



## Elizabeth Bergeron speaks to us...

Autumn 2021

### 144 years ago...

To commemorate the 144th anniversary of the founding of our congregation, the Sisters of Saint-Joseph of Saint-Hyacinthe, Sister Marie-Claire Dupont, revisited our annals and presents to us some events from the beginning of our history. She invites us to re-read the first meetings of Elizabeth Bergeron and Monsignor Louis-Zéphirin Moreau, prior to September 12, 1877.

Mgr. Moreau was appointed bishop of Saint-Hyacinthe on January 16, 1876. He was very familiar with the needs of the diocese having been the secretary of three bishops before him. His responsibilities are numerous. Also, from the start of his episcopate, the founding of a religious community dedicated to the training of primary school children appeared to him to be a priority. He then carries this intention in prayer.

At that time, Elizabeth Bergeron, who was 26, felt called to religious life, but her few attempts turned out to be unsuccessful. However, her spiritual guide, Priest Father Vigeonnel o.p., encouraged her to found a community. It is the contemplative life that attracts the young woman. She too carries her project in prayer.

**First encounter** - Accompanied by Eleonore Vertefeulle, Elizabeth presented Bishop Moreau with her desire to found a contemplative community. The attitude and the words of the bishop are far from encouraging: "**Where are you from? ... and who are you to speak such language to me?**" **Have you lost your mind?** The words of the bishop discourage Eleonore, but they encourage Elizabeth to persevere, as, for her, the call is so strong that she continues to pray. Bishop Moreau cannot believe that these women are God's answer to his prayer. But what if that turns out to be His will! Their prayer turns to the Holy Spirit to enlighten them.

**Second encounter** - Elizabeth and Eleonore presented themselves again to the bishop who said to them: "**Here are my fools again!** This time, Elizabeth detects a change of tone, a background of benevolence in the voice of the bishop. He sends them away, recommending them to pray a great deal. He too emphasizes his prayer in order to know the will of God. Eleonore gives up. Elizabeth perseveres.

**Third encounter** - A few months later, Elizabeth returns alone. Bishop Moreau listens to her attentively. Then in turn, he entrusted her with his project of founding a community dedicated to teaching. A glimmer of hope has just dawned: "**look for companions and I will see.** »

**Fourth encounter** - Before the over-aged recruits, the bishop exclaims: "**This is not a refuge for 'old maidens' that I claim to found.**" N.B.: At that time, at the age of 25, women who were not married were recognized as "old maidens ».

**Fifth encounter** - Always open to inspiration and with unfailing tenacity, Elizabeth recruits Malvina Blanchette and Valerie Langevin, younger and more educated, as well as Eloise St-Germain. This time the bishop accepts. We are at the end of August 1877.

**Wednesday, September 12**, a day dedicated to Saint-Joseph, the group moved to the small school of La Providence. The three recruits were warned the day before to prepare for their move without bringing anything other than their personal effects.



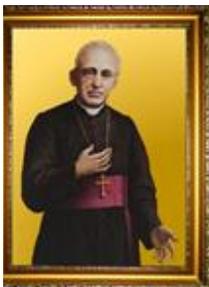
Thanks to prayer and listening to the Spirit, through events bearing the Word of God, Bishop Moreau and Elizabeth gave birth to the community of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Like Joseph, they readjusted their initial project. Bishop Moreau accepted that his dream of a teaching community will be realized by a woman who does not know how to write. Elizabeth gave up her dream of a contemplative community to found a teaching community. Both did the work of the Spirit.

*Adaptation of the text by Marie-Claire Dupont, s.j.s.h - September 12, 2021*

As we have just seen in this rereading, it is in a surge of joy that God threw the first fruits of his creation, it is in a surge of faith that Elizabeth, at the request of Monsignor Moreau, established the foundation of our community.

**144 years** of grace! **144 years** of walking with Jesus! **144 years** of impregnating ourselves with a love folly, a trust in God, and an entire adherence to his will.

May this day, when we remember the sources of our history, help us to keep present the joyful memory of our founders and their benevolence throughout these decades of apostolic joys.



Blessed Monsignor Moreau,  
Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron,  
source of our joy,  
source of our community happiness,  
source of our path and our future,  
we worship you!



At the source of our **144 years of history**,  
there was the reckless confidence of Monsignor Moreau  
and the daring courage of Elizabeth Bergeron.  
Give thanks for the road traveled in their wake  
and ask the Lord to keep us faithful to bloom with his love the gardens of our lives.

