



Echoes of Émilie

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A Touching Journey through the History of the Sisters of Providence: A Tribute to a Timeless Heritage

During the international gathering of last October 21 and 22, a unique theatrical production was staged in the Providence Room of the Mother House of the Sisters of Providence.

The project, conceived as a thanksgiving celebration, marked an important step in the Congregation's journey towards a new structure and governance model. More than 200 spectators, both in person and remotely, lay and religious, were transported by this work of vibrant emotion and depth.

Divided into five parts distributed over two days, the presentation offered a moving retrospective of the life of Blessed Émilie Tavernier Gamelin and the history of the Congregation, honouring with gratitude the past and present, while inviting a transition to the future. This ambitious event, which

would normally have taken around a year to prepare, met the colossal challenge of being completed in just two months.

A challenge taken up with brio



This play, written and produced by Johnny Cortes in collaboration with the Émilie Gamelin Center, although fictitious, was based on real events as a tribute to the great work of love initiated in Montreal by Émilie Tavernier Gamelin. The multilingual aspect of the production, interpreted simultaneously in French, English and Spanish, reflected the universal dimension of the mission of the Sisters of Providence, which transcends cultural and linguistic boundaries.

For two days, the theater became a place of remembrance and gratitude.



The actors, for the most part familiar with television and film sets, surpassed themselves in delivering remarkable performances that transported us not only to the streets of Montreal in the 19th century to meet Madame and Mr. Gamelin, Dodais, the Patriots of 1837 and Bishop Bourget, but also to witness the founding of the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity Servants of the Poor. We also traveled with Émilie Gamelin to the State of New York, from where she brought back the Rules of Life of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Then we boarded the ship Elena to cross the Pacific with Mother Larocque and Sister Bernard and witnessed Mother Joseph's arrival in Oregon. Each scene was a vibrant testament to faith, compassion, and resilience. The three last testimonies of the contemporary fictitious characters added an emotional depth that touched the audience. These stories, supported by heartfelt performances, reminded us that, above all, the history of the Sisters of Providence is one of humanity and service, and one that is still relevant today.

These actors and actresses, who thrilled us with stories from the past to the present, had just one week to immerse themselves in the texts and the story, a feat that testifies to their commitment and talent.

In addition to the excellent performances on stage, it's essential to highlight the involvement of the many people behind the scenes. Without the commitment of the members of the translation team, the technical team, the costume coordinator, and the sisters who helped us with the religious habits and the little details, not to mention all the people who, from near and far, contributed to creating an immersive environment that



brought this historical fresco to life, this project would never have seen the light of day.

Unforgettable moments

One of my most memorable moments came at the end of the presentation, following the exchanges between the actors and the audience. One of the young actors, who lives in the neighborhood but knew nothing of Émilie Gamelin's story or the work of the Sisters of Providence, shared his feelings with tear-filled eyes: *"There's too much love in this room... I've never experienced anything like it before. These two days will always remain engraved in my memory"*. This sentence alone sums up the impact of this event on all participants, whether actors or audience.

This project, a true example of collaboration, not only celebrated the life and legacy of Émilie Gamelin, but also bridged generations and cultures, inspiring deep reflection on the values of compassion, service, hope, and solidarity that continue to guide the Sisters of Providence. It was a moment of history, love and gratitude that reminds us, with great sensitivity, that these same values continue to be guiding lights in our contemporary world.

Nancy Prada

Coordinator
Émilie Gamelin Center



Moving soon?

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Fresco of Mother Gamelin, by Pierre Lussier
Mother House of the Sisters of Providence



Lunch and get-together
Providence Family
Dining room
Mother House of the Sisters of Providence

Guided tours and audio-visual
presentations at the
Museum of the Sisters of Providence
Bernarda Morin Room
International Providence Center

International Gathering
Providence Hall
Mother House of the Sisters of Providence

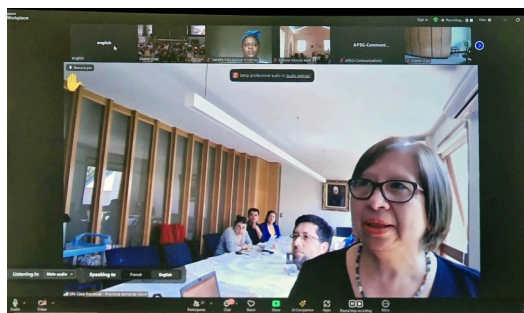
Some pictures...

