



# Echoes of Emilie

Volume 42, No. 2 - November 2019

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## When the past meets the present...

The year of celebrations for the 175th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence was a return to the sources of the past and present history of these sisters. It was also a reminder of the enormous social legacy left by the foundress, Emilie Tavernier Gamelin.

In our day, when things are moving so fast, we need to stop and take the time to see and to review how it all began. This does not imply living in the past. Rather, it is simply because it is impossible to advance without knowing the foundations and first references.

That's exactly what five of the descendants of Ludivine Lachance, the first deafblind girl assisted by the Sisters of Providence to receive an education in Canada, have done.

Last September, the Lachance family came to visit the Museum of the Sisters of Providence and the Providence Archives of the Congregation in Montreal in order to retrace a part of their family history. This visit brought to life, for all of us as much as for the family, the story of Ludivine. She was born in Saint-Gédéon de Beauce in 1895 and arrived at the Sisters of Providence Institution des Sourdes-Muettes de Montréal (Institution of Deaf-mute girls of Montreal) at the age of 16.



1 Ludivine Lachance, some Sisters of Providence, and a sister of Our Lady of Seven Dolours in the yard of the Institut des Sourdes-Muettes de Montréal (1966).  
2 to 5 Members of the Lachance family (Sept. 2019).

We had the privilege of hearing the stories and sharing in the memories of the family of Ludivine as well as those shared by Sisters of Providence who have been and who today continue to be actively engaged in ministry with persons who are deaf.

We all experienced the touching moments of our visit on that morning. Seeing Monique Lachance, niece of Ludivine, recognize some members of her immediate family in the photo album and souvenirs of Ludivine: her father, her mother and one of her brothers whom she never knew because he died at a young age, was one of those special moments.

It is by looking through the memories of the past and by remembering the religious women who led the way in ministry with the deaf as well as in the foundation of various social services that exist today in society, that we come to realize that these memories of the past are a part of the future.

Many thanks to those persons who participated in this gathering. It was a beautiful day that will remain engraved in our hearts forever.

**Nancy Prada**  
Coordinator  
Emilie Gamelin Centre



# Homage to our pioneers IV

## The little-known story of the Sisters Gadbois II

In previous editions we presented the education of deaf girls at the Institution des Sourdes-Muettes de Montréal (Institution of the Deaf-mute Girls of Montreal – ISMM) and the importance of this work that preserved from isolation and helped to achieve their integration and the development of their identity thousands of girls from all social backgrounds and all regions of Quebec, Canada, and even from New England.

Once again, this year, consultations about the future of the building that once housed this Institution and located in the Plateau Mont-Royal, in Montreal, made the headlines. Diverse transformation scenarios for the building, now largely unoccupied, are being studied.

Let's retrace the journey of each of the five Sisters Gadbois, who became Sisters of Providence, and of which two were initiated by Mother Gamelin to the principles of humility, simplicity and charity.

**Césarie (1818-1894), known as Sister Ignace de Loyola:**

First of the five Gadbois sisters to enter the Sisters of Providence congregation in 1844. Sister Ignace de Loyola was successively, for 30 years, local superior in the missions of Sorel, Mascouche, Burlington and Beloeil.

For 17 years she devoted herself to the work of the education for girls with deafness at the ISMM, and also at Providence St-Victor in Beloeil.

Having become deaf at 71, and almost blind, Sister Ignace spent the last five years of her life between the Beloeil home and the ISMM. She died at the age of 76.

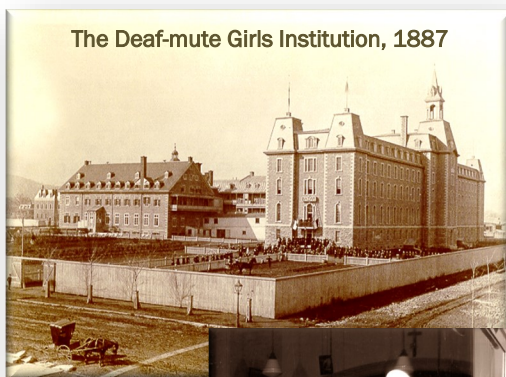
**Albine (1830-1874), known as Sister Marie-de-Bonsecours:**

Albine entered the postulancy of the congregation in 1847, at the age of 17. As a novice, she became interested in the teaching of deaf residents, imparted by Father Charles Irénée Lagorce in a room of the Asile of Providence. There she learned the basics of sign language.