*Monique Rajotte, s.j.s.h - September 12, 2021*

## Gratitude to Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron

**Happy continuation of the story:** During the ten years of correspondence, I shared many photos of **Layla Élise**, very premature, born on March 1, 2007. According to the doctors, she had little chance of surviving or she would be severely disabled. . Layla is now 14 years old. **Mother Elizabeth watched over her and our prayers were heard. Your collaboration has been invaluable. Thank you to all of you for your compassion and support!**  
N. B..., Longueuil, Qc

**Testimony:** I wanted to tell you that Sister Bergeron is very present in my life and is the one for whom I pray every night before going to sleep. Healing takes place, the evil disappears. Thank you Sister Bergeron for watching over me and all those for whom I pray.  
L. A..., Laval, Qc

**Multiple Favors:** I have great confidence in Venerable Elizabeth Bergeron. I got many favors for my grandchildren, including work, a house sale, and someone who was healed of an eye problem. I prayed intensely for the healing of my daughter's cancer; she passed away on January 19, 2021 but I had the grace to accept her passing even though I never wanted one of my children to leave before I did. I have often been to pray at Elizabeth's tomb, alone or with one of my grandchildren. I still continue to pray to her. I am 90 years old. Having more difficulty moving around, I use a walker.  
M. T..., Saint-Hyacinthe, Qc

**For my grandchildren:** Thank you to all of you dear sisters and especially to Mother Elizabeth Bergeron for the prayers for my grandson C.-W. who has regained his health thanks to your prayers. Ten years ago my granddaughter L. (24 years of age) had friends who I found "special". I had asked your community for prayers through Mother Saint-Joseph. L. has never seen these friends again and is finishing her studies in family medicine. Her final exams, at the Medical College of Canada, will take place on April 29. Moreover, she has a friend who is kind, respectful, and gentle to her. For all this many thanks to Mother Elizabeth Bergeron, she who always answers me. J.M. H..., Victoriaville, Qc

**Internship accepted:** I have sent you a prayer intention concerning an internship. So I wanted to inform you that your prayers have worked; I did indeed receive an internship at the place I wanted. I would like to warmly thank you for all the support and energy you have given to my request. I am very grateful to you. Once again, thank you!  
E.B..., By email

**Operation Successful:** Thank you for my 25 year old granddaughter, who underwent a weight loss surgery. I had put it in the hands of Mother Saint-Joseph in whom I have great confidence. It's okay now.  
H. L..., Laval, Qc

**Good results:** I am grateful to Mother Elisabeth for her daily presence. Special thanks for the good results of the visual examination of J.-R. H., on May 28th. Thank you!  
L. C..., Beloeil, Qc

**Favors obtained for my sons:** My two requests, concerning my sons, were heard by Mother Saint-Joseph. The first: my son C. got his rent as he hoped so much. The second: the change in my son T.'s life is positive and he is fine with this decision and the freedom that awaits him. Thank you so much.  
N. G..., Sorel-Tracy Qc

**Sale of a house:** I sold my house through the intercession of the venerable Elizabeth Bergeron  
C. R. A..., Sorel-Tracy, Qc

**Work found and good result received:** Thank you to Mother Saint-Joseph for a favor obtained: my nephew's return to work. He found work but doesn't like his new job. He persists, so we're just waiting to see what he's going to do. He has quit using "cocaine". I also want to thank Mother Saint-Joseph for a hospital examination for diverticulitis; everything is perfect. Many thanks for the good result.

L. N..., Sorel-Tracy, Qc

**Appropriate place:** Thank you, Mother Saint-Joseph. My sister, who has Alzheimer's disease, got a place where we wanted her to be.

L. C. B..., Saint-François-du-Lac, Qc

**Problem solved:** Thanks to Mother Bergeron for a favor obtained. Once again, Mother Bergeron came to our aid. Two weeks ago we asked Mother Bergeron to help us solve a problem with a new vehicle that was giving us problems. Our prayers have been answered; this morning when I visited the garage, the problem was solved. Thank you for your prayers which help us.

S. et P..., Mausoleum

**Good medical exam results:** Thank you to Elizabeth Bergeron for granting my requests to receive good medical exam results for my best friend. I am and I will always remain faithful to "Mother Saint-Joseph.

L. R..., Saint-Jérôme, Qc

**House sale:** Albert and Nicole sold their house. They want to give thanks for the prayers they asked the community.

N. P..., Saint-Hyacinthe. Qc

**Happy outcome:** During the month of May, my mother, C. M., was very ill and suffered from a serious health problem. She had to stay in the hospital for a week and receive IVs at home for an additional week. We prayed to Elizabeth Bergeron for a happy outcome. My mother is feeling much better and her health has improved. Her doctors are amazed at her fast recovery.

