



Echoes of Émilie

Volume 47, No. 1 - May 2024

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The long-lasting heritage of Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin: its relevance in a modern secular world

As we continue into 2024 with renewed hope, we cannot ignore the fact that this new year is also marked by urgent social issues, that prompt all of us to reflect on our own role in the transformation of our ever-evolving world, where traditional values can sometimes seem obsolete.

The key principles of compassion, selfless service and social solidarity promoted by Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin - a woman dedicated to the care of the most needy, who did not merely contemplate problems, but acted with determination- are a source of great richness for our modern societies. Her life of charity and

service to those in need has many lessons for us today, as we face similar challenges of injustice, poverty, and inequality.

To respond to the urgent needs of her time, Madame Gamelin founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence on March 25, 1843. Her charism, her trust in God Providence and her unconditional commitment inspired generations of women and gave birth to a charitable movement that spread way

beyond the borders of her native Montreal. These religious sisters, inspired by the vision of their Foundress and through their charitable works, remind us that the true wealth of a society is



measured by the way it cares for the weakest and most marginalized. The example of their compassion and selfless service transcends time and reminds us that even the smallest actions can make colossal changes.

Yet, as we remember this precious heritage, we cannot ignore the fact that today's challenges of homelessness, precariousness, and the countless people who continue to struggle for basic rights, resonate with Émilie Gamelin's own struggles. Reading about her life challenges us to respond to the pressing needs of our society by generously offering our time, resources, and compassion to the marginalized. Her commitment to those in need can be a model for our own efforts to fight poverty and injustice.

Reflecting on the remarkable heritage left by Mother Gamelin and the Sisters of Providence invites us to consider how we can honor their past



and embrace the future. How can we embrace the determination that has always guided Mother Gamelin and the Sisters of Providence, as we face the challenges of our own time and on our own time and place? Perhaps we can all begin by integrating into our own actions and choices the core values these religious uphold. This includes cultivating compassion and empathy for others, as well as committing ourselves to developing projects that promote social coexistence and the revitalization of a more just and equitable world.

Finally, the life of Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin remains a timeless source of inspiration. Her dedication to those in need offers a model for facing today's social challenges and encourages us to remember that empathy, generosity, and action are essential pillars for building a better world.



The heritage of the Sisters of Providence, those women who, in the footsteps of Émilie, decided to devote their lives to those most in need, is one of selfless and commitment to others, regardless of their origin or beliefs. This mission of compassion still resonates today, providing an inspiring model for societies often marked by individualism and division.

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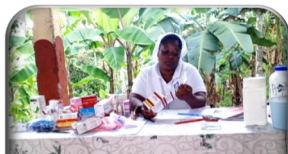
<https://providenceintl.org/en/emilie-gamelin-centre-museum/museum-of-the-sisters-of-providence/>



Sr. Filienne, novice, gives Communion to the sick (Haiti)



St-Joseph School, Moron (Haiti)



Sr. Juedie at the dispensary in Moron (Haiti)



Sisters Ghislaine and Nagwa at the Émilie Gamelin School (Haiti)

Honoring the past also means preserving historic sites, promoting awareness of their history, and publicly recognizing their contributions to society. By preserving their memory and sharing the enriching story of Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin, we ensure that this influence will continue to inspire and challenge future generations around the world.

Nancy Prada

Coordinator
Émilie Gamelin Centre



Painting of Blessed Émilie Gamelin on display at the Basilica of Saint Anne-de-Beaupré since June 2019. A replica by the same artist, Quebec painter Pierre Lussier, is on display at the Mother House of the Sisters of Providence and can be admired during a visit to the museum.

Description of the work

The artist depicts Mother Gamelin helping a homeless man in the central section of the painting. On one side are Dodais, the young child with special needs whom Émilie cared for several years, and a young girl, educated in the schools founded by the Sisters of Providence. On the other side, an elderly woman, a Sister of Providence, and a young boy, representing the orphan welcomed in large numbers by the Sisters and the young boys educated in the kindergartens ("Jardins de l'enfance"). The background recalls the Asile of Providence with its bell tower, on the left, and houses of the congregation at that time, on the right.

May Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin continue to share her charism of compassion with all those who will be inspired by her through this magnificent work of art.

To visit the museum or to purchase a printed copy of this work in our souvenir store, please contact us.



Available soon in the following formats:
Foam board printing or greeting cards.

(514) 334-9090

ceg@providenceintl.org

<https://providenceintl.org/en/emilie-gamelin-centre-museum/souvenirs/>

Lorena Otero

Admin. Assist. and Museum Tour Guide
Émilie Gamelin Centre
Bureau of the Cause Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin

*Emilie,
tu parles à notre cœur*

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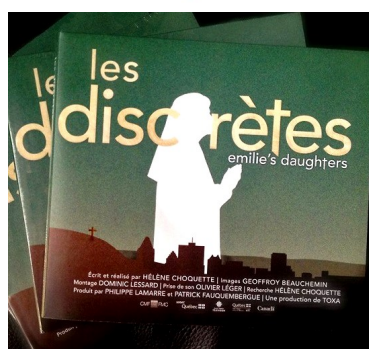
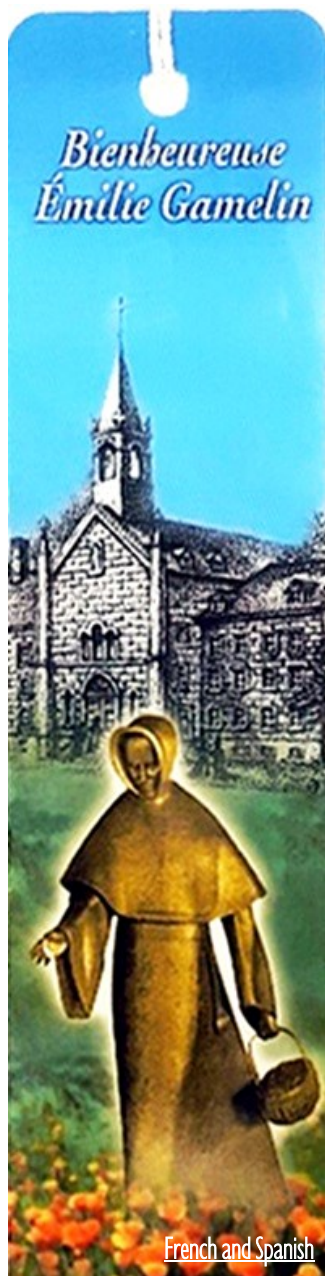
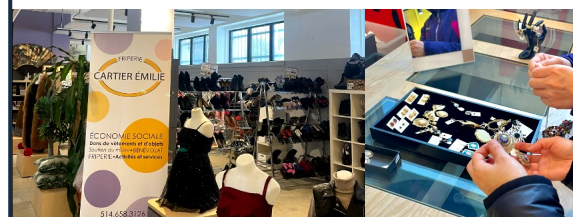


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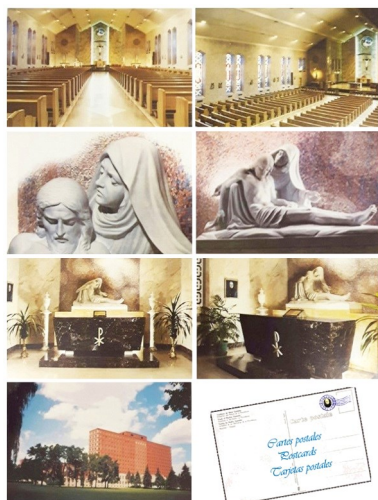
Cartier Émilie helps people in a situation of vulnerability and is committed to the environment by giving a second life to clothing, household items and other objects.