The day after her religious profession, Sister Marie-de-Bonsecours was sent to work as a teacher at the Providence Saint-Isidore School. Thanks to the knowledge she acquired during her novitiate, she particularly focused on the education of an 8-year-old deaf girl, Marguerite Hanley. The success with Marguerite, whom no one thought would be able to receive instruction, led her to teach another girl, Georgiana Lavallée.

Due to the success of Sister Marie-de-Bonsecours with her students, she was called to devote herself exclusively to the education of girls with deafness. Mother Gamelin,

foundress and superior of the Sisters of Providence, decided to officially implement this work of specialized education. The educational work for girls with deafness was officially founded on February 19, 1851.



The Deaf-mute Girls Institution, 1887



Oral teaching method at the ISMM

In order to refine her teaching methods, in 1853, Sister Marie-de-Bonsecours went to New York to study at the PEET institution, which became the New York School for the Deaf. Enriched by new theoretical and practical knowledge, she returned to Montreal to continue teaching. In 1858, she returned to New York for eight months, this time with Sister Ildefonse (her sister Azilda), to the benefit of the work that had developed at a steady pace.

The work of the education of the deaf girls improved and grew. From May to July 1870, Sister Marie-de-Bonsecours also visited institutions similar to Montreal's in Belgium, France, England and Ireland.

In 1874, Sister Marie-de-Bonsecours died at the age of

44, from a disease that made her blind for about six months. She had devoted 24 years to the education of the deaf girls.

**Malvina (1834-1879), known as Sister Marie-Victor:**

She entered postulancy in 1856, at the age of 22 years. After her profession, Sister Marie-Victor returned to the ISMM, where she had already begun her apostolate as a novice.

After 11 years of teaching girls with deafness she was appointed treasurer of the Congregation. A few months later she was sent to Beloeil to take care of her dying father. Victor Gadbois, having become an important benefactor of the work, for some time already his house had turned out to be a place for leisure and relaxation for the boarders of the ISMM.

In 1869, after the death of Mr. Gadbois, the house that sheltered the childhood of these religious officially became Providence St-Victor. Sister Marie-Victor was in charge of its foundation and of welcoming the first girls with deafness.

Three years later, during a trip to the West with Mother Caron, second superior of the Congregation, Sister Marie-Victor was appointed superior of the new mission in Missoula, Montana, where she remained for 5 years.

In 1877, after the death of Sister Ildefonse (her twin sister Azilda), Sister Marie-Victor returned to Montreal to assume the leadership of the ISMM, a position she occupied until her death, in 1879.

## Azilda (1834-1877), known as Sister Ildefonse:

Twin sister of Malvina, she entered the postulate in 1858, at the age of 24. A few months after joining the Congregation she was sent to the Hospice St-Joseph (St. Joseph Home), where the work of education for the girls with deafness had been recently moved. She remained exclusively working in this ministry throughout her religious life.

Being appointed assistant to Sister Marie-de-Bonsecours (her sister Albine) after her profession, Sister Ildefonse accompanied her to New York to study teaching methods for deaf children. She returned to her students with new knowledge, which allowed her to assist the first director of the work.

In 1874, after the death of Sister Marie-de-Bonsecours, Sister Ildefonse took over the direction of the ISMM that had moved to Saint-Denis Street. She served there three years, until her death in 1877 at the age 42 years old.

## Philomène (1836-1908), known as Sister Phillippe-de-Jésus:

The youngest and last of the five Gadbois sisters to join the congregation, in 1861, she was assigned to the education of the girls with deafness. She already knew this work because of the involvement of her entire family since its foundation, in 1851, by Sister Marie-de-Bonsecours (her elder sister, Albine).

Her religious career involved 16 years of service to various works, as assistant and treasurer, among other ministries in the hospitals. In 1870, Sister Phillippe-de-Jésus accompanied Sister Marie-de-Bon-Secours on her trip to Europe, to learn and fully understand the Oral Teaching Method. Upon their return, courses of pronunciation, language and lip reading was inaugurated at the ISMM.

