

MIC MISSION NEWS

VOL. 53, Nº 3 | JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2026



To sow seeds of joy and hope! — Since 1923

*100 Years
of an Undaunted Mission*

Building a Future of Compassion



PUBLICATION OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MISSIONARY PRAYER INTENTIONS 2026

VOL. 53, N° 3 | JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2026

JULY

For respect for human life.

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

AUGUST

For evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

SEPTEMBER

For the protection of water.

Let us pray for just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Masses for readers' intentions offered in the following countries:

(February) **Cuba** • (March) **Philippines**
• (April) **Haiti** • (May) **Canada**
• (June) **Bolivia** • (July) **Malawi** and
Zambia • (August) **Hong Kong** and
Taiwan • (September) **Madagascar**
• (October) **Peru** • (November) **Japan**

Building a Future of Compassion

3 | Inner Happiness

– Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

4 | The Village by the River

– Marie-Josèphe Simard, M.I.C.

6 | A Heritage in Motion

– Jeanne Gauvin, M.I.C., and Alexandre Payer

9 | Our Lady of the Street – Anne-Marie Forest

12 | No Capes, No Miracles: Compassion in Everyday Life

– Amélie Martineau-Lavallée

14 | A Human Perspective – Marie-Claude Barrière

16 | In Vietnam – Lorna F. Erickson, M.I.C.

18 | A Bridge Named Love

– Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

20 | To the Outskirts!

– M.I.C. of Madagascar

22 | Committing Today to Creating a World of Compassion

– Excerpts from the M.I.C. Chronicles

24 | With You, O Lord – Léonie Therrien, M.I.C.

25 | God the Creator – Monique Bigras, M.I.C.

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The transfer of the M.I.C.
motherhouse to the City of Laval.
Center: Mr. Stéphane Boyer, Mayor
of Laval; to his right: Sr. Sylvia Dupuis,
Provincial Superior; to his left:
Sr. Marie-Josèphe Simard, Provincial
Assistant, and Sr. Gisèle Leduc,
Provincial Treasurer. They are
joined by members of the city
and the *Collectif autour d'une tasse*.
Photo: City of Laval

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Inner Happiness



Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

Happiness is in your heart; don't look too far—it's within you! These words translated from a song composed by a Haitian Sister, touched me deeply because they express profound wisdom. Seeing with the eyes of the heart transforms our perception of reality. It involves going beyond the visible to connect with the invisible, with emotions, and with inner truth. Taking the time to pause allows us to adopt a spiritual vision centered on love, faith and hope.

This approach offers a quality of presence that highlights the depth of each moment. Every moment lived becomes an opportunity to discover the other, to embrace an event, or to find oneself. In our fast-paced society, it is an invitation to turn inward, allowing the present moment to reveal its treasures of love and the hidden splendor of people and things.

Last March, that is exactly what we experienced as we bid farewell to our motherhouse in Pont-Viau. The presentation of our community's history, narrated by our Provincial Superior, Sister Sylvia Dupuis, touched us deeply. It was a celebration filled with emotion, where each of our memories filled our hearts.



On March 19, 2026, a celebration of gratitude was held in the chapel of the motherhouse in Pont-Viau. Photo: Cecilia Hong, M.I.C.

A celebration marked by gratitude for the past, while looking toward the future of this house, which is now opening its doors to the social needs of the City of Laval. It is a great Magnificat that continues to live on in the missionary hearts of the M.I.C.

The circumstances of life develop in each and every one of us the ability to perceive and recognize within ourselves the presence of the Risen One who is with us at every moment. To allow ourselves to be challenged by the invisible and to discover beauty beyond appearances—is this not what the disciples of Emmaus experienced as they returned home after the great events in Jerusalem? How often do we act like the blind, oblivious to situations that would call for a watchful eye, a friendly gesture, or a word of comfort? Anne-Marie Forest's painting perfectly captures this reality: passersby turn their backs on the homeless man. It is artwork that truly invites reflection. The summer season presents us with similar encounters. Let us open the eyes of our hearts to respond to an outstretched hand, to the call of a smile or a kind word, for the world is sorely lacking in inner peace, sincere connections, and joy.

May summer blossom around you with family, friendships, and divine joy. And may reading this little newsletter—as our Foundress, Délia Tétreault, liked to call our magazine—bring you a moment of rest while nourishing your reflection.

Enjoy your reading!

Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.



Presentation of the commemorative plaque. Photo: Cecilia Hong, M.I.C.



It is not big houses that bring us happiness but big hearts
– Délia Tétrault, Foundress of the Missionary Sisters
of the Immaculate Conception

The Village by the River

Marie-Josèphe Simard, M.I.C.

This article summarizes the information from the press release issued by the City of Laval on March 31, 2026.

The City of Laval has taken a major step forward in the revitalization of the Pont-Viau neighbourhood by acquiring the property of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. This initiative paves the way for an ambitious socio-economic project designed to breathe new life into this iconic site. The official handover took place on April 2, 2026.

At the heart of this transformation is a close collaboration between the city and local stakeholders to give this 170,000-square-foot heritage building a cultural and community purpose. The project also includes the creation of approximately 200 non-market housing

units, as well as public amenities that foster a dynamic and accessible living environment.

MUNICIPAL VISION

Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer has put forward a vision that combines heritage preservation with social development:

This acquisition represents a unique opportunity to preserve a site steeped in history while giving it a new purpose in the service of the community. We want to turn it into a dynamic, inclusive, and accessible space that will make a tangible contribution to the vitality of the neighbourhood and the quality of life of Laval's residents.



A major change: the MIC Mission News premises have become a pediatric clinic.

Photo: M.-P. Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

A COMMUNITY-LED PROJECT

The *Collectif autour d'une tasse* (CAT) will be responsible for the site's transformation and redevelopment. Born out of a grass-roots movement, it is built on a strong collaborative approach. Its Executive Director, Nathalie Lapointe, emphasizes the importance of this step:

The Collectif autour d'une tasse was born out of a shared desire to transform this heritage site into a space that serves the community. From the very beginning, the congregation opened its doors to us, enabling a collaborative effort with the city. The transfer of this complex to the CAT marks a decisive step: thanks to the support of the social economy sector, we have a solid foundation to ensure the project's development and sustainability. We aim to create a unifying, cultural, social and accessible space that will meet the neighbourhood's needs while contributing to its vitality.

