# Élisabeth Bergeron speaks to us...

Autumn 2015

## Snippets of history

Born on May 25, 1851, in the village of La Presentation, Elisabeth Bergeron was baptized on the same day. With exceptional fervor for her age, she did her "first communion" in the spring of 1859. Influenced by a very Christian family, she easily opened her heart to the love of Jesus and of the poor: at fourteen she asked to join the Sisters of Charity of St. Hyacinthe. Refused because of her young age, she must resign herself to follow her parents who, during that same year of 1865, must leave for the USA in order to solve financial problems.

Back in Quebec, five years later, Elizabeth made several attempts to join religious communities, always dealing with rejection, but without giving up her dream.

What a surprise for her when Bishop Louis-Zéphirin Moreau asked her to establish a community of teaching sisters. Despite her limited education, she accepts with humility and abandonment to Providence.

On September 12, 1877, the Sisters of St. Joseph Institute is founded in the village of La Providence. The community will soon thrive; Elisabeth Bergeron will remain its breath until the end of her life. All agree that her goodness, gentleness, serenity, and above all, the transparency of the supernatural, of the union with God and the dynamism of charity is worthy of recognition. She passed away on April 29, 1936. They are many who come to touch her coffin and ask for healing. "They say: She is a saint."

Since October 30, 2014, the tomb of the Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron is located in the mausoleum of the Catholic cemetery of the St. Hyacinthe Cathedral. To express our gratitude, on November 1st, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated in the St. Hyacinthe Cathedral. More than 700 people came to pay a tribute to Elizabeth with us. On May 4, 2015, the public had access to the tomb again. 525 persons have already visited Elizabeth.

# The recognition of heroic virtues The most important step to beatification

Observing that this popular reputation for holiness was growing, the community decided to introduce in Rome the cause of the beatification of its foundress. The process is long, it must go through several steps, one of the first being the exhumation of her remains on October 9, 1968. Are identified as the "Congregation for the Causes of Saints", all persons, cardinals, theologians, consultors, who are in charge of studying the life and virtues of a potential candidate to holiness. It is therefore to them that is presented a complete report on the life of Elizabeth Bergeron and her reputation for holiness. After careful consideration of the evidence, they present their opinion to the Pope: Elisabeth Bergeron, foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Hyacinthe, has practiced all the virtues in a heroic way.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II, to whom belongs the final decision, promulgated the decree on the heroic virtues and declared Elisabeth Bergeron venerable on January 12, 1996, proposing her to our veneration.

Let us thank God for the completion of this important step in the Cause of Elisabeth Bergeron and ask him to bring his servant on the path to beatification by the evidence of her own intervention, that is to say, by a miracle.

## Favors obtained

At least a thousand requests are made annually to the Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron; they come from different countries via email, letter, telephone or a visit to her tomb. An important way to contribute to her cause of beatification is to contact us whenever you receive a favor through her intercession. Since 1968, when her Cause was introduced in Rome, we have preciously kept them. They are of several types.

Your name, your postal address and phone number are important. If we need more information, we will contact you.

#### Favors privileged by the Church: a cure

Here are the requirements for a cure to be considered as miraculous:

- One must have prayed a single future saint.
- We must have medical evidence that the disease was incurable and medical evidence of healing.
- Healing must be complete and permanent.

If you think you are in the presence of a miraculous cure:

- Send us a short account of what you have observed.
- Give us the name, surname and postal address of the person concerned.
- Enclose the medical file provided by the doctor, with the patient's permission.
- Please forward to the Elisabeth Bergeron Centre.

The favors received through the intercession of Elizabeth Bergeron are important to advance her cause of beatification. This excerpt from the "Living with Christ" of Claude Auger, drew our attention. « On April 3, 2014, Pope Francis included Monsignor François de Laval and Marie of the Incarnation to the catalog of saints without examination of a miracle, but with the presence of the three required elements: the ancient practice of private worship; the certification by reliable historians of the virtues of the candidate and **the continued recognition of favors received**."(May 2015, page 202)



# Thank you for your cooperation!

#### Appointment

On June 5, 2015, our dear Sister Angèle Daneau left us, a victim of cancer. The General Council of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Hyacinthe has appointed Sister Louise Millette to replace her as Vice-Postulator for the Cause of our foundress. She will be following up with the postulator Father Vito Tomaz Gomez, o.p. Many thanks to Sister Louise.