In 1879 Sister Phillippe-de-Jésus, who taught her colleague sisters and teachers as well as girls with deafness, was appointed superior of the ISMM. She assumed this responsibility from 1879 to 1886, and from 1894 to 1906. She was responsible for the building of the two extensions of the original building, which faced Berri Street and Saint-Denis Street. During her 33 years of teaching and administration at the ISMM, Sister Phillippe-de-Jesus kept alive the desire to have excellent educators prepared for this mission. She had the privilege of seeing the work of the education of persons with deafness finalized and fully developed.

Sister Phillippe-de-Jésus died at the Institution in 1908, at the age of 72.

**Nancy Prada**

Coordinator  
Emilie Gamelin Centre

Suite of the article "Homage to our pioneers IV: The little-known history of the Sisters Gadbois" (Vol. 40 No. 3, October 2017)

Also, in the *Echoes of Emilie*, other articles about the work of the deaf-mute girls: *Freeing the treasure I: The Sisters of Providence and the education of the deaf girls, To be deaf, A school out of common* (Vol. 30, No. 1); *Freeing the treasure II: A unique religious community* (Vol. 30 No. 2) and *The Sisters of Providence and the education of the Deaf-mute girls* (Vol. 38 No. 3).

## Blessed Emilie Gamelin Parish



### Christmas Show

## Concert

# MARC HERVIEUX

and the Chorus  
of Lafontaine Academy

December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019

2:00 PM

(Sunday)

### Saint-Lin-Laurentides Church

919 12th Avenue

Saint-Lin, QC J5M 2W1

(450) 439-2210

[www.paroisseemiliegamelin.com](http://www.paroisseemiliegamelin.com)

*This activity, which is organized by the administration council of the Blessed Emilie Gamelin Parish, is a fundraising event to keep its most important buildings in good condition.*

## MUSÉE DES SOEURS DE LA PROVIDENCE

MUSEUM OF THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE  
MUSEO DE LAS HERMANAS DE LA PROVIDENCIA

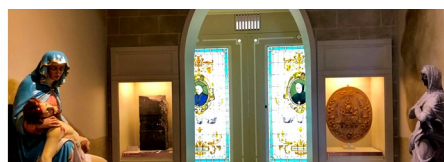
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# The social legacy of the Sisters of Providence highlighted in two new TV series

Among the various projects to which we have contributed since our last edition, the Emilie Gamelin Centre has collaborated in two television programs presented on MA tv Montréal (*Canal 09 or HD609 for Videotron subscribers exclusively*). The broadcasts are also available on video on demand, on Illico TV.



## Mon Île, mon quartier FR

Last June, at the request of the producers of "*Mon île, mon quartier*" (My island, my neighbourhood) a filming crew from MA tv TV channel visited the Museum to film a short video of an episode about the social legacy of the Sisters of Providence, who have been present in the Cartierville district since 1926.

Through short stories, "*Mon île, mon quartier*" help viewers discover the local history of the districts of Montreal, as well as organizations that take part in neighborhood life and improve the life of their residents.

The filming took place in the Museum rooms, but also outside the International Centre. The few minutes of this short video offers an overview of the work of the Congregation in Cartierville: Sacred Heart Hospital of Montreal, La Corbeille, Cartier Emilie, CACI and Hôtellerie Providence. As well, they directly promoted the Museum emphasizing the importance of visiting the museum as a historical resource, to learn more about history, past and present, and about the legacy of Emilie Gamelin and the congregation she founded.

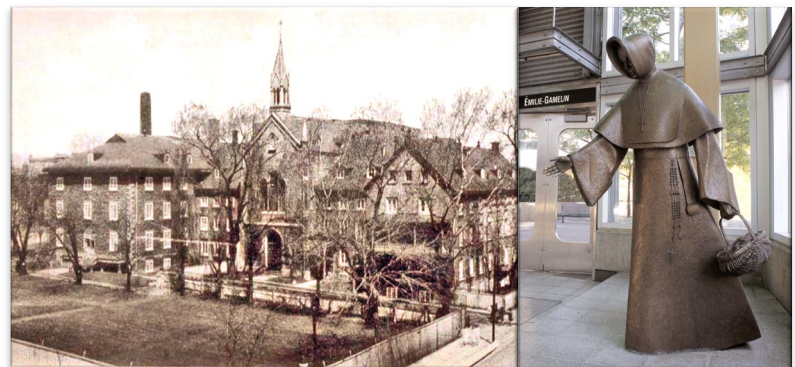


## Le métro voyage dans le temps FR

Last July, the production team of a new TV series "*Le métro voyage dans le temps*" (The Metro travels through time) asked for our collaboration through various requests regarding the Berri-UQAM metro station. We also gave an interview about the history of this sacred place which is the cradle of the congregation of the Sisters of Providence.