A MOMENT FILLED WITH MEMORIES AND HOPE

On March 31, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception marked their departure from their motherhouse in Pont-Viau, after more than a century of presence there.

Sister Marie-Josèphe Simard, Provincial Assistant, spoke movingly about the meaning of this transition:

We are leaving! You are taking our place! This house is now yours. This home that has sheltered so many dreams and holds so many memories within its walls. More than 100 years of dreams come true: that of Délia Tétreault, and then that of hundreds of young women who traveled the world's roads before returning to this land that is ours. It is you who are now pursuing this dream. This dream, which is becoming a reality, is the continuation of our Foundress' dream and our own. It is taking shape and taking root within the Laval community with kind-hearted people, sensitive individuals who are attentive to the needs of the population and committed to making the world a better and more humane place.

WE LEAVE IN PEACE,
KNOWING THAT THE
MISSION CONTINUES, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE
CHARACTER AND NEEDS
OF THE COMMUNITY.

This house will become whatever you make of it, and we are certain it will continue to be a place of safety, comfort and listening. A place where beauty and kindness go hand in hand, a welcoming space for sharing where we can return to enjoy a cup of coffee in a warm atmosphere, where the walls will hum melodies that touch the soul and soothe the heart...

We leave in peace and confidence, knowing that the mission continues and takes shape here, today, in accordance with the character and needs of the community. Thus, the Village by the River will take root in the rhythm of life.

Echoing this legacy, a saying from our Foundress remains: *It is not big houses that bring happiness, but big hearts.* 🌿

A Heritage in Motion

Making the most of a season of transition to deepen one's roots



**Jeanne Gauvin, M.I.C.,
and Alexandre Payer**

Délia Tétreault left behind more than two thousand letters, carefully archived and indexed by her community. As we read this epistolary legacy with emotion, we rediscover the origins of the mission. If the Foundress insisted so strongly that the Sisters document the life of their emerging congregation, it was to anchor a sense of historical and spiritual continuity.

Without this solid foundation, the spread of a message that still resonates today would be fragile. It is this same guiding thread—a true support structure—that directs the activities of the Délia-Tétreault Museum during this period of transition.

NEXT STOP

Every move is a bittersweet blend of sadness and hope. Leaving places imbued with the memory of Délia Tétreault in order to let her legacy shine elsewhere requires a sense of detachment and trust that must be learned...

It is important to acknowledge the determination and rigor of the Museum team in documenting, packing, and storing the works and artifacts. Carefully wrapped in tissue paper and bubble wrap to endure this "long wintering", these treasures now await their rebirth in spaces designed to offer them the light and room they deserve.

This departure in July 2025 marks the end of a deep-rooted presence that began in 1924. While the site of the Mother House of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception is preparing to change its vocation, this precious heritage will not leave the neighbourhood: it will be relocated to the new building erected on the same grounds, ensuring the continuity of this legacy at the very heart of the city of Laval.

THE MUSEUM OFFICE: A BEACON OF CREATIVITY

While awaiting the Délia-Tétreault Museum's permanent installation in its new premises, the team remains in motion. Our stopover at Villa Opale in Lachine is far from being a mere temporary step. Housed in a light-filled office, we are already fully inhabiting this space, which stimulates our creativity. It is here, in this inspiring atmosphere, that we bring Délia's spirit back to life through our objects of memory.

MONTHS FLY BY, CALENDARS REMAIN

The current impossibility of accessing our material heritage, for reasons beyond our control, reminds us of another recent challenge: during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum had to suspend its activities. Even then, the team found a clever way to maintain a connection with a confined audience.



The temporary exhibition space at the Délia-Tétreault Museum in Villa Opale, Lachine. A light-filled room, conducive to work and creativity, just as Délia had wished. Photo: Alexandre Payer

Taking advantage of a furniture upgrade, a photo session of the collections gave rise to a meaningful project: a calendar. This project continues to this day. For even when the Museum is silent, the objects continue to tell their story. Each month, a group of artifacts is paired with an inspiring quote from Délia Tétreault and a caption presenting the item. Subsequent editions evolve with current themes—ecology, recognition, compassionate communication, mindfulness—and are now enriched with watercolour illustrations that combine transparency, light and subtlety.

Five years later, this calendar has become a staple within the community. In the eyes of all, it has established itself as a tool for engagement, communication, and connection. One sister shared, astonished: *It's the first time since I joined the community that my family has spoken to me about Délia Tétreault—and it's thanks to your calendar!* Today more than ever, it is inspiring to see that it fulfills its original purpose so well: creating a space for sharing Délia's vision that goes far beyond any physical location.

L'OPALE OPENS ITS PAGES AND ITS HEART TO US

Another wonderful surprise awaited our team upon arriving in Lachine: a platform within the monthly newspaper *L'Opale*. The invitation is ongoing! Each month, a page is devoted to the Foundress' thoughts—a short message of solidarity, kindness and gratitude.

Délia Tétreault possessed a keen sense of communication, and this collaboration with *L'Opale* allows us to continue her mission: building connections with the community and spreading values that never retire.

Beyond offering advice and tips for living Délia Tétreault's philosophy on a daily basis, these articles allow us to share fragments of history, reflect on social engagement, and provide updates on the future museum. This monthly feature is meant to be a meeting place—a window open onto the work of an exceptional woman whose boldness continues to guide us.

A WELL-ORGANIZED BAZAAR

It all begins at the entrance to our offices. Visitors are welcomed by our “shop”, a glass display cabinet with built-in lighting showcasing the museum’s latest creations. Intrigued by our display, a member of Villa Opale’s administrative team stopped to discover its contents. From this interest came a spontaneous proposal: *Would you be able to take part in our Christmas bazaar by showcasing these beautiful creations?* This enthusiasm turned into an invitation. Thus, at this holiday market, the careful and dynamic presentation of our products allowed us to stand out alongside other exhibitors. The event was an exceptional opportunity to share the spirit and values of Délia Tétreault while bringing our own festive signature to the community.