D. M..., Vermont, US.

**New job and well-being:** Thank you for placing my request on the tomb of Elizabeth Bergeron; I am touched by your gesture. Thank you for your prayers related to mine and your kind words. I am truly grateful for this favor obtained. In a special way, I think of the venerable Elizabeth Bergeron who received my prayers on her tomb. After such difficult months, it gives me the energy to come back to life. It comforts me; life is lighter than in the past. At last! I found a job that pays a little less but with less stress in a great team. I am starting a new chapter of work tomorrow. I wish it is not in an environment as toxic as before. Now I ask to be happy in this new job and to feel good and respected. I ask to love my job by giving the best of myself for the company and my colleagues. To be happy is surely possible. Next... I arrived at my new job with an amazing team. All the staff members are kind and respectful. I like my job. Sure, it's a start, but it's looking good. I am in gratitude and grateful.

M. B..., St-Hyacinthe, Qc

**Happy outcome:** I want to thank Elizabeth for my sister C. who lives in a condo and whose downstairs neighbor made her life difficult. She put a relic in a file that she still keeps, at the request of the rental board, so that the harassment that this lady makes her endure stops. Since then, the lady has calmed down! With her, I thank the benevolent action of Elizabeth Bergeron!

D. B..., by e-mail

**Thanksgiving:** Thank you, I believe that thanksgiving preceded the prayers, because the family of Mr. A. has found peace. What happiness!

A. B..., by e-mail

**Sale of a scooter:** I sold a scooter that was from my husband. I had wanted to sell it for five years, but I couldn't. I put a relic of Mother Elizabeth on it and sold it three days later.

C. R..., Welland, Ont.

**I trust:** My son sold the family chalet as I asked him to. The contract is not yet finalized but it has to be done in due time. Thank you also for accompanying my dear L. who is starting her internship as a doctor at the Trois-Rivières hospital. It can't be easy with the nursing shortage. May the Holy Spirit come to her aid with Mother Elizabeth. My other granddaughter R. is finishing her nutritionist course; she will be looking for a job in 2 weeks. May Mother Saint-Joseph accompany her. My other granddaughter, who is 17, starts working in a restaurant for the summer. She had been having low spirits for some time after a heartbreak. I entrust her to the care of our very dear Mother. My one and a half year old great-grandson is doing well. I thank Mother Elizabeth Bergeron for all her spiritual and material graces towards me and for the whole family. J.-M. H..., Victoriaville Qc

**Favourable appointment results and appreciated work:** I would like to thank Mother Saint-Joseph for the good results received following my medical examination and an appointment with the dentist. My great nephew is doing at his job; I hope he will be happy. A.-M. C..., Cowansville, Qc

**Delicacy of Sister Elizabeth Bergeron:** I am accredited to sell houses. I find a photo of Sister Elisabeth, at the uncle of a cousin who has been deceased for many months and whose house was empty. I ask her permission to take the photo and place it in a house that is difficult to sell, given its not very attractive condition but whose sick owner wants to sell as soon as possible. In no time, the house is sold! Thanks to Venerable Elisabeth! L. T..., By email

**Good reaction to the vaccine:** Thank you Elizabeth, P. B. did not have any reactions after receiving her second dose of her Covid-19 vaccine. D. B..., by e-mail

**Accepted at the desired school:** My 5 year old grandson starts kindergarten in early September. For lack of space, he was not accepted at the school his 7-year-old brother attends. The parents and I, their grandmother, were very disappointed because we bring them to school. It would have been wearisome to drive them to two different schools. Thank you Elizabeth Bergeron for the favor obtained. C. P..., Trois-Rivières, Qc

**Two thanks:** M. who had breast cancer says that she is very well now and J. B. from Brazil is happy about his recovery from a complicated fracture. A. B..., by e-mail

**Testimony:** I would like to thank Mother Saint-Joseph because she accompanies us, me and my family, in good times as in more difficult times. I pay tribute to her loyalty, her compassion and her great listening, she is there, and we realize it well. May God our Father bless you Mother Saint Joseph for your great solicitude in praying for those who call on you, for all the good that you have brought on this earth and that you continue to bring so well in heaven. D. V..., Sorel-Tracy, Qc

**Successful operations:** Venerable Elizabeth, I thank you for accompanying me during my three eye operations. It hasn't always been easy but, thanks to your presence, everything is going for the best. Thank you for the prayers and thoughts of the sisters towards me. G.G..., 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, Marie-Anne, Caroline and Christophe, Gabriel and Gabrielle.

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

### Various informations



#### Available videos

To get to know Elizabeth Bergeron, three videos are available on our website [www.sjsh.org](http://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

(450) 768-1800, poste 194

[ceb@sjsh.org](mailto:ceb@sjsh.org)

[www.sjsh.org](http://www.sjsh.org)

#### 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.

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With the permission of the St. Hyacinthe Ordinary