

Elisabeth Bergeron Speaks to us...



Number 94

January 2013

A Powerful Intercessor

The Cult to Saint Joseph

At the end of the fifteenth century, the Catholic Church instituted a feast in honor of Saint Joseph. Furthermore, on December 8, 1870, Blessed Pope Pius IX officially declared Saint Joseph as patron saint of the universal church and proclaimed March 19th as a solemn feast, a public holiday.

The popular devotion to this father, a poor and obedient food supplier, took on a great magnitude. He was close to the mystery of the Incarnation and became a model of spirituality and contemplation.

Pope John XXIII chose the great Saint Joseph, to assure the proper procedure during the Vatican II Council. He was also the one to order by decree in 1962, that Saint Joseph's name be inserted in the Eucharistic Prayer.

In turn, Pope Benedict XVI prayed Saint Joseph and entrusted the Year of Faith to him so that a New Evangelization could bear fruits of love for God and for renewal.

A Brief Historical Review

Many centuries passed before the devotion to the father of Jesus was established in the church. His cult developed very slowly. Apart from a few saints, people rarely prayed to him.

In France

From 1413, with Jean Gerson, chancellor of the University of Paris, Saint Joseph emerged from obscurity and his cult gathered momentum. The theologian demanded a feast to commemorate the wedding of the Virgin and her spouse. Little by little, Joseph was presented as profoundly human accessible to everyone, not like an old man as iconography often presented him.

In Spain

Saint Theresa of Avila entrusted the Carmelite monastery of the Reform to Saint Joseph (1562). She had great confidence in him. She wrote: *"God gave other saints the capability to help us in one way or another, but I know from experience that the great Saint Joseph extends his power to all. Our Lord is pleased to do his will in heaven. People of prayer, in particular, should love him with special tenderness"*.

In Canada

The devotion to Saint Joseph dates back to the beginning of the colony. As early as 1624, it was under his patronage that the evangelization of the American Indians was carried out. Thus the new converts were given the name *Joseph*. In that way was established the custom of choosing this name as first patronymic at the boys' baptism. Many churches and chapels were dedicated to him.

In Québec

In this province, there are at least forty parishes named *Saint-Joseph*. The most ancient is at Chambly in the diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil; its construction dates back to 1665.

It is impossible to ignore the Saint Joseph Oratory of Mount Royal, the most important pilgrimage site in the world dedicated to the patron saint of workers. As a result, it is impossible to be uninformed about Saint Brother André who was the instigator of this gigantic project.



When a visitor exclaimed about the beauty of the site on top of the mountain, where the city of Montréal and its surroundings could be seen in all its glory, Brother André answered every time: : *I am for nothing. It is Saint Joseph who wanted it. He is the proprietor; he alone and God.* To the sick who asked to be healed, the holy religious always recommended the medal and the oil that had burned in front of the statue of Saint Joseph. According to their faith, thousands of people were healed or returned home with more courage.

In Saint Hyacinthe

In his mandate to institute our community, Blessed Louis-Zéphirin Moreau wrote: *We have given for father and protector of your institute, the Blessed Patriarch Saint Joseph. (...) By giving his venerated and blessed name to your new congregation, we wanted to ostensibly witness to this great Saint the love, the confidence, and the gratitude we feel towards him. (Rule page 4)*

Related to the fourth ascending generation to Brother André, (by his mother Clothilde Foisy) Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron also revealed great confidence in Saint Joseph. She appealed to him for all her needs. «*Pray to Saint Joseph, she repeated, he will come to our aid.*»

Particularly during this month of March, may we also go to him with the certitude that we will receive a favorable answer to our prayers. He will surely answer our requests.

Gratitude to Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron

Effective Treatment: Thanks to you, Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron for your intercession to the Lord. My husband, Clement and I are certain that your help was favorable to him because the chemotherapy is of the past; and an important surgery went well. Clement is getting better and better; he is recovering very well. Thank you! Thank you!
By Email

Cancer Halted: Very grateful for my son, François, who has regained health after a long stress with cancer.
M.-P. L..., Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, QC

Constant Support: I come to offer my thanks to Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron for the support she gives me in the simple events of my life. I know she is always present and that reassures me tremendously!
G. D..., Marieville, QC

Improved Health: I suffered a stroke but I have now recovered well except for a loss of equilibrium. I thank Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron for this favor.
L. G..., Winnipeg, MB

Cancer Controlled: Thanks to Mother Saint Joseph for the positive results we got today concerning the follow-up of our little Jeremy's cancer. Unfortunately, we had no healing diagnostic but the oncologist has confirmed that presently everything is under control and said that he was satisfied of the results. Elisabeth has once again listened and granted our request.
L. R..., Châteauguay, QC

Sustained Moral Strength: I thank Mother Saint Joseph for giving me the courage to face the difficult moments that our family has gone through lately. Thank you for having brought back to me the love of my life; thanks for bringing my father back. Thank you for all these blessings!
H..., Contrecoeur, QC

