



Elizabeth Bergeron speaks to us...

Spring 2021

25 years already...



On January 12, 1996, His Holiness Pope John Paul II proclaimed the heroic virtues and the fame of holiness of the Servant of God Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron. Under the chairmanship of the Promoter of the Faith, the eight theologian consultants of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recognized the fame of the holiness of Mother Elizabeth as well as her practice of Christian virtues to a heroic degree. When studying the two volumes of the *Positio*, they brought out her humility, her sense of the Church and her submission to the will of God.

On the occasion of this ecclesial and community event, the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Hyacinthe invited the population to give thanks during a Eucharistic celebration, on April 29 (*anniversary of the death of Mother Elizabeth*) at St. Hyacinthe Cathedral. This celebration was chaired by Monsignor Louis Langevin, Bishop of St. Hyacinthe.

Excerpts of the homily delivered on this occasion

On January 12, I had the pleasure of hearing Elizabeth Bergeron, the foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Hyacinthe, declared venerable. This recognition is a first and important step towards beatification and canonization. In this Eucharist we are invited to share the joy and the pride of the daughters of whom we will henceforth call venerable.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have always held in high esteem and surrounded by a filial affection, she who, at the request of Blessed Monsignor Moreau, and well assisted by him, carried out the magnificent project of giving to the Church of St. Hyacinthe, a new religious family which met the needs of the time: the education and instruction of rural children, especially the poorest children.

To pay homage to the one who brings us together in thanksgiving and wonder, to express appropriately the great richness of her spiritual and religious life, the most beautiful words are the simplest words, these words which resemble her, these everyday words, without research or exuberance, these words which were hers to address her God and her sisters, these words which express so well the feelings of her heart and the convictions of her faith.

Let us say it without fear of being mistaken: if during her life such a celebration had been predicted for her in her honor, she would have protested with all the weight of her humility. And yet, this name of Elizabeth, which she received at baptism, in the church of her homeland of The Presentation, was pronounced in Rome, in the presence of the Pope, to add to it that of venerable. Who knows if she hasn't said to her sisters who share with her the happiness of Heaven, "What did my daughters do there?"

Her daughters simply listened to their hearts and, convinced of the Word of the Lord which was proclaimed at the first reading: "God chooses what is weak in the world" (I Cor 1,27), they were able to recognize in their foundress the great power of her weakness generously placed at the Lord's disposal to participate in his plan of salvation.

What message does venerable Mother Elizabeth leave us? Her message is not a doctrine, it is not expressed in beautiful, hard-hitting sentences. Her message is her whole life explained by the power of God which seized her from an early age. She resolutely embarked on the adventure of the Spirit with great poverty as a companion, placing all her trust in God for the realization of the project presented to her by her bishop.

Shaken by unforeseeable events, engaged in the mysterious ways of Providence, she was a sign of the initiative of God who wanted to use this humble servant to make known his tenderness and his love for the poor.

If the name of Mother Elizabeth is now on the list of venerable people, it is because, following the example of the saints, she knew how to respond generously "YES" to all the wishes of the Lord, it is because she never missed the free appointments of grace, it is because she has always kept her gaze fixed on Jesus Christ, his Way and his Light. Her life is a beautiful page of the Gospel; her life is the illustration of the Word of God.

Called by her bishop to found a community of teaching nuns, she is well aware of the few human skills she could bring to this so important work. To think that this was excessive daring on her part, is to ignore the mysterious ways of the Lord. He went to look for a little Bergeron from the Grand Rang in La Presentation who had little education, to entrust her with a great responsibility in his Church, to found a work which seemed to go far beyond her limited means.

Imagine her joy, when the day after the opening of her school, on September 17, 1877, she knew, by her very apt words, to welcome these children who listened to her with respect and attention.

This first joy was followed by trials which she generously accepted, always with a view to conforming her will to that of the Lord. After two years, Monsignor Moreau announced to the young community that the Foundress would be replaced, as Superior, by a more educated sister. This is how, from now on, all her life she will be a wise counselor and affectionately listened to. Humbly, she became available and all given to serve the spiritual interests of the community.



Holiness is not reserved for an elite. For us as for Mother Elizabeth, let us allow ourselves to be pushed and animated by the same Spirit of Jesus. I invite you to discover the seed of holiness to which God calls you. The mission of the Church, for which we are all responsible, is none other than the extension of the mission of Jesus Christ in which we are all called to participate.

Let us thank God for having brought close to us, in our diocese, this model of life according to the Beatitudes, this model which tells us that everything is possible when we place our trust in the Lord and accept in serenity, peace and joy, the will of the One who is Love and who invites us to Love.

Let us thank the Lord for the apostolic work of the daughters of venerable Mother Elizabeth, the Sisters of Saint Joseph who, for over ONE HUNDRED YEARS, in the spirit of their Foundress, have been generously involved in the mission of the Church of St. Hyacinthe and of the Universal Church.

