



Elizabeth Bergeron speaks to us...

Autumn 2023

Following the testimony from Sister Thérèse Chauvin, S.J.S.H., I invited you to share yours.

Sister Diane Beauregard, S.J.S.H., sent this testimony that relates the adolescence experience of Elizabeth Bergeron in comparison to the lives of the families and teenagers.

I invite us to visit a stage in Elizabeth Bergeron's life (Mother St. Joseph) as a teenager. The Bergeron family experiences a financial crisis that forces it to quit the farm in La Présentation to exile itself to the United States. In 1864, with her family, Elizabeth will be established in Brunswick, in Maine, to provide for their numerous needs. She works in a cotton factory from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., 6 days per week. Due to a lack of salubrity, sanitary conditions have an impact on her health.

I cannot prevent myself from making a parallel between this event lived by the Bergeron family and what many families are experiencing since the pandemic, which turned upside down their lives, and the one of their teenager. By preventive measures against the virus, schools are closed. The life of the youth changes completely: no more gatherings with their friend(s), those with academic lagging also experience their share of difficulties.

Elizabeth is inhabited by a great dream, the one of becoming a nun. I can well imagine her close to all these young people who must quit their friends, their school, their benchmarks. Disruptions that are not always easy to live when we are teenagers. Before quitting the province of Quebec, her mother, Basiliste, wants to help her to live her dream of becoming a nun. They both go to the Sisters of Charity of St. Hyacinthe. But the age requirement is at least 15. Elizabeth must forget about her dream and leave with her family in foreign lands. She must put on hold her desire to be a nun.



Therefore, the family installs itself in Brunswick, in the State of Maine. As soon as she arrived, Elizabeth works at the cotton factory like her father and her three brothers. Brunswick has no Catholic church. Occasionally, their house will serve as a place of worship since a priest, residing in Bath, comes there to celebrate mass. By looking closely, I find that the Bergeron family is living exactly what some immigrants are still living nowadays. Elizabeth, I entrust you all these immigrant people around the world who have at heart to plainly do over a social, economic, religious life, where they decided to live.

Barely 5 or 6 months after their arrival in Brunswick, a fire ravages the cotton mill, then to their immigrants' situation is added unemployment. Just like the family of Elizabeth, today, there are still people living below the poverty line, and even poverty due to poor economic conditions.

The Bergeron family must experience another moving. Fortunately, she starts a new life in Salem, in Massachusetts. Surrounded by adults in the factory, Elizabeth creates friendships with youth of her age who ignore all about religion and have not done their first communion. She speaks to her father about this, and this one agrees to her desire to teach catechism in their house. Here she is, a pastoral agent among other immigrants! The priest from her parish encourages her. She refuses to be paid. Her reward is to see these young people receive communion, knowing and receiving The One she received at the age of 8, during her initiatives to experience her first communion before the age of 12.



After five years of hard work and sacrifices, the family finally comes back, in Quebec. Elizabeth is nineteen years old. It is at that time that she will enter at the Adorers of the Precious Blood, a community founded by the great contemplative, Catherine-Aurélie Caouette. She begins her postulate on March 16, 1871. Less than four months later, on July 1st, she is told: *“My dear child, the good Lord has chosen this day to present you a cross. Your place is not here. God has marked it elsewhere. Pray a lot in order to know it.”* She takes a chance at the Sisters of Mercy of Montreal. Within a week, she comes back home.

It is good to reread these pages of the teenager, Elizabeth. Aren't these excerpts of her life speaking of her great patience, of her profound conviction that God has chosen her despite all the events that bothered her? For Elizabeth, the centre of life was to do the will of God.

Let us pray our venerable Elizabeth for our teenagers and for the numerous families of immigrants.

Other Testimonies...

Your newsletter is comforting and precious. It sows gratitude, joy to be truly heard by Elizabeth. God loves her very much to distribute us as many graces and good deeds, with such beautiful delicateness. Gratitude is obliged... After reflection, I became aware of all the favours obtained throughout the years. It is unbelievable! Many thanks... Mother St. Joseph is very powerful with the eternal Father. Her intercession is manifested in the great requests as in the little worries of life. Thank you!

Mother St. Joseph is still truly present among us. Such thoughtfulness, tenacity and love poured on us all who invoke her! I thank “God” for enabling me to encounter Mother St. Joseph, “in image,” obviously! Thanksgivings now and forever.

D. D ..., Trois-Rivières, QC

Thank you, Mother Elizabeth, for all the protection that you grant to my family. I give you thanks for all the favours obtained and for your presence in our lives that comforts us.

