters of Providence Museum has all kinds of objects and each one has its own story. Today, we invite you to discover the history of this set of liturgical objects dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1874, while on a trip to Rome, Monsignor Louis de Goësbriand, the first bishop of Burlington, received a precious gift from Pope Pius IX. How His Holiness obtained the custody of it remains a mystery, but the set had belonged to St. Francis de Sales, nearly 250 years before!

Back home, Monsignor Goësbriand honoured the Reverend Jean Frédéric Audet who was, since 1868, the founded pastor of the French-Canadian parish St. Francis Xavier, in the town of Colchester, by offering him the liturgical set. At the time, Colchester also included Winooski. Having learned that the Sisters of Providence walked from Burlington to Winooski every day to teach the children, Father Audet ordered the construction of the St. Louis' schoolhouse and convent. He served the parish of Winooski, with the Sisters of Providence for 50 years. Before his death, in December 1917, father Audet donated the liturgical set to the Sisters of Providence of Winooski.

The decorations that embellish the set are of a graceful beauty. Certain scenes and biblical characters are represented in a very colorful way, in addition to being enhanced with precious gems. The paten has a Latin inscription meaning: *"This is the bread which came down from Heaven"*. The set was received by the Museum of the Sisters of Providence, in Montreal, in January 2019.



Liturgical set that belonged to St. Francis de Sales while he was a Bishop



## Monsignor Louis de Goësbriand, first bishop of Burlington, Vermont, U.S.A.

Born in France in 1816, he studied at the *Séminaire de Saint-Sulpice* in Paris. He arrived in the United States in 1840 and became the bishop of the new diocese of Burlington, Vermont, in 1853, appointed by Pope Pius IX. He remained bishop until his death, in 1899.

## Reverend Jean-Frédéric Audet, priest in Winooski, Vermont, U.S.A.

Born in St-Césaire (Quebec, Canada) in January 1842, he became the first priest of his native parish. He arrived in Vermont on March 4, 1868 and was appointed as a missionary to Winooski by Bishop Goësbriand on March 20, 1868.



**Francis de Sales** was born in August 1567. Born into a noble family, he renounced his titles and dedicated his life to God. He was appointed bishop in 1602 and died in 1622.

Saint and doctor of the Church, known for spiritual works of great impact on the Christians of his time and of today. He had a significant influence in the Church and left an important testimony of his view of life through many writings.

He was recognized as the patron saint of journalists and writers in 1923. He is very important for the Community of Sisters of Providence, and especially for the Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, since he is also the patron saint of deaf people.



This statue was at the *Institution des Sourdes-muettes de Montréal* and is currently in the "Freeing the treasure" exhibition at the Museum of the Sisters of Providence, in Montreal.



## His Holiness, Pope Pius IX

Born Giovanni Maria Mastai Ferretti in 1792, he became the 255<sup>th</sup> elected pope, in 1846. He was proclaimed Blessed by John Paul II in 2000.



**Chalice of the liturgical set**  
The details found in the base as well as on the bowl are impressive. The bright colors of the scenes, as well as precious gems, differentiate this precious chalice from others.

**Engraved inscription under the base of the chalice:**



" CHALICE HAVING BEEN USED BY ST. FR. DE SALES GIVEN TO MGR. DE GOESBRIAND BY POPE PIE IX - 1894 WHO GAVE IT TO THE ST.-LOUIS CONVENT".



**Cruets and their tray,** part of the liturgical set that belonged to St. Francis de Sales.



**Paten of the liturgical kit,** bearing the Latin inscription: *"This is the bread which came down from Heaven".*

On April 15, 2019, a mass was held in honor of the 132<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of *Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs*.

The chalice for this Mass has a very special history and it had a central place during the liturgical ceremony.

We take this opportunity to say to the Sisters of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows:

*Happy 132<sup>nd</sup> anniversary!*



**Lawrence Houle**

Technician in museology  
Emilie Gamelin Centre



## Gratitude to Emilie

Emilie, an attentive and compassionate heart... Thank you!



### For your intercession for a successful surgery, for recovery of health, for healing, etc.:

J.P.-V., Grand-Mere, QC  
L.V., St-Raymond, QC  
D.B., Louiseville, QC  
J.T., Montreal, QC  
M.G., Boisbriand, QC  
C.L., Ruisseau-a-Rebours, QC  
Y.B., Brownsburg, QC  
L.L., Louiseville, QC  
C.L., St-Paulin, QC  
J.P., Ville-Marie, QC  
M. de S., Montreal, QC  
L.D., St-Tite, QC  
C.C., Sherbrooke, QC  
S.L., La Redemption, QC  
R.B., Candiac, QC  
J.M., Longueuil, QC

### For your help in finding employment:

R. and M.L., Moncton, NB  
M.B., Montreal, QC

T.D., St-Sixte, QC  
F.S., Jersey City, NJ, U.S.A.  
M.M., Grand-Mere, QC  
T.J., Lasalle, QC  
M.B., Montreal, QC  
N.C., London, ON  
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### For your assistance in the sale/purchase of a house or of property, and in other financial matters:

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M.-P.C., Val-David, QC  
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L.A., St-Christophe, QC  
G. and A., Trois-Rivieres, QC  
D.J., Alma, QC  
R.P., Montreal, QC  
F.L., Rawdon, QC

### For help and assistance on several different occasions:

S.P., Shawinigan-Sud, QC  
C.B.-S., St-Leonard, QC  
L.D., Verdun, QC  
M.B., Montreal, QC  
H. St-L., France  
J.D., Joliette, QC  
N. and S.G., Beauport, QC  
L.M., Trois-Rivieres, QC  
L.H., Montreal, QC  
M.C., Edmonton, AB  
J.P., Ville-Marie, QC  
S.L., Maskinonge, QC  
M.B.-M., Repentigny, QC  
L.A., Trois-Rivieres QC  
C.B., Montreal, QC

### For favors obtained (without further details):

G.D., St-Edouard, QC  
F.L., Lasalle, QC  
R.P., Montreal, QC  
J.L. Paspebiac, QC  
L.L., Sorel-Tracy, QC  
S.V., Shawinigan, QC  
F.B., Montreal, QC  
M.T.-L., St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC  
G.R., St-Jean-de-Matha, QC  
P.D., Contrecoeur, QC  
L.D., Laval, QC  
A.L., Lachine, QC

**Blessed Emilie Gamelin,** intercede for those who are confident in you!

**Sister Yvette Demers, SP**

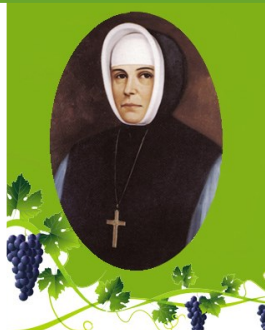
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### Gratitude to Émilie

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*To Blessed Emilie we confide all the intentions that you carry in your hearts, both spiritual and temporal; she will certainly know how to lend an attentive ear to all your needs.*