#### Gratefulness to Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron.

**Back to health / successful studies:** Many thanks you to Mother Elisabeth Bergeron! My wife had an operation for breast cancer in 2009, and she is cured. I'm very happy. Also thank you for my grandson who is finishing his electrician course in early February, all this, following the confidence and our prayers to this good Mother. P. F..., Saint-Hugues, QC

**Healing:** I fell on the sidewalk and hurt my foot and my arm. Following this accident, I made a novena to Mother Elisabeth Bergeron. Having the relic of your foundress, she said: "I'll take care of your wounds ...". The infection worried me but I kept confidence. I was unable to see the doctor at the clinic because he was not available. I prayed this good Mother who suggested I give time for the wound to heal. I saw that my arm has gained strength and everything is going to heal. Thank you to Elizabeth! Everything is back to normal. J.-M. B..., Pointe-aux-Trembles, QC

**Improved Health:** Gratitude to Mother Saint Joseph! Having had surgery for breast cancer, it was a success. I have great confidence in the Venerable Mother, she has always been my great friend. A.-M. C..., Cowansville, QC

**Lost and Found:** Thank you to Mother Elisabeth Bergeron for having found a small purse, from Rome, that my daughter gave me. For me Mother Elizabeth is already a great saint. Also, I often pray her and today I thank her from the bottom of my heart. C. C..., Acton Vale, QC

**Relief brought:** I asked for the cure of an eye (stye). Time went by so slowly! After coming to pray to the Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron, it's fine now. A big thank you to this good Mother! C. S-G..., Beloeil, QC

**Successful studies / improved health:** Thank you for these favors obtained from the Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron. Thank you for the good results that my grandson obtained in his studies in electricity and thank you for me, the grandmother, whose health is much better. This is not always 100% but I appreciate the improvement. Thankfully. M. F..., Saint-Hugues, QC

**Health improved:** My health has worried me for some time. I prayed to Mother Saint Joseph for her to help me. I went through several tests and the results are all good; what a relief! Thank you to Mother Elisabeth Bergeron for always being there with me to comfort me. Thank you with all my heart! M. B..., Saint-Hyacinthe, QC

**Protection provided / successful rental:** For over twenty years I have known the venerable Élisabeth Bergeron through a friend. I have her relic in the window. Recently there was a big fire in front of my building. I was very afraid. I was spared, thanks to her. Thank you! Moreover, this good Mother answered me: I found tenants that meet my rental criteria. Thank you! Thank you!

M.G ..., Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC

**Healing:** Recognition for the betterment of my granddaughter Beatrice who suffered from depression. R. A.-M..., Palmarolle, QC

**Daily Relief:** How can I not thank the Venerable Elizabeth for all that she has given us daily! My son got a job; we managed to sell our farm; my personal health has improved and is stable. A grateful thank you to this good Mother! D. D..., Saint-Pie, QC

**Car Sale:** Thank you for the favor I obtained from Mother Saint Joseph: my daughter's car has been sold rapidly and we are very grateful! D. D..., Sorel-Tracy, QC

**Solution found:** Recognition to Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron: we hired a very good mechanic to replace my spouse and our prayers paid off. C. B...et C. D..., Saint-Hubert, QC

New job: Thanks to Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron for our new job.

J.L. & D.R..., Granby, QC

**Freedom:** Just a few years ago, my son was into drugs; I visited the tomb of the Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron to pray and to ask for the prayers of the sisters. Since that day, the wind has shifted and my son is fine. I am very grateful. P. B..., Saint-Hyacinthe, QC

House sold: The prayers to Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron, for the sale of my in-laws' house have been answered with surprising speed. The house was sold in two days, moreover, to very nice people. A. A..., Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC

Sale of residence: A huge thank you to the Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron who helped us sell our house. P. L..., Saint-Jérôme, QC

**Improved Health:** Dearest Mother Saint Joseph, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving us great news on the health of Daniel. Despite his kidney cancer and obvious surgery for tumor removal or whole kidney removal, it was confirmed this morning that the cancer has not spread and that the potential for a cure is excellent. Relying on Elisabeth Bergeron and those from above, we remain optimistic. L. R..., Saint-Jérôme, QC

**House Sold / Healing:** After praying the Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron for a few years, I was able to sell my house at 5000 Chemin St-Roch in Sorel-Tracy.

Above all, Mother Elisabeth helped me heal from a third cancer. I thank her three times! C. C..., Drummondville, QC

**Healing**: A few words to thank our dear Mother Elisabeth Bergeron who healed me, on August 26, 2015, during my first visit to the Mausoleum Columbarium of the Catholic cemetery of the St. Hyacinthe Cathedral, where her tomb is now. Yes, she cured me of a recurring pain in the heart, even though I never thought to ask her about this. It was a sharp pain that made me feel I would collapse at any moment and that I had since my total thyroidectomy. She further removed all the other pain related to my heart, which I often suffered from before the operation.