P. L ..., Laval

Thank you to Mother St. Joseph for the favours obtained. She accompanies me and she supports me in my moments of worry. I am very thankful of her presence and her listening. I continue to pray this good Mother Elizabeth Bergeron who is always there for me. M. B ..., Saint-Hyacinthe, QC

I have a fondness towards Mother St. Joseph, whom, throughout the last years, was present in the joys as in the hardships within my family. She helped us by interceding for us with Jesus and his Father. Many times, we were granted to overcome, at least, the challenges that life has put unto our path. It is with gratitude that I send you this word. I hope that Mother St. Joseph will continue to be present in our lives. Thank you, Lord, to have put her unto my path. R. É. V ..., Sorel-Tracy, QC

Recognition to the Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron

Position Obtained: M. L. had requested the assistance of Elizabeth Bergeron on the occasion of the interview that he had to undergo to obtain a position very important to him. Having obtained this position, he went to the tomb to give thanks to Elizabeth! M. L ..., Saint-Hyacinthe, QC

Successful Surgery: My surgery for my eye went very well. My follow-up has been done, and all goes well. Once again, thank you; Elizabeth was close to me. D. M...., Longueuil, QC

Appointment Received: L. D. received a call for her surgery, as we had requested. She got an appointment with a specialist on May 11. We were very moved. Once more, Elizabeth made herself close to us. D. M...., Longueuil, QC

Truly Efficient, Mother St. Joseph, for A.-È. which the condition greatly improved. I had written her a few words in a message... She thanks me for encouraging her. Thank you, Mother St. Joseph. P. L ..., Sorel-Tracy, QC

Positive Presence: On past July 13, I am admitted to the emergency at the hospital of Sorel-Tracy. I feel weak and tired. The very same evening, I receive 3 blood transfusions. After a few tests, in order to know from where did come my blood losses, the cardiologist signals to me that the valve on the aorta is not opening that well, and my hemoglobin level needs iron. In all what I went through, I felt the positive presence of Elizabeth. Ever since, my health is improving. Thank you to the sisters of St. Joseph for the support of your prayers! G. G ..., Sorel-Tracy, QC

Successful Surgery: After getting a tube installed on the left ear, D. goes very well. He breathes better. He can bathe without any plugs. Sister Bergeron and your complicity were of a very useful help. F.B..., Magog, QC

Good Results: L. D. received her results, and she does not have cancer. She will get surgery this week with the surgeon she knows and was hoping for. My husband received his results, and he does not have cancer. Thank you to all the ones who prayed for us. We continue praying for the beatification of Elizabeth. D. M. ..., Longueuil, QC

Recovery: Thank you, Elizabeth, for the recovery of my colorectal cancer. D. M. ..., Longueuil, QC

Happy Ending: We refused to replace her pacemaker due to her age (97 years old). Finally, Mrs. C. D. got the surgery, and she is back home. C. D ..., Montreal, QC

Call Received: L. D. was asking to receive a call for surgery and an operation, since she was at risk of an eye cancer. All went well. L. D ..., Trois-Rivières, QC

Good Mother Elizabeth, we trust...

Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron's friends have confidence in her. The Sisters pray our Lord for you and with you, so that by her intercession, your requests may be answered. Confidence! She will not remain deaf to your requests.

We ask Elizabeth to continue to be close
To each of you who put your trust in her.

Various information



Available videos

To get to know Elizabeth Bergeron, **three videos are available** on our website www.sjsh.org: a story about Elizabeth Bergeron's life, another about her journey since her death and *Elizabeth Bergeron opens her heart*. They were made by Aude Leroux Lévesque and her company Bideshi Film. You can watch the video of **the moving of Elizabeth Bergeron's tomb** (October 30, 2014). **Other video** : Celebrating the unveiling of Elizabeth Bergeron's painting at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, June 27th 2018. (duration 50 minutes). A **virtual tour of the mausoleum** is also available on our website. **Good viewing...**

Communications

To communicate the favors granted by the Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron's intercession, to recommend her your intentions, to obtain information, to make appointments or to receive, free of charge, by e-mail or by mail, the Elizabeth Bergeron speaks to us bulletin, please address your requests to... ..

Elizabeth Bergeron Centre

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Important

Thank you for notifying us when you change your postal address.

You can read our e-newsletter "Elizabeth Bergeron speaks to us ..."
in the section Elizabeth-Bergeron on our web site.

Mausoleum of the Catholic cemetery Of St. Hyacinthe Cathedral

1075, Girouard Street East, St. Hyacinthe, (QC) J2S 7R1

Opening hours

Tuesday to Saturday between: 10:00 am and 4:00 pm
(450) 774-4664

**Welcome to all the friends
of the Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron**

To discover

A painting of Elizabeth Bergeron,
created by the artist Pierre Lussier,
is on display in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré
in the lower basilica
at the entrance of the Très-Saint-Sacrement Chapel.
Hoping to see you there.

On January 12 and April 29, a Mass is celebrated for the intentions of the Benefactors and Friends of the Cause of Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron. The present publication does not wish to prevent the judgment of the Holy Church; it wishes to conform in all its decisions.

With the permission of the St. Hyacinthe Ordinary