International Gathering
October 21 & 22, 2024

In unity... also via Zoom!
Casa Provincial
Bernarda Morin Province (Chile)



Visit to the Tomb
of Mother Gamelin
Mother House of the Sisters of Providence





Prayer to Blessed Émilie Gamelin

Foundress of the Congregation
of the Sisters of Providence

O merciful Heart of Jesus who, in your infinite tenderness for suffering humanity, have filled Blessed Émilie Gamelin with a tender compassion for human miseries, and have raised her for the accomplishment of the designs of your Providence on the community of which she became the foundress, deign to grant us the grace we solicit through her prayers that she may be glorified on earth and that, in imitating her virtues, we may glorify you in heaven. Our Mother of Sorrows, whom Blessed Émilie Gamelin so faithfully honoured and served on earth, glorify your servant. Amen.

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December 1964.

Please inform of any
favour obtained

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This prayer is said daily at 11:45 a.m. during the weekdays by sisters and colleagues who wish, in the little chapel of the Providence International Center, for all the intentions recommended for the intercession of Blessed Émilie Tavernier Gamelin. Many sisters, Providence Associates and friends throughout the congregation say this prayer, individually or communally.

On the Journey...

Since the month when you received the last *Echoes of Émilie* in May 2024, a great deal has transpired related to the Cause of Blessed Émilie Tavernier Gamelin. We are at a new moment on the journey to canonization. The archbishop of Montréal, Christian Lépine, has recently appointed Father (Abbé) Aleksander Dudik, canonist, as Vice-Chancellor at the archbishop's Office. Archbishop Lépine has given him responsibility for overseeing the tribunal inquiry process examining the evidence related to another alleged miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Émilie Tavernier Gamelin.

After being appointed Vice-Postulator of the Cause, I had requested a meeting with the archbishop to be informed of the next steps in the diocesan process for advancing the Cause of Blessed Émilie. Providentially, the meeting was scheduled while Brother Luigi Guarneri, fsc, Postulator from Rome, was in Canada meeting with people related to the various Canadian Causes for which he is responsible.

Formal Inquiry

At that meeting, Archbishop Lépine shared that the archdiocese was preparing to conduct the formal inquiry into the alleged miracle of 2002 (following a novena to Blessed Émilie) for which both Sisters Thérèse Frigon (Vice-Postulator) and Yvette Demers (Secretary) had gathered significant information. Sister Yvette became Vice-Postulator following Sister Thérèse's resignation due to illness.

A diocesan inquiry related to this case had taken place in 2017 but due to some technical issues, the Vatican requires a new inquiry. Because of other significant priorities in the archdiocese of Montreal and the COVID epidemic, the new inquiry was indefinitely postponed.

Archbishop Lépine plans to hold this new diocesan inquiry in January 2025. Father Dudik will be the President of the Diocesan Inquiry. A tribunal of judges, and a physician expert have been appointed.

Eucharistic Celebration opening the Process of Inquiry

To pray for Blessed Émilie's intercession, Archbishop Lépine scheduled a public Eucharistic Celebration at Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral, to open the inquiry process. The liturgy was held on **Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.** Archbishop Lépine presided at the Eucharistic celebration and Father Dudik, along with other priests of the Archdiocese, were concelebrants.



People from near and far filled the Cathedral to join voices in many languages and ask God's blessing on the process of the inquiry into the alleged miracle attributed to Blessed Émilie Tavernier Gamelin. Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates, and colleagues in ministry from Chile, Argentina, El Salvador, Haiti, Philippines, Egypt, Cameroon, Eastern and Western United States, and Eastern and Western Canada united with Cathedral parishioners as well as other parishioners and priests of the diocese.

The Cathedral was alive with vibrant music provided by the intercultural choir led by Sister Eugena Nogaüs (Haiti) and accompanied by

Mr. Franklin Tchatath, pianist, and Sister Mariana Peña, guitarist (Chile). The Sisters warmly welcomed every attendee and provided each one with a liturgical program booklet containing information along with all the hymns, readings, intentions, and many of the prayers in French, Spanish and English.



Archbishop Lépine presided with enthusiasm at the liturgy of Blessed Émilie Gamelin, and his homily spoke of his own understanding and appreciation of her inspiring life of service to the marginalized.



A beautifully draped easel held an image of Blessed Émilie, and on the table were the significant processional gifts for the entrance and offertory, including her first-class relic, the Constitutions and Rules, a basket of bread, apples and grapes, a flowering plant and the *Positio* (Émilie’s life story and testimonies) that led to her being declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II on December 23, 1993.