Beaucoup de douceur et
de grande charité pour autrui.
Bienheureuse Émilie Gamelin

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(514) 334-9090**

ceg@providenceintl.org



The teams of the Émilie Gamelin Center and the Office of the Cause wish to thank you, dear readers, for your faithfulness to our *Echoes of Émilie* newsletter.

We would like to extend a special greeting to our readers in **Quebec, Alberta and Manitoba (Canada), Nicaragua, Cuba, Haiti, Slovakia, Germany and Taiwan.**



A Sacred Call to a Special Ministry

Dear friends of Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin,

As many of you are aware, our much-loved Sister Yvette Demers, SP, left earthly life for her heavenly life on August 23, 2023 at age 94. She ministered in the Office of the Cause of Émilie Gamelin for fifty-one years of her seventy-five years of religious life, first as Secretary and then as Vice-Postulator. Sister Yvette assumed the vice-postulator role in 2015 since Sr. Therese Frigon, SP, had resigned due to declining health. Their love for Blessed Émilie Gamelin, woman of compassion, and commitment to her Cause were unwavering and inspiring. We miss both of them.



of Providence. During the time of congregational leadership (2012-2022), in addition to other duties, I had responsibility for promoting the Cause of Blessed Émilie working directly with Sister Yvette and with the Postulator, who is required to reside in Rome. Actually, there were three consecutive Postulators during that time, each devoted to the Cause: Father Roger Laberge, RSV, (2008-2013), after the Beatification of Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin in 2001; Father Eric Sylvester, SS, (2013-2017), and currently, Brother Luigi Guarneri, fsc (2017-present). Being in Rome, the Postulator works closely with the Dicastery for the Cause of Saints (previously named the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints).

A Sacred Call

The Sisters of Providence Congregational Leadership team asked if I would discern with them the possibility of returning to Providence International Centre in Montreal from Seattle, Washington, to be Director of the Office of the Cause of Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin and to be recommended by them as Vice-Postulator to the Postulator in Rome.

With the support of my provincial leaders in Western United States, I humbly accepted the invitation, aware of both the honor and responsibility of drawing ever closer to our Foundress, Blessed Émilie, in this special ministry. The ministry involves helping others know and love her and to ask for her intercession in their own needs. Also, the ministry involves collaborating with Diocesan and Vatican leaders to advance the steps toward Blessed Émilie being canonized. She was declared "Servant of God" (first step) in 1981, "Venerable" (second step) in 1993, and "Blessed" (third step) in 2001. Blessed Émilie's story inspires people to follow her spirit of loving service to those who are poor and marginalized, seeing Christ in each person. "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do until me." (Matt. 25:40).

The motivation behind our collaborative efforts is to the canonization of Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin, that is, officially being recognized by the Catholic Church as a Saint of God. Our commitment is to extend awareness to the entire universal church of Émilie's life and ministry so that her faith-filled life of virtue may be imitated. From the letters and emails that we receive, we know that people in many parts of the world have heard about and respect Blessed Émilie.

Background

I come to this special ministry after a year of Sabbatical that followed ten years as Congregational Leader of the Sisters

Postulator Role

The role of the Postulator is to guide the case of beatification and then canonization through the process required in the Catholic Church. The postulator understands the theological, historical, medical, and canonical demands that make up these processes and which are required by the Pope and the Dicastery for the Cause of Saints. The postulator also assists in the processes of examination of any miracles attributed to the intercession of the person who is being proposed for beatification or canonization.



Brother Luigi Guarneri, FSC
Postulator of the Cause
Émilie Tavernier Gamelin
since 2017.

Our Postulator channels information gathered to the Archdiocese of Montreal for their action and then to the Vatican Dicastery for the Cause of Saints who have processes for determining whether the alleged miracle meets the criteria for beatification (first miracle) or then sainthood (second miracle). In Blessed Émilie's case, another miracle is necessary before canonization can be considered.

