



# The Message



of



*Maria Anna Blandina*



# *The Message of Marie Anne Blondin*

## **A Word from the Editor**

As we begin this new year, I offer the best wishes of the entire editorial staff to all of the readers of the Message.

## **An opportunity to stop and reflect**

Mercy, hope, confidence, abandon... Once again, using the most recent writings and messages of Pope Francis, Sister Pierrette invites us to reflect on what guided Mother Marie Anne's life at its most profound level — an invitation to enter into the hope that was hers!

## **Messages received**

You will find on pages 8 and the following a small sampling of the correspondence that comes to us each day. These words of gratitude are a testimonial to the influence of Blessed Marie Anne Blondin which continues to spread across the globe.

## **Update on the Cause**

Also in this issue, on page 11, you will find some helpful information regarding an eventual miracle attributed to Blessed Marie Anne Blondin.

## **New address and phone number**

On August 8, 2016, the general administration moved to its new quarters. On the last page of this issue, we share with you our new address and phone number, etc. Please use them to contact us. We are eager to hear from you.

In closing, I borrow the words Mother Marie Anne addressed to her sisters in her letter of December 26, 1856: "... that we may form but one heart and one soul." May her heart and her soul accompany us during the new year.

Happy, holy, blessed new year to each and every one of you!

Madeleine Lanoue, SSA  
General Secretary

## IT'S SNOWING MERCY, AND HOPE IS IN THE AIR

About this time last year, I entitled my text “It’s snowing mercy”, and this year, I am adding “...and hope is in the air”. Big fluffy snowflakes, blown about by the wind, as light as goose down, like cotton balls. This is the active and refreshing view outside today!

Christmas 2016 has come and gone. The news is full of serious problems between nations, “suspicious” and heartbreaking decisions, destruction, war and natural disasters. Yes, as Mother Marie Anne said: “The events of the times in which we live are so varied that we must always keep our eyes fixed on the celestial Pole; we must cling to the bosom of God’s will... I constantly need to keep the following words on my lips, and even more in my heart: I put my hope in you, O my God, You will not let me be put to shame forever” (La Correspondance de Mère Marie-Anne, pp. 161-162 [translation]). Two expressions caught my attention. First, “the bosom of God’s will”, which evokes God’s motherly breast on which we are carried and to which we can always cling for comfort. Then, “I put in my hope in you, O my God”, that flows from Mother Marie Anne’s pen like the cry of the psalmist calling out to God. In events that are “so varied”, a question torments us: “Where is God in all this? What is God doing?” The answer is given to us plainly: “It is God who is being crucified, even today, in a dying child.”

### *A prophetic voice is raised:*

That of our Pope Francis. Recently, he has been inviting us to combine “mercy” and “hope”, as if they go together naturally. In his last apostolic letter, of November 20, 2016, *Misericordia et misera*, Francis shows us an icon of Jesus with the woman taken in adultery, a Jesus who shows us “the love of God, which is capable of looking into the heart of each person and seeing the deepest desire hidden there... Jesus’ only judgment is one filled with mercy

and compassion for the condition of this sinner. To those who wished to judge and condemn her to death, Jesus replied with a lengthy silence. His purpose was to let God's voice be heard in the consciences not only of the woman, but also in those of her accusers... Jesus helps the woman to look to the future with hope" (#1). "Once clothed in mercy, even if the



inclination to sin remains, it is overcome by the love that makes it possible for her to look ahead and to live her life differently" (#1). This first paragraph takes us from mercy to hope. Once clothed in love, we can feel a spring welling up inside us, a source of hope! The one who is forgiven becomes a new creation, renewed, emboldened with a new strength unknown until that moment. "Mercy is this concrete action of love that, by forgiving, transforms and changes our lives" (#2). We must at all costs meditate on these "pearls" so that we can live them out. "Mercy gives rise to joy... Its source is in the love with which God comes to meet us, breaking through walls of selfishness that surround us, in order to make us in turn instruments of mercy" (#3). "I can and must state," the Pope continues, "that there is no sin that God's mercy cannot reach and wipe away when it finds a repentant heart seeking to be reconciled with the Father" (#12). The Pope mentions all the faces of mercy that bring consolation (#13), that lead to silence (#13), that even accept death, "the ultimate act of love towards those we leave behind and towards God whom we go forth to meet" (#15), culminating in a "hope-filled prayer for the soul of the deceased and for the consolation of those who suffer the loss of their loved one" (#15). I must also mention that the Pope tells us that this is the time "to unleash the creativity of mercy, to bring about new undertakings, the fruit of grace" (#18). "For mercy overflows, keeps moving forward, bears rich fruit. It is like the leaven... or the mustard seed..." (#19).