The official inauguration of the Montreal Metro, in 1966, was celebrated at the Berri-UQAM station. Today, *Place Émilie-Gamelin*, which now occupies this quadrangle, is the cradle of the Sisters of Providence, where 176 years ago Emilie Tavernier Gamelin began, as a religious, a charitable work of love and compassion.

This new series presents the development and evolution of six different stations of the Montreal Metro throughout the history of the surrounding neighborhoods.



**Nancy Prada**  
Coordinator  
Emilie Gamelin Centre

# Blessed Mother Gamelin's Power of Intercession

The month of September is very dear to the heart of the daughters of Blessed Émilie Tavernier Gamelin, several celebrations mark these weeks and constitute the "Month of Mother Gamelin" (September 23 - October 23). During this time, we entrust our intentions to her, particularly the great favor of her Canonization! On September 15, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, first patroness of our Institute. On September 23, we highlight the 168<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entrance into heaven of our Blessed Mother Gamelin, and on September 27, the feast of Saint Vincent de Paul, the patron of all works of charity.

Let us remember that when she died, in 1851, one could read in the newspapers of the time: *"Glory to God forever, Author of the perfect gift of love, for giving such a heroine to our people, such an example to our century!"* The fame of the sanctity of Mother Gamelin had already begun to spread...

Here are some examples: In 1852, one year after Mother Gamelin's death, one of her *protégés*, Caroline Baune, prayed and obtained her own healing. The chronicles of the Asile of Providence tell: *"In 1846, after Blessed Mother Gamelin accepted her in the orphanage, she made her first communion. Born with epilepsy, the frequent seizures of the disease gave her a great deal of suffering, but she had an endless confidence in and veneration for Mother Gamelin. After the death of this dear mother, she never stopped praying to her. One day, in 1852, Caroline had the inspiration to ask Mother Gamelin for healing. She began a novena and spent her days in the chapel or at the crypt, near the tomb of Mother*



*Gamelin [...] On the ninth day, after having received Holy Communion, suddenly she felt healed. Afterwards, she began to work in the kitchen and continued that work until April 24, 1901, two years before she died. According to the testimony of the nurses of that time and of the people who succeeded her in her work, Caroline lived for twenty-five to thirty years without having any epileptic seizures. May the prayers of this poor and much-loved woman obtain for us, very soon, the glorification of the Servant of God who loved the poor so dearly."*

Another healing: *"Towards mid-January [1878], Sister Marie-de-la-Providence (born Gravel), a young professed-novice who worked at Résidence St-Janvier and who was suffering from a headache that threatened to disable her, received the blessing of Bishop [Bourget]. Sister de l'Immaculée-Conception, her supervisor, was praying to Emilie Gamelin for the healing of the young sister. The archbishop, after having received more information about the young woman's condition, suggested her to make a novena to Mother Emilie Gamelin for her healing and also promise her, in return, to make her known, loved and venerated. The Bishop added 'I will pray with you.' Then, during the novena, being made by the entire novitiate, the young sister felt pains stronger than ever in her head, but the novena prayers continued. Then, very quickly, the prayers were answered. A few days after the novena, the painful condition disappeared, and Bishop Bourget wrote a letter to the young Sister with these final words: 'I hope that the health you have recovered will make you an apostle of devotion and trust in your*

*very pious Foundress, so that she may be honored and invoked everywhere' [...]."*

This is how trust in the intercession of the "Mother of the Poor" has increased until today. On June 20, 1960, at the opening of the Emilie Gamelin Centre, a historical research office for the Cause of Beatification and Canonization was established. We began to collect the stories of the favors received and known to date. Then, the staff of the Emilie Gamelin Centre took action to make our Foundress better known and invoked. We began to share the favors obtained and the petitions for intercession with the persons responsible for the conduct of the Cause. Even today, the Archives of the Bureau of the Cause, collect and preserve these stories, which serve to prove the holiness and the power of the intercessions made to Blessed Emilie Gamelin who, we hope, without going ahead of the decisions of the Church, will soon reach the last stage of her Canonization.