THE DREAMED MUSEUM

Beyond the opportunities offered by its new Lachine community, it goes without saying that the museum’s heart remains in Laval and its eyes are fixed on the future. On August 16, during a major gathering called the Council of the Institute, provincial leaders from different missions came together to review the management and spiritual leadership of the

community. This privileged moment made it possible to inform the twenty-three participants of the museum’s commitments to ensure that its current transition leads to long-term sustainability.

During the meeting, the team presented a preliminary virtual model of the exhibition hall that will be integrated into the new headquarters in Laval. It reveals a space designed for a large and diverse audience—a place offering greater freedom for visitors, as well as improved accessibility for school groups and people with disabilities. For a Museum that has always had to adapt to existing spaces in order to showcase its collections, reversing the process was exhilarating. We felt truly propelled into a future full of possibilities!

The Museum has always looked ahead and has never been afraid to dream. Wherever we go, Délia Tétreault refuses to go unnoticed! Studying her correspondence has allowed us to deepen our understanding of her thinking so that it can accompany and guide us at all times. During these periods of transition, this intangible heritage acts as the museum’s constitution, refocusing its mission on its core values: communication, openness to others, and shared joy.

See you there! 🍷

I support the mission by reading the magazine and making a donation.



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Our Lady of the Street

*He lifts the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.*

Ps 113:7-8



Notre-Dame de la rue, artwork by Anne-Marie Forest.

Anne-Marie Forest

For some time now, in the city of Joliette where I live, I have been seeing more and more people living on the streets, despite the cold and the snow. This situation speaks to me, and that is why the invocation to Mary heard in a report by Francis Denis, broadcast on KTO

TV in November 2025 and entitled *Notre-Dame de la rue à Montréal: l'Église au cœur des trottoirs* (Our Lady of the Street in Montreal: The Church at the Heart of the Sidewalks), particularly caught my attention. This documentary highlighted the testimony of the team



Anne-Marie Forest in her studio. Photo: KTO

of volunteers, led by Father Claude Paradis, who assist people experiencing homelessness in the city. Founded in 2013 by this priest, in collaboration with the Diocese of Montreal, this organization is dedicated to serving the most disadvantaged by offering them material, spiritual and moral support.

AN EXCEPTIONAL MAN

In the book of interviews *Confessions d'un prêtre de la rue* (Confessions of a Street Priest), Father Paradis shares his story with Jean-Marie Lapointe. Isabelle Maréchal, a journalist and radio host who wrote the foreword, describes this exceptional man as follows:

If he is nicknamed the "priest of the homeless", it is because he is one of the few who reaches out to them without judging them or trying to convert them. [...] Claude likes to say that the street led him to religion, and that religion brought him back to the street! It's true. Once ordained a priest, Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, who had a gift for recognizing good people, asked him to care for the homeless. And Father Paradis never failed in that task.

While the streets were once his refuge, they are now his life's calling. He has drawn inspiration from many sources, but Father Pops' influence was undoubtedly the most decisive. No one could have worked for ten years alongside the founder of Bon Dieu dans la rue, heard the cries of distress from thousands of lost or homeless young people, without wanting to carry on his work¹.

My painting is therefore also a tribute to Father Claude Paradis and to those who work every day to offer comfort, dignity and hope to the poorest among us. To create it, I first sketched the figure of Mary, moved by a photo of a woman comforting her child, while drawing inspiration from the classical posture of a Pietà—that is, a depiction of the Virgin holding the dead Christ after the descent from the cross. Then, numerous photos of homeless people guided my work. Although I initially drew the man with a face marked by suffering, I ultimately decided to soften his features, as if Mary's presence had brought him some comfort. For this portrait, I drew inspiration from a drawing of Jesus by Leonardo da Vinci.

While I was working, I reflected on Father Paradis's words:

So is it important to kneel when someone else is on the ground? Yes! That reminds me of a story. I think it happened at the Maison du Renouveau in Charlesbourg, during Communion. I was young, I must have been about thirty. I went up to receive Communion and the host fell to the ground. As I bent down to pick it up, I looked up and saw a huge crucifix. The first time I was on the street and bent down over someone who was lying there, the same image appeared to me. I saw in that person the same Christ, the same suffering that I had seen during that Communion².

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

As I reflect, pray, and meditate on all the terrible events unfolding in the world right now, I realize that the man sitting on the ground also represents all those who are helpless, despised, humiliated and abandoned. He is the Suffering Servant from the Book of Isaiah. As Jean-Michel Castaing writes, *among the great biblical figures who foreshadow the Passion of Jesus, the Servant is the greatest³*. Let us read again a few verses from Isaiah (53:3-5):

He was despised and shunned by others, a man of sorrows who was no stranger to suffering. We loathed him and regarded him as of no account, as one from whom men avert their gaze.

In fact, it was our sufferings that he bore, our sorrows with which he was burdened. And we thought he had been struck down, wounded by God, and humiliated.

Yet it was because of our rebellions that he was pierced, because of our iniquities that he was crushed. The punishment that brings us peace fell upon him; by his wounds, we are healed.

For me, this painting is another way to kneel in honour of the Lord present in the wounded man. Thanks to him, my eyes are opened; my brush becomes the instrument that carries my prayer so that I, in turn, may call out to him and perhaps even lift him up.

As Claude Paradis once said:

When I raise the host, I find the same Christ there as when I help the person lying on the sidewalk to get back up. That is why I believe I have learned more about the Gospel from people on the street and from those who are wounded than I did during my studies to become a priest. They have taught me to accept my weakness and turn it into my strength⁴.

Behind Mary, the child's face, witnessing the scene, is filled with questions. It contrasts with the other passersby who, absorbed in their own concerns, are oblivious to what is happening around them. Fortunately, young people are still open to being surprised by what they see and are often, spontaneously, the most compassionate. 🙏

To go further: www.ktotv.com/video/00454642/notre-dame-de-la-rue-a-montreal-leglise-au-coeur-des-trottoirs

¹ Translation of: Claude Paradis et Jean-Marie Lapointe, *Confessions d'un prêtre de la rue*, foreword by Isabelle Maréchal, Montréal, Novalis, 2018.