Mr. L ..., Longueuil, QC

**Healing:** Dear Mother, thank you for helping my little Alice when she was ill and was only ten days old. Today she is almost one year old and is full of life, because the disease is gone. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. A. B..., Sorel-Tracy, QC

**Pleasant trip:** Mother thank you for obtaining for us a beautiful family trip without serious drawbacks. You watch over me, I feel it and I pray to you every day.

Anonyme, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC

R. C..., Otterburn Park, QC

Sale of cottages: Mother Elisabeth, I asked you Saturday, July 4, for the sale of my nieces' two cottages and this was fulfilled on July 10. Thank you very much! I will never forget you! Continue to protect these families. Thank you so much! G. G-L..., Saint-Hyacinthe, QC

Sale : Thank you for the sale of my rv.

**Improved Health:** Having been operated on for breast cancer, I thank Mother Saint Joseph because everything went well. I asked her for her help, she heard me. I pray every day for the healing to continue. She heard me because a recent check-up in Sherbrooke, confirms that everything is fine. Grateful to dear Mother Elizabeth.

**Work Found:** A huge thank you to Mother Saint Joseph for the job that my nephew has found. He seems to love his job; I hope he will endure. A-M, C..., Cowansville, QC

**Help provided:** During the last year, we asked the help of Mother Bergeron. She allowed us to obtain the desired solution to the situation that gnawed at us. We are very grateful.

L. & M. G..., Saint-Bruno, QC

**Sale of a pontoon:** After appealing to Mother Elisabeth Bergeron, without delay, we managed to find a buyer and this despite the repairs that had to be made. We pray and thank the venerable Mother every day. A. & H. H..., Pont-Rouge, QC

**Trip possible / positive response:** Gratitude to Mother Saint Joseph for making sure our granddaughter Frédérique could make the trip to Costa Rica with her Grade 5 class, after labyrinthitis two weeks prior and then a recurrence just two days before her flight.

Also thank you a thousand times to Mother Saint Joseph for our daughter who was expecting a positive response in connection with her work, a positive response she received.

L.C..., Unknown location

**Successful operation:** Thank you to Mother Saint Joseph for the cure of Marie-Eve who had a bone removed from her brain to decrease the swelling, for she had a clot caused by a sledding accident where she had hit a tree. Meanwhile, the removed bone is kept in a hospital freezer. Coming out of the operating room, the surgeon told the parents: "A true miracle!" Three weeks later, a new operation to set the bone in place and close the brain with 55 cramps to be removed at the CLSC. Everthing being done, Marie-Ève returns home, very glad to find her husband and two young boys. Very confident in Mother Elizabeth, the family continues to pray by reciting Lord, you gave ... and handing out medals, so that it renders the cure perfect.

B. T..., St-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix, QC

House sold: Mother Elisabeth Bergeron thank you for the favor that you give me today, the selling of my house! L. P..., Warwick, QC

Assistance received: For having obtained a favor from Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron, a most appreciated financial assistance, having held her relic and admired its image; I want to express my gratitude. J.-M.B..., Saint-Léonard, QC

## Good mother Clizabeth, we trust ...

Friends of the Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron have confidence in her. The nuns pray our Lord for you and with you, through her intercession so that your requests are met.

Be confident! She cannot remain deaf to your requests. In a special way we entrust to her Caroline, Christopher, Layla, Louise, Jonathan, Alice, Diane, Stephan...

# We ask Elizabeth to continue to be close to each of you that have confidence in her

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Every semester, a mass is celebrated in the intention of benefactors and friends of the Cause of the Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron. The present publication does not want to anticipate the judgment of the Holy Church; it wants to comply to all its decisions.

To send favors attributed by the intercession of Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron, to recommend your intentions to her or to receive, free of charge, **by e-mail or regular mail**, the bulletin "*Elisabeth Bergeron speaks to us*" please contact us at:

#### **Elisabeth-Bergeron Centre**

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#### Contact Us...

Information, prayer requests, favors received, visits Telephone: (450) 768-1800, extension 194 E-Mail: ceb@sjsh.org Web: www.sjsh.org

**Important:** Thank you for notifying us when you change your postal address.

At all times, you can read our e-newsletter "*Elisabeth Bergeron speaks to us* …" in the section « Elisabeth-Bergeron Centre »

With the permission of the Ordinary of St. Hyacinth