After Communion, a formal oath of office was taken by each member of the Diocesan Commission (Tribunal), as well as the expert physician selected by the archbishop, the stenographer for testimonies,

and the Vice-Postulator, each of whom has a role to play in the Inquiry process. The Commission is composed of at least one person specialized in theology, one specialized in canon law and one medical expert.

Before the solemn blessing by Archbishop Lépine, Sister Alba Letelier, SP, Congregational Leader, expressed thanks to everyone for their presence and prayers. She offered special thanks to the many people who assisted with the preparation for, as well as with the beautiful liturgical celebration itself.



One of our new colleagues at Providence International Center shared a moving experience that occurred during the recessional procession. At the back of the Cathedral behind the last pews, Archbishop Lépine observed a shy perhaps homeless man. The archbishop reached out touching the man and invited him to join the archbishop as they walked together to the front steps greeting people. Was not this a truly “*Mother Gamelin*” moment! A perfect ending to a very special celebration!

If you were unable to join us in person or virtually you may connect and view the Liturgy on the YouTube link below. It is sure to inspire you!



<https://www.youtube.com/live/L8-LnnWkNAI>

Please pray for all the witnesses, medical experts, and tribunal members. We pray that all aspects of the preparation for and actual diocesan inquiry goes well and advances the Cause for Canonization of Blessed Émilie Tavernier Gamelin. After the upcoming Archdiocesan Inquiry, if the decision is favorable, it will be forwarded to the Dicastery of the Saints in Rome for the final examination and, we hope, recommended to the Holy Father for the canonization of our foundress, if it is God's will. By being declared a saint, the whole universal Church will come to know our Foundress and be inspired to act in the service of those most in need of God's loving care.

We are grateful to Sisters Thérèse Frigon and Yvette Demers for their untiring service and love for Blessed Émilie Gamelin and we trust that they continue to assist the Cause from their heavenly home.

Congregational Gathering

The two days following the Eucharistic Celebration, the Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates, and ministry colleagues from all parts of the Congregation continued celebrations recalling our sacred history as provinces and our embracing the future as one canonical entity without provinces. This structure begins January 1, 2025.



We enjoyed a professional theatrical production produced and directed by Johnny Cortes in five segments over the two days. The scenes focused on the life of Blessed Émilie and the founding of the Sisters of Providence as well as the ministries of Mother Bernarda Morin who brought Providence to Chile and Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart who brought Providence to Western United States and Western Canada. The final segment brought us to the works of today and into tomorrow. After each segment, guiding questions stimulated discussion in small groups and enriched all participants. It was inspiring to see the lively engagement of everyone including many sisters from the infirmary who were able to be physically present.

For the closure of the two days, the Congregational Leadership Team led us in a meaningful ritual and creative artistic exercise.

Fortunately, the two days were live streamed to all geographic areas of our international and intercultural congregation with interpretation, so all could live these special moments together in person or through technology.

Postulator

In the last *Echoes of Émilie*, I mentioned that Brother Luigi Guarneri, Postulator had visited us. His time at the Providence International Center was directed primarily at understanding what has been done and is being planned related to making Blessed Émilie known and loved as a model of Christian virtue particularly in service to those who are poor and vulnerable. He provided information to Sister Alba Letelier as Promoter of the Cause, to Sister Rollande Malo, as Administrator of the Cause, and to myself in the role of Vice-Postulator. He was complementary of all that is being done by the Émilie Gamelin Center, the Bureau of the Cause and the extent of Congregation-wide communication efforts through various means that reach people in so many countries of the world so that they may be inspired by Blessed Émilie. Many colleagues at the International Center generously assisted in preparing material to share with Brother Luigi.

Let us continue to pray that, through Blessed Émilie's intercession, the intentions of so many who turn to her, may be granted and that she may be soon officially declared a saint. Please share with us your intentions as well as the answers to your and our prayers.

Conclusion

May the peace, hope, and love that God intends for our World this Christmas Season be yours. Our Warmest Wishes for the New Year!



Sister Karin Dufault, SP

Vice-postulatrice
Bureau of the Cause Émilie Tavernier Gamelin



Gratitude to Émilie



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

Please find herewith a donation for the canonization of Mother Gamelin, so that she may be known and prayed more widely everywhere. Thank you Émilie for all the favours received. I pray to her every evening.
S.F., Longueuil, QC

Once again, I ask Émilie to intercede for my family. Émilie is a guiding light in my life; she has guided me for many years now. Enclosed is a contribution to the Cause of Émilie Tavernier Gamelin.
H.S-L., France

Thank you to Mother Gamelin to whom I prayed for my grandson. He found a job with better working conditions. He is very happy. Thank you again Émilie, to whom I pray every day.
M.-P. C. Val-David, QC

Here is a donation for the Cause to thank you for your warm welcome while visiting the museum.