² *Ibid.*, p. 14.

³ Translation of: Jean-Michel Castaing, « Le Serviteur souffrant, plus grand personnage de l'Ancien Testament », *Aleteia*, April 19, 2019.

⁴ Claude Paradis et Jean-Marie Lapointe, *op. cit.*, p. 186.

NO CAPE NO MIRACLES

Compassion in Everyday Life



Photo: Adobe Stock



Amélie Martineau-Lavallée

Do you feel it—that summer energy returning with the sun and the vitamin D your skin absorbs from it? In summer, Quebecers come back to life! Social life, along with friendships and family activities, surges again. The winter lethargy that affects some of us is quickly swept away. In fact, studies have shown that people are more likely to start relationships with the return of warm weather than in the depths of winter. I've always found that this says a lot about how the weather influences our inner state, which seems to warm up along with the sun's rays. It's almost as if, during summer, the light in our lives is both external and internal.

It's as though we "thaw" a little and allow ourselves to be carried by a wind of renewal. We joyfully move toward others: we gather, help one another, laugh, support each other, open ourselves to others' worlds, and have fun more easily. I have the impression that, freed from our winter boots, we set out more readily. Have you ever taken five minutes to ask yourself what

you do with all that energy? How might this renewed vitality become an invitation to live out fraternal solidarity in a more concrete way?

WHEN THE HEART IS SET IN MOTION

Human solidarity is essential, but for Catholics, it has deeper roots. It springs from compassion for our brothers and sisters. If we look at its Latin etymology, the word literally means "to suffer with." It is through this profound ability to feel another's suffering that solidarity is born. Nowadays, compassion is sometimes reduced to a mere feeling or sentimentality, whereas this loving gaze toward others and the compassionate acceptance of their vulnerability are fundamental attitudes. Having the gift of seeing beyond the clothes, the polite smile, or the entertaining conversation of the person before us may not be innate—but it is something we can practice.

May I dare compare compassion to a superpower? For those who have seen *Spider-Man* (2002), you may remember Uncle Ben's famous line to Peter Parker: With great power comes great responsibility. When we see more deeply and choose to respond with compassion, our lives change—and so do the lives of others. How many works, both small and great, have been born from this benevolent gaze cast upon people and situations of injustice? There's no unexplained phenomenon, no mutant spider bite, no magic involved! Just a heart that loves and seeks the good of others... which is the vocation of every baptized person. Here we are at the very heart of the Christian mission, which is also that of the Church: to make visible God's love and mercy. A superpower far more heroic than that of any superhero, because it is neither occasional nor circumstantial, but rooted in every moment of daily life. Moreover, through our connection to Christ, it is given to all—not reserved for a chosen few.

LIVING OUT COMPASSION IN CONCRETE WAYS

The Son of God became man and was born of the Virgin Mary, says the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. For Christians around the world, He is the ultimate model of mercy and compassion. His life and teachings continue to transform lives even today. But does that make Him an unreachable model? After all, He is *God from God, Light from Light*. He inspired great figures of holiness: Francis, Hildegard, Dominic, Theresa (the great and the little!), Benedict, Marguerite Bourgeoys and François de Laval. Their spiritual sons and daughters continue their mission to this day, helping to make the world a better place.

Without taking anything away from these great lovers of God, I have a deep admiration for the quiet, everyday

saints—the ones the universal Church will never know because they live humbly within their communities. Those who take part in community initiatives, inter-generational projects, or offer pastoral care shaped by their personality and faith. Or those whose simple

gestures brighten everyday life. It is through these countless small actions that a group, a neighbourhood, a city improves. There is great strength in these small acts that transform lives, because it is through all these compassionate words and deeds that the future is built. Grand speeches may spark momentum, but it is repeated actions, aligned with the Gospel,

that truly change the world. Those who have heard in their hearts: *Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to begin building the Kingdom of God now!*

HOW CAN SUMMER INSPIRE WHAT COMES NEXT?

Summer sets us in motion... What if we transformed this seasonal momentum into renewed commitment for the months ahead? Remembering that it can sometimes be good to change places—or even types of involvement—to bring fresh energy into our lives and into the organizations we serve. Strangely enough, it is sometimes by leaving something that we rediscover our passion. Sometimes, by leaving a seat empty, someone else feels compelled to step in and volunteer in our place.