At this time, a presumed miracle is in process of review by the Archdiocese, with a focus on credibility, medical or technical evidence and authenticity before being submitted to the Vatican for the analysis by the Dicastery for the Cause of Saints.



**Dicastery delle
Cause dei Santi**

The Postulator also names the Vice-Postulator upon the recommendation of the Congregational Leader and Council. The Vice-Postulator position for the Cause of Blessed Émilie has been vacant since Sister Yvette died in August.

Vice-Postulator

Brother Luigi Guarneri appointed me as the Vice-Postulator on February 1, 2024. What an honor it is to serve in this ministry. I will collaborate closely with Br. Luigi, with the Montreal Archdiocesan authorities, and the appropriate Vatican officials in continuing the process of identifying and gathering evidence seeking the truth related to potential miracles attributed to Blessed Émilie intercession as these are brought to our attention.

In addition, the collaborative work of the Office of the Cause for Blessed Émilie and the Émilie Gamelin Centre serves to make Blessed Émilie and the Charism of Providence as widely known as possible. We wish to encourage people to pray that their intentions be granted through the intercession of Blessed Émilie. We encourage all our sisters, Providence Associates, collaborators, benefactors, and other friends of Blessed Émilie to promote awareness of her extraordinary life and virtues. Any questions regarding the Cause, requests or thanksgivings for prayers answered and contributions are welcomed and acknowledged. The requests we receive are placed in the special container next to the tomb of Blessed Émilie located across from the Mother House chapel in Montreal. From September 2022 through February 2024, there were 796 slips of paper with prayer requests and gratitude to Émilie. It is inspiring to see the deep faith of so many people as they describe the situations for which they prayed and then how Blessed Émilie has profoundly touched their lives.

Ways of Promoting Awareness

How do we promote awareness through the Office of the Cause? Let me describe a few ways we do this.

Social media has assisted us greatly to reach people worldwide, especially through **our websites in English, Spanish and French**. If you have access to the internet, we encourage you to check the following website for information, selecting your preferred language: www.providenceintl.org and then more specifically for information about **Blessed Émilie, the Cause, and the Émilie Gamelin Centre**:

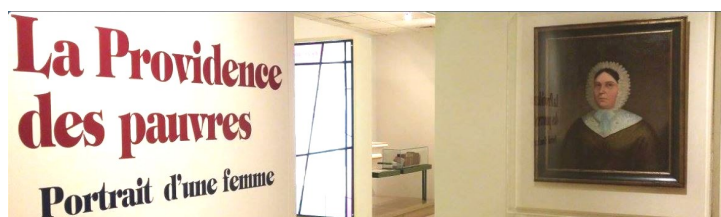
- <https://providenceintl.org/en/search-requests/three-great-providence-women/blessed-emilie-gamelin/>
- <https://providenceintl.org/en/emilie-gamelin-centre-museum/>
- <https://providenceintl.org/en/cat/echos-of-emilie/>
- <https://providenceintl.org/en/search-requests/three-great-providence-women/blessed-emilie-gamelin/cause-for-the-canonicalization-of-emilie-tavernier-gamelin/>

The principal website will lead you to other interesting sites. The **Echoes of Émilie newsletter** is archived there for reference. Should you wish to share any of them, you may download them,

and you can email them to anyone interested. Just Google "**Émilie Gamelin**" and you may be amazed at the number of videos and articles available.

Paper copies of the Echoes of Émilie are sent to the 3,000 subscribers and about 350 receive the electronic copy. This twice a year publication provides the opportunity to share favors received through Blessed Émilie's aid as well as to provide information about her life and the process related to canonization. It also contains interesting information about the Émilie Gamelin Center and its services.

Another way of sharing Blessed Émilie's life and works is through the **Museum** located at the International Centre in the Émilie Gamelin Centre where guided tours are provided to individuals and groups by appointment. This experience includes a visit to Blessed Émilie's tomb in the Mother House of the Sisters of Providence which is connected to the Providence International Centre. In 2023, 261 people visited the museum which reopened in February 2023 after the COVID pandemic.