The echoes of the power of intercession of Emilie Gamelin, of this great "compassionate woman", continue to be sent to us daily. Here are some of these stories:

- All our gratitude to Mother Gamelin who obtained for us the health of my husband and the success of a project that was dear to our son.*  
R. P., Saint-Clet, QC
- With faith and trust, I made a novena for my daughter-in-law who wanted to apply for a job in Florida. Yesterday, I received the news that she had started working there. Thank you to our protectress.*  
E.L.C. Mayabeque, CUBA
- One of our friends has suffered from heart problems for a long time. Fortunately, after praying to Mother Gamelin, he could be treated and he is doing very well right now.*  
H.D.-S., Vancouver, BC
- Thanks to Mother Emilie Gamelin: I have a new, completely healthy great-granddaughter.*  
G. A., Terrebonne, QC
- Last winter, I had to be treated for cancer in a vocal cord. We are grateful to Mother Gamelin to*

*whom we prayed; all signs of cancer have disappeared and we are even planning to go to Florida.*  
S.G., Quebec, QC

- Mother Gamelin, to whom I prayed, assisted us at the birth of my granddaughter. The child and the mother are doing very well.*  
M.C., Edmonton, AB
- For several years now, Blessed Emilie Gamelin has been in my life. I pray to her every day to solve certain problems and I get positive results. Today, I entrusted to her my 19-year-old grandson who had a serious accident. May she intercede that the results of the accident are not too severe.*  
G.A., Trois-Rivieres, QC
- After 17 years of waiting, my niece finally was able to sell her house after she prayed Emilie. Thank you!*  
L.V., Louiseville, QC
- I thank Mother Gamelin for the happy motherhood of our daughter who gave birth to a healthy boy. We are happy for her.*  
D.J., Chandler, QC
- We obtained a great favor after we prayed to Mother Gamelin, the success of the study session of my son S. He had the courage to work well and to study very hard.*  
C.L., Boisbriand, QC
- Here are two donations for favors received from Blessed Emilie Gamelin: one from G.R., for the sale of his/her house and the other from my mother. Once again, Mother Gamelin was present to assist my family.*  
D.R., Laval, QC
- With the assistance of Mother Gamelin, we managed to sell our dear house according to our requirements.*  
M.R., Terrebonne, QC
- As always, I say thank you to our dear Emilie, for three successful moves: my own, my granddaughter's, and a house purchased for my daughter J. I always rely on your prayers.*  
R.D.T., Ste-Ursule, QC
- I knew about Blessed Emilie Gamelin thanks to my sister who has great confidence in her. So I*

- prayed to her with confidence and today, I thank her because she obtained a favor to me: I needed to rent an apartment in a specific place, through a difficult context, with specific requirements to bring me closer to God. I was answered and my faith has grown.* S.H., Victoriaville, QC
- *Great thanks to Mother Gamelin for the favor obtained. We managed to buy and to sell a house; this favor was possible thanks to faith and her compassion.* S.S. and M.V., Montreal, QC
  - *One morning I was feeling very anxious, despite the beautiful weather. I live in a senior's home and I had forgotten my handbag, but where? My heart was beating so fast... I searched everywhere begging Emilie and promising her a contribution. After multiple research... I finally found it... I say a great thanks to Emilie and I love her always!* M.M., Ville d'Anjou, QC
  - *For two years, my husband had the impression that his job was uncertain. Thus, we confided this concern to Mother Gamelin, and after praying two days in a row, he was offered a new and stable job.* A. Chandler, QC
  - *I want to thank Blessed Mother Gamelin for a great favor obtained during a trip.* J.P., Ville-Marie, QC
  - *I entrusted my granddaughter to Mother Gamelin and she is now engaged. She is very happy and I am sure Emilie will protect her.* L.V.S., La Prairie, QC
  - *I always pray to Mother Gamelin when my children have to travel to different countries and my prayers are always answered. She is very powerful.* M.C., Edmonton, AB
  - *Thank you Mother Gamelin for the many times I feel listened to and protected: my two sons always carry a medal of Mother Gamelin. One of them was once in a turbulent river with his girlfriend; they were afraid, but everything ended well; I'm sure that the medal he was wearing protected them.* L.P., Montreal, QC
  - *I would like to thank you for your prayers because, as requested through the intercession of Mother Gamelin, I finished 2018 having achieved the objectives requested by my job as an Advisor in Asset management. Now I am retired after 40 years in my career.* L.G., Joliette, QC
  - *Mother Gamelin always listens to my needs. My son, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, continues to do well.* A. P., St-Basile, NB
  - *My daughter needed a place in daycare for her boy; we prayed to Mother Gamelin and she obtained it. Great thanks!* L.V., Louiseville, QC
  - *Mother Gamelin really helps us to get through difficulties. I always pray for my brother who has cancer. He is doing better after a serious surgery.* C.L., St-Paulin, QC
  - *Mother Emilie Gamelin, in whom I have great confidence, is a source of comfort to me.* J.P., Shawinigan, QC
  - *I am grateful to Blessed Mother Gamelin who is always present in my life. She gives me a lot of hope to continue my journey with serenity and confidence.* L.P.T., Montreal, QC