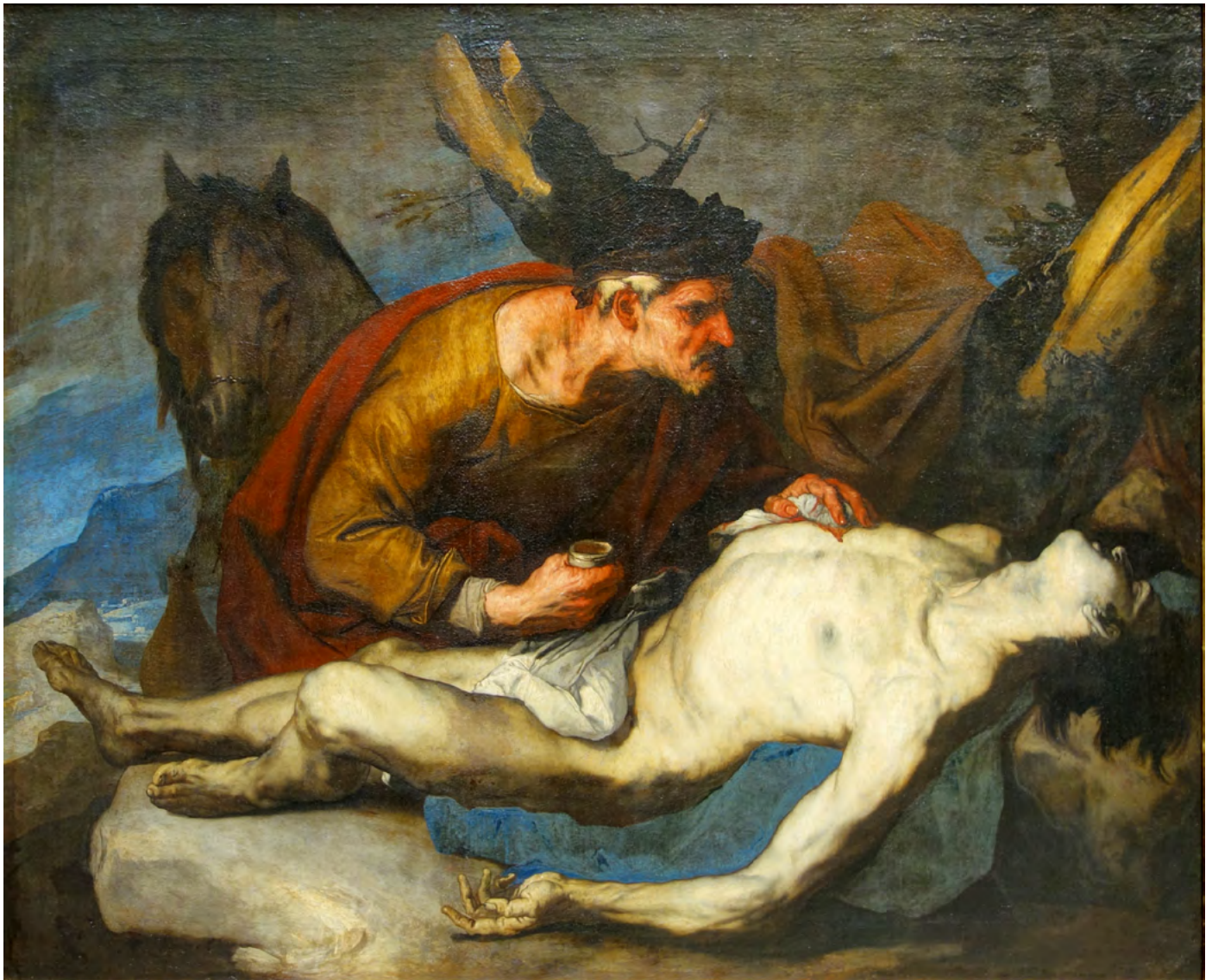
I could have ended this article by suggesting that you perform a simple act to embody compassion this summer. Instead, I invite you to ask yourself where you can best reflect Christ's compassion toward your brothers and sisters. Where is He calling you to be His hands, His ears or His heart in the coming months? 🙏

THERE IS GREAT STRENGTH
IN THESE SMALL ACTS THAT
TRANSFORM LIVES, BECAUSE
IT IS THROUGH ALL THESE
COMPASSIONATE WORDS
AND DEEDS THAT THE
FUTURE IS BUILT.

A Human Perspective

On the occasion of the 34th World Day of the Sick, which, as every year, was held on February 11, Pope Leo XIV offered a meditation on “the compassion of the Samaritan”. His words inspired this brief reflection. Like all of us, this passage has been with me since childhood, and I thought I knew it by heart. I was wrong. I humbly admit that I had not grasped its full significance. The words of the Supreme Pontiff opened my eyes.

Marie-Claude Barrière



Luca Giordano, *The Good Samaritan*, c. 1650, oil on canvas, Rouen Museum of Fine Arts.

FROM THE EYES TO THE HEART

Before we go any further, let's read together an excerpt from this parable taken from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (10:30–33):

Jesus replied: A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him and beat him, and then went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be traveling along that same road, but when he saw him he passed by on the other side. A Levite likewise came to that spot and saw him, but he too passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan who was traveling along that road came upon him; he saw him and was moved with compassion.

These are the words of the Holy Father that sparked a thought in my mind:

In the parable, when the Samaritan saw the wounded man, he did not “pass by.” Instead, he looked upon him with an open and attentive gaze—the very gaze of Jesus—which led him to act with human and compassionate closeness.¹ In fact, it was the mysterious power of the last nine words of verse thirty-three that had eluded me: he saw him and was moved with compassion. Focused on the result of his action, I had not understood that the Samaritan's charity stems first and foremost from a gaze. For although the priest and the Levite also see the wounded man lying on the road, they do not look at him. Only the Samaritan stops at the feet of the suffering man, moved to the depths of his being—that is, filled with compassion from the very core of his being. Only the Samaritan allows himself to be touched by the distress of this stranger: his gaze softens and his soul is pierced. Without hesitation, he offers him his help.

A CRACK IN EVERYTHING

The poet Leonard Cohen beautifully captured this inner alchemy in “Anthem”: *There is a crack in everything / that's how the light gets in.* In my view, this is the beating heart of the parable: compassion transforms our stony gaze into a gaze of flesh. In other words, when our eyes close to God, they grow dark; when our eyes close to others, they dry up. Conversely, action flows naturally once our gaze is embodied, since it springs from the very heart of the Risen One.

The Good Samaritan acts out of love. For, as the Pope so wisely observes: *Love is not passive; it goes out to meet the other; being a neighbour is not determined by physical or social proximity, but by the decision to love. This is why Christians become neighbours to those who suffer, following the example of Christ, the true divine Samaritan who drew near to a wounded humanity².*

WHERE THE LIGHT ENTERS

After that initial impulse, there is the decision to love. With a softened gaze, a less stiffened neck, and a heart touched by humility and the awareness of Christ living in the other, this stranger reaches out his hands. Recognizing a brother in the man left for dead, the Samaritan approaches, tends to his wounds by pouring oil and wine on them, takes him to the inn, and entrusts him to the innkeeper, ensuring he will be provided with food and lodging. In the image of the Supreme Physician, he has become love.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN
HELPS US UNDERSTAND
THAT TRUE COMPASSION
EXISTS ONLY IN THIS
TOTAL SELF-GIVING.