Also, on **our YouTube channel** you will find the video *A Life Consecrated to Providence - Sisters of Providence Museum*, which is shown during the Museum visits. This video, available in three languages, highlights some of the photos and artifacts in the museum, as well as providing a historical narrative regarding Blessed Émilie's legacy. Here is the link for the English version:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW7vIcmHjeo>

Wherever Sisters of Providence live and minister, someone can be available to respond to requests to speak about Blessed Émilie in schools, in healthcare facilities, in parishes and for

other interested groups. We attest to her life and faith-filled spirit by imitating her compassionate love in service of those who suffer, especially those who are poor.

Closing

As part of my orientation to the position of Vice-Postulator, I am reading the *Positio* prepared as part of the process that led to Émilie Tavernier Gamelin's Beatification. The *Positio* is an account of Émilie's life and heroic virtue. I have been re-inspired, as though reading her life for the first time, even though I have read many writings about her. I look forward to meeting others, such as yourselves, who have been touched and influenced by Blessed Émilie's compassion, dedication, and courage in her service to those in need.

I ask your prayers that the Cause of Blessed Émilie advance through the Archdiocese of Montreal and on to the Vatican. We pray that we obtain the grace of an extraordinary physical healing inexplicable by science. Should you be aware of such a healing after praying for the intercession of Blessed Émilie Gamelin, please inform us at the Office of the Cause.

Before closing, I wish to express appreciation for the support that I have received from many including Sister Rollande Malo,

Administrator of the Cause, and Sister Alba Letelier, Congregational Leader, Promoter of the Cause. I thank Lorena Otero, Administrative Assistant and Museum Tour Guide — Émilie Gamelin Centre and Office of the Cause — not only for her support of Sister Yvette Demers and taking on additional responsibilities a few months before and following the death of Sister Yvette, but also graciously assisting me and the Cause in so many ways. She and Nancy Prada, Coordinator of the Émilie Gamelin Centre, are valuable collaborators in our efforts to extend the reach of Blessed Émilie.

I look forward to collaborating with all our colleagues at the Providence International Centre and benefiting from their expertise in advancing the Cause. We pray for and with all those who pray for their needs through the intercession of Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin.

Lovingly in Providence,

Sr. Karin Dufault, SP

Vice-Postulator

Bureau of the Cause

of Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin



Gratitude to Émilie

A litany of thank you's to Blessed Émilie... Thank you, Émilie!



Here is a donation for the Cause of Mother Gamelin. I pray to Mother Gamelin for all my needs, and she always answers my prayers. She is always there to help me.

C.C., Mascouche, QC

Here is a donation on behalf of my sister L., for a favor she received after praying to Mother Gamelin. She continues to work miracles amid hardships and illness. I pray to her daily, as my novena intentions are "often" granted, to our greatest good. Nurturing trust and faith, we can only remain hopeful! Thank you for your prayers.

L.T., Trois-Rivières, QC

Here's a small donation. Thank you for sending me the "Echoes of Émilie" newsletter. I always pray to Mother Gamelin whom I love so much!

A.P., St-Basile, NB

Many thanks to Mother Émilie Gamelin for a favor received. Thank you, Émilie, for being present in my life. I am so grateful to her!

L.P.-T., Montreal, QC

I always pray to this good Mother Gamelin for all those I love. Here is a donation for the Cause of Mother Gamelin. I have great confidence that she will protect my family, especially my two great-grandchildren F. and J. Thank you for your heartfelt prayers.

R.D., Sainte-Ursule, QC

Please accept this small donation in gratitude to Émilie for the favors received.

M-C.P., Parksville, BC

Please find enclosed a donation for the Cause of Émilie Gamelin. I first discovered Blessed Émilie at St. Joseph's Hospital in Trois-Rivières in the early 2000s. Since then, I have prayed to her every single day.