PROVIDENCE OF GOD,  
BE FOREVER ADORED,  
LOVED AND PRAISED!

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

1 Chronicles of the Asile of Providence, 1901, page 352

2 Chronicles of the Mother House, Montreal, Volume III, 1876-1881, page 177

# NOVENA

## TO OBTAIN A FAVOUR THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF BLESSED ÉMILIE TAVERNIER-GAMELIN



### 1<sup>st</sup> day

Provident God, you whom Emilie came to know early in her life, open our eyes to the light of your presence and, following her example, may the poor always have a place in our lives. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will.  
*(Final prayer)*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> day

Provident God, you whom Emilie learned to discover in daily events: the joys, sufferings, grief, and loneliness, let us learn, following her example, how to meet you and understand your love towards us, whatever happens. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will.  
*(Final prayer)*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> day

Provident God, you whom Emilie learned to serve in complete loyalty in the duties of Christian and family life and in an heroic, acceptance of the trials inherent in the human condition, let us learn to accept in faith, following her example, whatever makes up our lives. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will.  
*(Final prayer)*

### 4<sup>th</sup> day

Provident God, you whom Emilie discovered in the poor and marginalized and whom she wanted to serve in being providence to them, following her example, let us always be available to help others with their problems. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will.  
*(Final prayer)*

### 5<sup>th</sup> day

Provident God, you whom Emilie loved, prayed to and praised as the author of all gifts, following her example, helps us to love, to pray and to praise you. May all our requests find in you the accomplishment of your greatest glory. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will.  
*(Final prayer)*

### 6<sup>th</sup> day

Provident God, you whom Emilie wanted to serve and love in the holy state of marriage and of religious life, following her example, allow us to live intensely our lives as baptized persons wherever we find ourselves. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will.  
*(Final prayer)*

### 7<sup>th</sup> day

Provident God, you whom Emilie recognized in the orphan, in the young unemployed person, in the couple experiencing problems, in the loneliness of the sick, in the poor without shelter, in the elderly without friends, let us comfort and give our time to serve you through them, following her example. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will.  
*(Final prayer)*

### 8<sup>th</sup> day

Provident God, you whom Emilie wanted to love more everyday, and also wanted to love in words and in act, in the person of all her brothers and sisters, following her example, let us learn how to forget all that causes pain and to forgive in complete serenity. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will.  
*(Final prayer)*

### 9<sup>th</sup> day

Provident God, you whom Emilie was happy to know, to love and to serve on earth, following her example, let us walk with you, in this life, to find and glorify you eternally. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will.  
*(Final prayer)*

### PRAYER

*Providence of God  
You who gave to Emilie  
a compassionate charity  
for all those who are suffering,  
remember her faith,  
brighten with your light  
the road of those imploring you  
by her intercession,  
and glorify very soon  
your faithful servant the  
Blessed Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin.  
Amen.*

Please inform of any favor obtained by the intercession of Blessed Emilie to the  
**BUREAU OF THE CAUSE**  
12055, Grenet Street,  
Montreal (Quebec) H4J 2J5 Canada  
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[www.providenceintl.org](http://www.providenceintl.org)

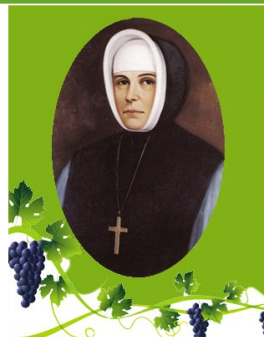
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### Gratitude to Emilie

Please address all favours obtained to:

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Montreal, QC H4J 2J5 Canada

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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.*