It is this willingness to let ourselves be touched that breaks down our barriers and opens us up to human brotherhood. The Good Samaritan helps us understand that true compassion exists only in this total self-giving, just as true prayer sometimes exists only in tears. This summer, may we be attentive to this transforming light. May we say yes to compassion, this *revolution of love*³. May we look upon others with a human gaze. 🌿

¹ Message from Pope Leo XIV on the occasion of the 34th World Day of the Sick, “The Compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing another's pain”, January 13, 2026. | ² *Ibid.* | ³ Homily by Pope Leo XIV at the Pontifical Parish of St. Thomas of Villanova, delivered on Sunday, July 13, 2025.

In Vietnam



Lorna F. Erickson, M.I.C.

At the turn of the millennium, in the year 2000, the provincial authorities of our Asian missions—Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and the Philippines—met to assess the vitality of our presence on the continent. They felt the need to breathe new life into our missionary work in keeping with our shared vocation.

Inspired by the charism of our Foundress, Délia Tétreault—which consists of participating in the Church's work in the world through all kinds of apostolates—they planned the development of a mission in Vietnam.

In 2008, the Superior General, Louise Denis, M.I.C., and her council gave their final approval to this project and entrusted its joint implementation to the provinces of Japan and the Philippines.

THE DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL IN VIETNAM

After 18 years of missionary life in Japan, I was given the mandate to be the pioneer of this new adventure. It was with faith and great humility that I accepted this appointment, convinced that Providence would accompany me in this calling.

A few months later, in July, the bishop of the Diocese of Can Tho, Bishop Stephano Tri Buu Thien, welcomed me at Ho Chi Minh City Airport. I am temporarily staying in a house belonging to the Vietnamese congregation, the Daughters of Holy Mary.



The Vietnamese M.I.C. Sisters. Photo: M.I.C.

A VIBRANT CHURCH AND ENGAGED YOUTH

I quickly discovered that the Catholic Church in Vietnam is a vibrant and dynamic community, with approximately seven million Catholics (7.4% of the population). It has been experiencing a genuine renewal in recent years, and the number of baptized Catholics is steadily increasing.

Although it is a minority, the Church actively participates, alongside other religious denominations, in social and charitable activities that meet the needs of the population. Many of these Christian communities have existed for numerous generations, and it is clear that young people are committed to fostering the values that have been passed down to them. Despite the allure of the financial mirages linked to technology and the global economy of today, this spiritual heritage still holds such a strong appeal for them that they seek to serve the local Church in various ways. The number of priestly and religious vocations continues to grow steadily in Vietnam, and many feel called to missionary life beyond their borders.



Hien and Bao Yen on Christmas celebration for the poor children in their house.
Photo: M.I.C.

INTEGRATION, MISSION AND THE DISCOVERY OF A CALLING

During my first few months in the country, I devoted myself to studying the language and discovering the richness and values of this ancient culture. Even though learning Vietnamese (Tiếng Việt) is difficult, the warmth, hospitality, and kindness of the people make me feel as though I am already part of this big family.

To help me become involved in the various activities of the diocese, Bishop Stephano Tri Buu Thien entrusted me with a new project: leading a Sunday Mass in English. It was through this that I met several college students. Together, we organized English classes and Gospel-sharing sessions aimed at deepening Christian values.



Notre-Dame Cathedral in Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, in southern Vietnam. It was built by the French between 1877 and 1880. Photo: M.I.C.

Over time, it was during these exchanges that a few young women expressed a desire to live out their Christian lives through a religious commitment. The spirituality of our *Foundress* and the very purpose of our Institute resonated with their deepest aspirations.

In 2008, two young Vietnamese women left for the Philippines to begin a formation program for religious life. At their perpetual profession, they shared the reasons behind their choice of life. Sister Hien confided: *I was drawn to the M.I.C. religious life after discovering the life of Mother Délia. Her spirituality of thanksgiving resonated in my heart.* For her part, Sister Bao Yen states: *The zeal of the M.I.C. missionaries and the spirituality of thanksgiving lived out in daily life and in the ministries entrusted to us confirmed my call to commit myself to the service of the Church's mission.* Finally, Sister Anne Thuong, a scholastic, adds: *I was drawn to the way of life of the M.I.C.s, who celebrate life as a gift from God and serve with joy and gratitude.*

A WORK THAT CONTINUES

Since leaving Vietnam in 2014, I have never ceased to thank the Lord for this wonderful missionary experience and for the enrichment I received through contact with the human, cultural, and spiritual values of this people. Several other M.I.C. Sisters from the Philippine province have also, in turn, had the privilege of serving the Vietnamese Church.

Today, our house in Ho Chi Minh City is bustling with intense pastoral activity, and we give thanks for this beautiful mission. We look to the future with confidence, continuing to proclaim the Good News, faithful to the dream of Délia Tétreault. 🙏



A Bridge Named LOVE

The Pierre-Laporte Bridge and the Quebec Bridge. Photo: Shutterstock

Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

What is the purpose of a bridge, if not to bring two worlds together? Several years ago, the city of Trois-Rivières hammered home this message on the radio: *We need this bridge, and we're going to get it.* Today, the Laviolette Bridge does indeed connect the north shore to the south shore. In politics, talks surrounding the project to build a third road link between Québec City and Lévis have been reunited. Meanwhile, President Trump is threatening to block the opening of the new Gordie Howe Bridge, the border crossing between Windsor and Detroit... Regardless of its location, a bridge is a strategic site, crucial for human and commercial relations. It facilitates encounters, a necessity for the smooth flow of trade.

A MODEL FOR HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

When we consider the function of a bridge, it becomes natural to wonder how humans can draw inspiration from it to foster dialogue and connections with others. Far beyond its architectural beauty, it is not merely a structure of concrete or steel: its primary purpose is to span obstacles, whether a chasm, a river, or a crevice. It thus connects what once seemed separate, making encounters possible where passage once seemed impossible.

Thus, throughout our lives, we are often called upon to play this role. This may mean resolving delicate situations, infusing a conversation with a little love, or facilitating reconciliation between people. One thing is certain: the bridge brings us closer to others. Through attentive listening, shared empathy, a kind word, and more, each of us can, in our own way, become that precious link that unites us.

THROUGH HIS CLOSENESS,
HE HAS BECOME THE
REVEALER OF GOD'S
LOVE, MAKING THE DIVINE
PRESENCE TANGIBLE FOR
EACH AND EVERY ONE.