Failure Avoided: Thanks to good Mother Elisabeth Bergeron for her intervention! My son had reached the point that he would go bankrupt in his commerce. After novenas and many prayers asking for Venerable Mother's intercession, there was a recovery in his commerce and it is now getting better and better. We are very thankful.
J. S..., Sorel-Tracy, QC

Disappearance of Physical Uneasiness: I had a long trip to take and I did not feel well. I suffered from a stomach ache. Without delay, I begged Mother Saint Joseph for relief so I could have a beneficial trip to New Brunswick. She answered my call as I desired. I thank her very much for her intercession.
M. B..., Mont-Saint-Hilaire, QC

A Satisfied Student: I prayed Mother Elisabeth Bergeron for my granddaughter's success in a school exam she had to pass in order to be admitted at the Granby International School. On December 1st she received the news of her admission to the Secondary 1st class in September 2013. I want to thank Venerable Mother for her help and I continue to pray to her.
B. G..., Granby, QC

Successful Surgery: Gratitude for a favor obtained! My granddaughter had to undergo a very difficult surgery and thanks to a new method, all went very well. Thanks to Mother Saint Joseph!
F. B..., Saint-Hugues, QC

Sale and purchase of House: After visiting Mother Elisabeth Bergeron's tomb, Monique and Julien L. saw their dream come true, that is to say that their house in Saint Hyacinthe was sold and they found a new dwelling in Amos! Everything went promptly and almost simultaneously. They even had the choice between four apartments to rent in Amos! The couple is anxious to go and live with their relatives who live in Amos. They are very grateful to Venerable Elisabeth, and will continue to pray to her.
S. G., s.j.s.h. for M. and J.L..., Saint-Hyacinthe, QC

Financial Aid: I have obtained financial aid, a favor that was much appreciated! I am very pleased that Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron has answered to my demand. In return, I greatly hope that she will soon be declared blessed!
J. - M B..., Saint-Léonard, QC

Daily Help: Every day I ask Mother Elisabeth for health: she is attentive to my call. I had an apartment to rent. Winter was coming. Thanks to her intercession, I found a tenant.
R. G..., Lasalle, QC

Successful Surgery: My wife and I have visited the Mother House numerous times. From Elisabeth Bergeron's lineage, I am the first-born child of Marcel Messier of Vermont, U.S.A. Earlier this year, my father underwent surgery for a hip replacement. There were many complications which prolonged his stay at the hospital and at the adaptation centre for almost a month. During that time my wife and I prayed Mother Bergeron to obtain my father's recovery. Since then he has regained his health. Today, we insist on expressing our sincere gratitude.
D. & C. M..., Williston, VT

Help Given: My son is doing well. He has started his new job and he seems to be happy. He has many challenges to overcome but he is succeeding. I pray novenas to thank Mother Elisabeth Bergeron for her help. I ask her to continue supporting my son. What a mother desires for her children is that they be happy. I appreciate your prayers to attain this wish.
C. R..., By Email

Good Mother Elisabeth, we have confidence...

My spouse works a lot and so do I. We are very responsible but his insecurity paralyzes him. Please pray for his employment to remain stable. Also that he may gain confidence in life and move ahead. J.

Please pray for my dear daughter's healing and for her husband's health. I am starting a novena. M.

For C., I ask for renewed health, success in his studies, and a secure employment. I also recommend D. who will soon be a father. T.

My husband is very sick and needs your help. T.

I entrust to you my great-granddaughter three years of age, who had cancer. May her health continue to improve. R.

My son is a father. Please help him to find a good job according to his competence. A.

Please grant complete healing to your cousin B. C.

May my daughter be reconciled with her older sister: It hurts me to see them as they are. Y.

Help us, my husband and me, to go through a crisis which is stronger than usual. I do not feel like living a separation after 46 years of marriage. T.



Did you know that...

- ◇ The Saint Joseph Oratory of Mount Royal attracts two million visitors every year?
- ◇ The concrete on the walls of the crypt are covered with silver granite from Lac-Mégantic?
- ◇ The construction of the Oratory was terminated in 1967, thirty years after the death of Saint Brother Frère André?
- ◇ In September 1963, Brother's tomb was opened at the demand of the tribunal in charge of his beatification. The remains were mummified and intact?
- ◇ Brother André gave his life so Pope Pius X1 would regain health?



Every semester, a Mass is celebrated to the intentions of benefactors and friends of the cause of Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron. This publication in no way wishes to bias the judgment of Holy Church; it wants to conform in every way with its decision.

To make known favors attributed to the intercession of Venerable Elisabeth Bergeron, to recommend prayer intentions to her, or to receive the Newsletter:

Elisabeth Bergeron Speaks to us, by Email or the postal system free of charge, contact:

Elisabeth Bergeron Centre
805 Raymond Avenue, Saint Hyacinthe, Québec J2S 5T9

Telephone: (450) 773-6067 Fax: (450) 773-8044
Email: ceb@sjsh.org Web site: www.sjsh.org

With the permission of the Ordinary of Saint Hyacinthe

**At all times you can read the electronic bulletin
"Elisabeth Speaks to us..." <http://www.sjsh.org/bulletins.html>
in the section « Centre Élisabeth-Bergeron »**