P.P., Trois-Rivières, QC

This is to inform you of a favor obtained through the intercession of Blessed Mother Gamelin. I pray to Émilie and ask for her protection.

A.L., St-Antonin, QC

Many thanks to our Blessed Émilie for all the graces obtained for my family.

Thank you for your prayers, which are so precious to my family.

L.H., Victoriaville, QC

Here is a contribution to a Mass, for my prayer intentions.

C.R., Sorel-Tracy, QC

Please accept this small offering. I have been a faithful devotee of Mother Gamelin. She has heard and answered all my prayers. She has been there for me and my family, taking care of our health and many other miracles. I pray to Mother Gamelin every day. A special prayer for my aunt D. and cousin F. who died of COVID.

B.C., Bronx, NY, U.S.A.

A donation on this occasion. Best wishes of health to continue the Cause of Mother Gamelin. Very interesting newsletter. Congratulations to the team!

S.M.T., Saint-Alexis-des-Monts, QC

Heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Blessed Émilie for helping me recover from cancer.

L.B.B., Laprairie, QC



Thanks be to God, because through Blessed Émilie Gamelin, my husband regained both his health and a good quality of life.

C.M., Saint-Bruno, QC

After our telephone conversation about my son G., who was suffering from prostate cancer with metastases and was undergoing chemotherapy, he lost his hair and was suffering greatly. I put him in the hands of Mother Gamelin, whom I always trust. He is doing better now. The metastases have practically disappeared, and his hair has grown back. Here is a donation to thank Mother Gamelin, for I know she is watching over him.

J.G., Repentigny, QC

Once again, Mother Gamelin, I ask you to help me to heal. I remain confident that you will intercede for me!

F.M., Chile

I am enclosing an offering for the Cause of Mother Émilie Gamelin. She is in my thoughts every day, and she responds to me with kindness. I thank her for interceding for me.

G.A., Quebec, QC

My gratitude to Émilie for a favor obtained after making a novena, that is, the quick sale of my daughter's house. We will always be grateful to her.

M.M., Repentigny, QC

We thank the following donors and pray for their intentions:

A. and J.C., Ste-Therese, QC

A. and S.C., La Baie, QC

A.D., Shawinigan, QC

A.G., Trois-Rivieres, QC

A.L., Lachine, QC

A.M., Shawinigan, QC

A.N.F., Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, QC

A.P., St-Basile, NB

C. and D.L., Ruisseau-a-Rebours, QC

C. and F.S., Montreal, QC

C.C., Montreal, QC

C.D., St-Gabriel-De-Brandon, QC

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J-C.C., Trois-Rivieres, QC

J-C.G., Montreal, QC

J-M.A., Sorel-Tracy, QC

J-M.B., St-Leonard, QC

L.G., Joliette, QC

L.I., Montreal, QC

L.T., Quebec, QC

L.V., Louiseville, QC

L.V.S., Bolton, ON

L-P.C., St-Antoine Sud, NB

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N.M., St-Lin, QC

P.R.L., Lac Etchemin, QC

P.C.V., Spain

P.L.T., Montreal, QC

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S C.B., St-Hyppolite, QC

S M.D., Montreal, QC

T.P., Nicolet, QC

Y.B., St-Laurent, QC

Y.C., Montreal, QC

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

Sr. Karin Dufault, SP

Vice-Postulator

Bureau of the Cause

of Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin



Let us pray
for PEACE in the World!



Moving soon?

Do not forget to
let us know your new address!

Gratitude to Émilie

Please address all favors received and prayer requests,
as well as any donation or contributions for a Mass
or prayer candles to:

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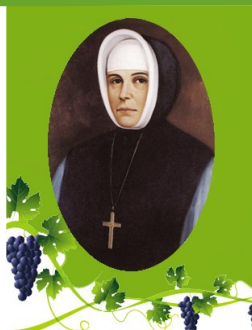
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Lorena Otero

Admin. Assist.-Museum tour guide
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To Blessed Émilie
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.