At the heart of our experiences lies an invisible bridge: one that allows us to transcend our own limitations and catch a glimpse of the infinite. This passage also allows us to feel loved, like cherished children. This bridge has a name: Jesus Christ. Through his closeness, he has become the revealer of God's love, making the divine presence tangible for each and every one of us at the heart of our existence.

THE PROPHETS: GOD'S SPOKESPEOPLE

Building a bridge is no simple matter. It requires consulting engineers, architects, and surveyors, among others, to conduct a thorough study of the site

and confirm the project's feasibility. In His wisdom, God also planned the coming of His Son. Throughout history, the prophets have acted as His spokespeople, guiding humanity along the path of truth. They have conveyed the divine message, calling on human beings to go beyond their limitations and overcome obstacles to unite in love and peace. Among them, John the Baptist holds a special place through his message and mission: by announcing Christ, he prepared the way for the one who would become the bridge between God and humanity. Through his closeness and love, Jesus Christ embodied this bridge, revealing the divine presence at the heart of human existence.

Were his words heard? Not always, for such a revelation required an attentive ear and a heart open to the Word—and this remains true to this day. Jesus came to earth to build this bond of love that humanity so desperately needs. Through his Incarnation, his death on the cross, and his resurrection, he offers reconciliation, forgiveness, and eternal life. He is truly that bridge called Love, offered to all humanity.

Let us, in turn, ask ourselves how we can become that bridge in a divided world. All over the world, the threat of war between nations looms constantly, not to mention the climate crisis. As Christians who listen to the Word of God, it is up to us to become the bridges of reconciliation that are essential for peace, to commit ourselves to protecting our Mother Earth, and to live as true children of God. Is it not our mission today, according to the wish of our Foundress, the Venerable Délia Tétreault, to sow happiness with open hands, for is it not still this bread that is most lacking on our poor earth? 🌿

To the Outskirts!



M.I.C.s from Madagascar. Photo: M.I.C.

M.I.C. of Madagascar

Our community house is located in the town of Morondava, on the western coast of Madagascar. The road to our residence stands a well-known mosque; this proximity fosters a friendly relationship between us, based on mutual respect for each other's values. Since the arrival of the first M.I.C. Sisters in the Menabe region, living conditions have improved significantly in every respect. For example, the school, now known as the Immaculate Conception Catholic Private High School (LPCIC), is welcoming 2,280 students this year from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds. On weekends, the Sisters devote themselves to catechetical ministry in the parish. A new horizon for evangelization is opening up in this community. As our Foundress, Délia Tétreault, said, *Love goes a long way*.

SETTING OUT AFTER A BUSY DAY

On Monday and Thursday evenings, two teams from the parish committee—made up of priests, nuns, and laypeople—make visits to different neighbourhoods. Stepping out of



our comfort zone, our usual schedule, and our pastoral routine is not always easy, but our commitment is rooted in these words of Jesus (Mt 10:8): *You received without payment; give in the same way*. Availability, mutual understanding, faith and love—all of these form the guiding principle for reaching out to others.

Fortunately, fatigue does not weigh us down. On the way back, the joy of sharing that fills our hearts spreads to the community and the surrounding area. Synodality becomes a reality. This is an essential process for innovative evangelization. Joining the parishioners after work ignites our missionary zeal. Throughout the journey, the team receives a warm welcome. Within the neighbourhood, they reach out to both parents of students and followers of other faiths. In every home visited, the exchange bears witness to a Presence and a renewing Spirit. This outreach to the outskirts allows them to connect with people from all walks of life—including civil authorities, professionals, the marginalized, the poor, and the oppressed—who long for a life-giving encounter. People need to be visited, listened to, understood, and acknowledged.

In this spirit, some express a desire to receive the sacraments: Baptism, the Eucharist, Confirmation, and Marriage. They want to get involved in parish life and make their own contribution.

**THIS OUTREACH MINISTRY
REQUIRES PERSONAL
CONVERSION, COMPASSION,
SENSITIVITY, AND DEDICATION.**

This outreach ministry requires personal conversion, compassion, sensitivity, and dedication. These visits have a significant impact on baptismal commitment.

What a joy it is for us to embody these words of Délia Tétreault: *You will have to fight for justice. Our apostolic vocation calls us to action, to the struggle for God's interests and the salvation of souls.*

Our team fully embodies the missionary charism of our community and carries the torch of faith to bring forth new life in the current situation of the country.

Our integration into parish and diocesan life, our social and educational involvement, and our outreach to the peripheries are all reasons for thanksgiving that sustain our hope. Proclaiming the Good News is both a challenge and a never-ending renewal. There is no shortage of opportunities to realize dreams and plant new seeds for the M.I.C. in Morondava, a land of first evangelization. 



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Excerpts from the M.I.C. Chronicles



AsMIC of Taiwan. Photo: M.I.C.

News from the M.I.C. and AsMIC at work in the heart of our world

Across borders, our Sisters and associates continue to carry out acts of solidarity, faith and hope. Every encounter, every initiative becomes a building block for a future marked by compassion.

TAIWAN — Faith and Fellowship

In Taipei, the AsMIC faithful love to celebrate Marian feasts with enthusiasm. At their most recent gathering, they shared their testimonies, revealing the presence of a loving God in their lives. The day concluded with a time of prayer in the chapel, where everyone renewed their vows with joy and gratitude.

JAPAN — National Day for the Elderly

To mark the occasion, two young Vietnamese women shared a traditional meal with the Japanese Sisters in Tokyo. In turn, the Sisters introduced them to the tea ceremony. This moment of exchange and mutual discovery was a true experience of friendship, warming the hearts of everyone involved.

JAPAN — Pilgrimage to the Land of the Martyrs

The Sisters paid their respects at the Catholic church in Tsukiji, the first to be built in the Japanese capital in 1874 by the Paris Foreign Missions Society. For more than 300 years, despite the ban on Christianity, many believers gave their lives for their faith. Even today, we pray that the Lord will grant strength and joy to the Christian minority living in this country.