Residents of CHSLD St-Antoine-de-Padoue, St-Lin Laurentides, QC

Thank you Émilie for the favours received! Mother Gamelin is part of my life, and every day I ask her to protect us and to assist our three adult children in their projects. Thank you for praying for us.
L.P., Montreal, QC

I am a centenarian and in pretty good health. However, one morning I woke up and could not hear a single sound! The doctors did not understand. Worried, I spent the whole day thinking about Mother Gamelin, to whom I begged not to abandon me. The next morning, I could hear as if nothing had happened. With this contribution, I honor my promise to Mother Gamelin who answered my prayers!
J.M., Quebec, QC

My father had two sisters religious. He had a car accident in 1960 in which he broke

his pelvis. The doctor told him he would never walk again. We prayed with my father, and he did not require surgery. He recovered miraculously! Since then, I have always had great confidence in Mother Émilie Gamelin. L.B., Sudbury, ON

We placed our house for sale in May 2022. We had a few visitors, but no purchase offer. We were discouraged! Then a sister introduced us to Émilie Gamelin, and I began a novena asking for her intercession. Then our real estate agent informed us that we would have a visit, after which the sale was favorably finalized. Thanks to the novena, our project became a reality! Thank you, Blessed Émilie Gamelin! J.B., Boucherville, QC

Thank you, Mother Gamelin, for your help!
D.D.H., Cumberland, ON

Thank you for the rosary and here is a donation to thank Émilie for the graces received.
E.D., Montreal, QC

Here is a donation for the Cause to thank Blessed Émilie for a very important favour granted.
F. F. L., Labelle, QC

Thank you to Émilie for protecting me and my brother during a trip last year. Thank you for your prayers and thank you to Blessed Émilie for watching over us and protecting my family. L.G., Joliette, QC

Thank you to Mother Gamelin for a favour received. My husband was looking for a new job without getting any response despite his multiple requests. Suddenly, on the 9th day of a novena to Mother Gamelin, he received several offers... 12 in total! He finally found a job and began to work only a few days later. Thanks to Mother Gamelin for generously helping us through this difficult time.
K. and N.M., Ste-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, QC

Enclosed is a contribution for a Mass and a votive candle to honor Mother Émilie Gamelin, in gratitude for the blessings she grants us and for being present in our lives every day.
A.L., Chandler, QC

More gratitude to Émilie...

- A.L. and S.C., La Baie, QC
- T.L.A., Saint-Amable, QC
- A.P., St-Basile, NB
- D.N., St-Leonard, QC
- M.D., Chicoutimi, QC
- F.M., P-E.L., L.M. and E.C., HC and LO, J-C.G., D.T., and S.L.V., Montreal, QC
- G.D'A., Rimouski, QC
- J.L., Val des Sources, QC
- J.T. et N.F., Yamachiche, QC
- R.P. and L.R., Saint-Clet, QC
- L.L., Paspebiac, QC
- M.C., N. and B.N., and R. Family, NY, U.S.A.
- M.M., Varennes, QC
- A.R., Sorel-Tracy, QC
- J.L., Quebec, QC
- N.B., Laval, QC
- R.B., St-Bruno, QC
- F.L., Labelle, QC
- J.L., Lachute, QC
- L.T., St. Antoine South, NB
- R. and M. Leger, Moncton, NB
- M.C. and I.C., Edmonton, BC

Blessed Émilie Gamelin,
Pray for Us!

Sister Karin Dufault, SP

Vice-Postulator
Bureau of the Cause Émilie Tavernier Gamelin

Resources and inspiration

<https://providenceintl.org/en/resources-and-inspiration/>

Gratitude to Émilie

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

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Sister Karin Dufault, SP

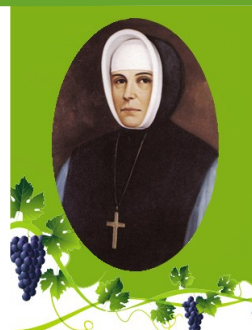
Vice-Postulator
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Lorena Otero

Admin. Assist.-Museum tour guide
Ext. # 217

lotero@providenceintl.org



*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.*