Gratitude to Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron

Confidence assured: Manon, who has a degenerative disease, was awaiting brain surgery which could relieve her. After several months of waiting it is granted. She enters the hospital on Sunday and is confident that Elizabeth Bergeron will accompany her and her surgeon. Thank you, Mother Elizabeth.
R.S..., St. Hyacinthe, QC

Internship obtained: I ask you to pray for me on August 12 and 13, 2020, because I will be interviewing to obtain an internship for the Barreau du Québec. Send me positive waves and pray for me so that I can get this internship. Thank you very much for your time and dedication. I want to thank the sister who prayed for me during these difficult times. The trying situation I went through was resolved in a very nice way. I am very grateful to you. Thank you for everything. E. B..., Email, QC

Successful operation: On September 25, my mother C. M. underwent heart surgery at our local hospital. We prayed to Elizabeth Bergeron for the result to be positive. My mother is doing much better, her health has improved. A grateful thank you. D. and C. M..., Vermont, USA

Sale of a cottage: Thank you to Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron for selling our cottage.
S. G. and S. N..., St. Hyacinthe, QC

Court Rulings: I thank Mother Saint-Joseph for important court rulings. I make a request for Peace and Love for the whole earth in these difficult times. Infinite gratitude. J. L ..., Granby, QC

Good Tenants: Sister Elizabeth, I have found exceptional tenants. Thank you for accompanying me throughout my days. My new tenant knows you; after the pandemic, we hope to see you in St. Hyacinthe. Thanks for being in my life. Mr. G..., Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC

Support during home repairs: Recognition to Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron who accompanied me during a major water and mold damage in one of my homes. She supported me in my nightmare throughout the disaster work which lasted four months. It was very long. The agreement with the company was painful. With the help of Mother Elizabeth, I signed the debt assignment. I feel liberated and relieved. Thanks to you. Mr. G..., Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC

Good outcome: I would like to thank Sister Elizabeth Bergeron for having answered me in my request for my daughter Marie-Josée who has Crohn's disease. Her intestines were operated on urgently. The doctor informed me that she would have a better quality of life. Three weeks after her operation, she is on her feet. I believe that Sister Elizabeth accompanied her in her pain. Thank you, Sister Elizabeth. A happy and fulfilled mother. G. F..., Quebec, QC

Good news: Good mother Elizabeth, we entrust S. S. to you who must re-start chemotherapy treatments because her cancer has woken up again. He is confident and he thanks us. A few days later, Sylvain had good news. The cancer was gone. Thank you, Mother Elizabeth! S. S..., Sorel-Tracy, QC

Thanks and request: I thank Mother Elizabeth for the favors obtained. The stepfathers of my two sons, who were hospitalized for a week last summer, are doing much better. One had medication changes and the other, who had a heart problem, did and still does exercises that helped him return to certain activities. Thank you to the sisters who join my prayers. P. L..., Laval, QC

Successful Business Transactions: I am a real estate agent. I prayed to Sister Bergeron for her help in difficult business transactions. She interceded for me many times. I thank her. I hope to visit her and pray at her grave one day. D. C..., Vermont, USA

Successful operation: On February 22, I was operated on. Everything went well thanks to your prayers and to Mother Saint-Joseph. I'm waiting to know if it's benign or malignant but, I am confident. Thanks again. D. É..., Sorel-Tracy, QC

Happy birth and sold house: Last year, I asked you to pray that the delivery of my daughter goes well, and that I succeed in selling my house. Good news! Prayers have been answered! I have a beautiful little girl named Charlie, and my house, which had been flooded, was miraculously sold. Thank you for being part of my life! I love you very much! M. D.C..., St. Hyacinthe, QC

Progress Made: I made a promise to Sister Elizabeth to send you a donation for her Cause as soon as I was healed. On January 26th, I managed to walk, with the assistance of a cane and a stabilizing boot; this is a big step forward for my independence. I didn't have the agility of a deer but felt a welcome improvement. I continue to "beg" you prayers for my right foot and for my right arm to make progress; that would allow me to have better autonomy and also to be more active. Why wait, as faith still animates me? Thank you! J. B..., Acton Vale, QC

Gratitude to Elizabeth Bergeron: I prayed for my daughter and son-in-law so that they would find acres of land with a beautiful house and surrounding farm. My prayers have been answered and they are so happy. J. C..., Eriksdale, MB

Successful operation: I come to say thank you for my son; his operation was successful. Thanks for the prayers. Mr. L..., Rougemont, QC

Job obtained: Good Mother Saint-Joseph, you heard and supported my prayers to the Lord so that my son could get a good job for a very good employer. With this permanent job, he can continue his life with greater security and confidence. Thank you so much! J.B..., Ottawa, ON

Upcoming reunion: I am informing you of a favor obtained through the intercession of Mother Saint Joseph. In recent months, I have been formulating a daily prayer requesting a reunion with my son given up for adoption in 1966. On February 24, a worker informed me of his desire to make contact and, on March 1, I received a first letter from him. Thank you, Mother Saint-Joseph. A happy mom! H. C..., Sorel-Tracy, 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. In a special way, we entrust to her: Adam, Agathe, Caroline and Christophe, Gabrielle, Marie-Anne, Mariette, Pauline and Rachel.

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

2545, Dessaulles Street, St. Hyacinthe, (QC) J2S 0K2

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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