HAITI — Joy and Achievements

We are celebrating with Sister Naomie Forestal, who has passed the official Haitian high school graduation exams. Congratulations on your perseverance, courage, and determination! Meanwhile, Sister Arianie Jean-Baptiste traveled to Les Cayes to receive the operating license for the secondary school in Chantal from the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training. May God bless this project and all the students who will grow up in this school.



Staff members at Villa Opale. From left to right: Srs. Monette Ouellette, Monique Bigras, Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, Gabrielle Duchesne, Sylvia Dupuis, Gaétane Perron, Michelle Payette, Cecilia Mzumara, Évangéline Plamondon, Pierrette Gagné, Perpétue Razafindraingo and Marie-Josèphe Simard.
Photo: M.I.C.

PHILIPPINES — *Living Through Adversity with Hope*

In Davao, people live with the constant threat of earthquakes. One such quake, which struck Bogo in Cebu Province, was followed by about a hundred aftershocks, while in Mindanao, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake caused extensive damage. These disasters have claimed many lives and destroyed homes, infrastructure, and farmland. Many families are still living in temporary shelters, deprived of their means of livelihood. Through the intercession of Délia Tétreault, we ask for courage, patience, and resilience for all these people who have been so severely tested.

BOLIVIA — *Education: The Path to the Future*

In Cochabamba, the Délia-Tétreault Alternative Education Center held a celebration honouring graduates and students enrolled in various programs: animal husbandry, agronomy, computer science, accounting, textiles and fashion design. Sister Petronila and Sister Murielle took the time to meet with the students and visit the various booths.

An inspiring message accompanied the event: *Education is the most powerful tool for changing the world, starting with the world around us. It not only provides answers, but teaches us to ask the right questions and seek solutions.*

CANADA — *A Lively and Joyful Church*

Sister Leticia Dotollo participated in the Sunday celebration at the Philippine Catholic Mission in Montreal, marking the parish's 36th anniversary. A large congregation gathered in a joyful atmosphere, and after Mass, a couple involved in catechesis was welcomed into the Salesian Associates. The celebration continued in a fraternal atmosphere, punctuated by singing, dancing and fellowship.

CANADA — *Unity in Thanksgiving*

At Villa Opale in Lachine, group leaders gathered in a spirit of unity, love, and thanksgiving, bearing witness to the strength of fraternal communion.

PERU — *Outreach Mission*

In Huacho, Sister Maria Goretti, accompanied by the AsMIC, visited families living in precarious conditions. After a long journey from Lima, the group led activities for the children and distributed clothing and gifts. The beaming faces left a deep impression on the participants, inspiring them to continue their commitment to this community.

Through these testimonies, a common light shines through: that of compassion lived out in daily life. Together, let us continue to build a future where every act of love becomes a glimmer of hope for the world.



With You, O Lord

**Our foundress,
Délia Tétreault, said:**

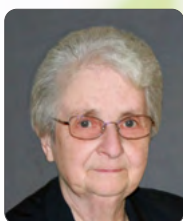
The glory of God alone and His most holy will must be the constant focus of our attention, the ultimate end to which we relate everything. For indeed, we were created for this purpose alone, and it is right that all the fruits of our life be for God, just as the fruits of a tree belong to the master who planted it. Jesus Christ therefore warns us not to attach our souls and our thoughts to the things of the earth, but, since we were born for God and for heaven, to seek first the kingdom of God. Then the rest will be given to us in addition. We need not fear that we will lack the things necessary for life. God will always be there, He who feeds the birds of the air and who watches over even the humble flower of the field.

July 18, 1904



JEANNE D'ARC ALLARY, M.I.C.
Sister Marie-Elmire
1929-2025
Sainte-Mélanie, Quebec

Sister Jeanne D'Arc took on major challenges in apostolic missions. Awakened to the mission at a young age, she confirmed her decision to enter the community when her brother, a Viatorian, joined the Society of Foreign Missions. She entered the novitiate on February 1, 1951. In 1956, a brief stay in Taiwan, where she learned Mandarin, prepared her for a twenty-two-year assignment in the Philippines. Her interpersonal skills enhanced her work, particularly her sponsorship of Chinese refugees who had arrived by boat, in collaboration with the United Nations office. Upon her return to Quebec in 1981, she put her skills to use in various community services. The year 2016, however, marked the beginning of a more introspective life. It was finally on December 23, 2025, that she departed to celebrate Christmas with the blessed.



GEORGETTE BARRETTE, M.I.C.
Sister Sainte-Georgette
1927-2026
Montreal, Quebec

Surely, as April draws to a close, a banquet is being prepared in the Father's House to celebrate Sister Georgette's 99th birthday on the 29th, as she prepares to leave us... and this will take place on April 28, 2026. Having entered the novitiate on February 1, 1949, Georgette would lead a very diverse and active life. First in education as a teacher and principal, from elementary through college level, particularly at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, where our students were the first girls admitted. In Haiti, she served as provincial superior. Upon her return to Quebec, she proved to be an exceptionally efficient archivist. A godsend for anyone seeking information, sometimes urgently. For Sister Georgette, prayer was the leaven that enriched her joyful life as a missionary.



LOUISA NICOLE, M.I.C.
Sœur Louisa-Nicole
1940-2026
Beaupré, Quebec

Being born in Beaupré, near the St. Lawrence River, undoubtedly shaped Nicole into a woman who sought to promote beauty and life. At the age of twenty-one, on August 8, 1961, she entered the novitiate. Education remained her specialty, and she taught for 17 years in Koriyama, Japan. Upon her return to Quebec, she specialized in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius at Villa Manrèse in Quebec City and became a skilled and appreciated spiritual director. On the occasion of the community's centennial in 2002, she was in charge of the celebrations which were spread out over a year. It was an excellent opportunity to foster life, for, to her, it was important to bring it forth. And it was into Life in Abundance that she entered on May 3, 2026.



*God the Creator, all things, every living being—
From the microscopic to the gigantic, all harmonize within you.
All is rhythm, dance, harmony.*

*Before You, I will be music;
Through my song and the dance of my wings,
I will make the invisible visible.*

Monique Bigras, M.I.C.

Photo: Shutterstock