## *Why such a long quotation from Pope Francis?*

Simply because this was the path that Mother Marie Anne walked in her life. She forgave all those who were suspicious of her actions. She showed mercy to those who hurt her. Many times, she said nothing, she surrendered all, even the intimate letters she had hidden in her traveling bag, taken away while she was on retreat. In all difficult circumstances, she took refuge in prayer, but did not fail to tell the truth when necessary. She comforted one and all; you could even say that it became her specialty. She invented little items that were sold for the works of the community; she was always busy doing something useful. Above all, she dared to do the inconceivable: create mixed schools for poor children from the countryside, something that was not allowed at the time, she who had been illiterate until the age of 22 when she herself learned to read and write!

## *Conclusion*

From mercy to hope! This is the goal that the Pope is suggesting to us. Since December 7, he has undertaken a series of general audiences on the theme of hope, a hope that gives joy, that makes people smile again, a hope that can become as beautiful and wide as a highway, “a highway for the Lord”, as proclaimed in Handel’s *Messiah* (Dec. 7), a hope that gives the joy of Christmas, the surprise of the Christ Child who put aside His glory to become one of us (Dec. 14), a hope that can save us, a hope that allows us to walk with Jesus toward the Father who awaits us, a hope that is expressed in praise and thanksgiving to God, who has inaugurated His Kingdom of love, justice and peace (Dec. 21), a hope that is like Abraham’s, who, hoping against all hope (Rm 4:18), went beyond human wisdom. He believed in the impossible. His only security was his trust in God (Dec. 28).

I recently rediscovered a text by Jean Guitton, a good friend of Paul VI, that is very appropriate for our topic. Mother Marie Anne could have written it herself! For Guitton, as for all the saints, hope becomes surrender. The saints are so alike in their prayer, often choosing the same words! Listen:

“My God, I am so persuaded that You watch over those who hope in You, and that we shall lack nothing when we expect all things from You, that I have resolved to live in the future without any cares, and to cast all my cares on you... I am hoping that You will give me Yourself, O my Creator, both now and in eternity. Amen.”

May our dear Mother Marie Anne help us to truly live out this prayer!

*Pierrette Petit, S.S.A.*





## GRATEFUL TESTIMONIES FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

My husband was in the hospital with cancer and his mind was confused. I had to place him in a centre because I could no longer look after him at home. After a novena to Mother Marie Anne, my prayers were answered. My husband was placed in a centre nearby, and I can go see him every day. Thank you for all the other requests that have been granted.

*DD, Saint-Charles-Borromée, Quebec*

My husband, who isn't so young anymore, has found a job close to home, and my son had a successful eye operation. Thank you to Mother Marie Anne in whom I have great confidence.

*GB, Halifax, Nova Scotia*

We buried a picture of Mother Marie Anne, and just a few weeks later, our house was sold. We are sharing our joy with others, and we've found a new place to live.

*PH, Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon, Quebec*

My granddaughter, who has had some big problems, was able to sell her house. Thanks to Mother Marie Anne, I'm so relieved everything is settling down again. Thank you to Mother Marie Anne for hearing my request.

*GGB, Napierville, Quebec*

My son got a job as a fire fighter after I prayed to Mother Marie Anne.

*DAK, Worcester, MA, U.S.A.*

As the year is ending, I'd like to make an offering in thanks for all the benefits I have received. I pray to Mother Marie Anne every day, and I have confidence in her.

*LSH, Sainte-Marie de Beauce, Quebec*

Thank you to Mother Marie Anne that a serious lung problem has been resolved.

*ME, Terrebonne, Quebec*

Because housing is so expensive in Victoria, my grandson decided to buy a condo. He found one that was to his taste and above all suited his budget. One small problem: two other buyers were interested and lining up to purchase it. After two novenas to Mother Marie Anne, he got his loan from the bank and won out over the other two buyers. Thank you to Mother Marie Anne who has answered our prayers so many times.

*GCML, Victoria, British Columbia*

After saying a novena to Mother Marie Anne, my daughter is doing well in a high-risk pregnancy. She is now at 19 weeks, and her doctors are reassuring. Thank you to Mother Marie Anne for her precious help.

*LP, Mascouche, Quebec*

Thank you to Mother Marie Anne for my successful hip replacement surgery.

*DV, Highcliffe-Dorset, England*

My goodness! Delivering a baby and looking after it, selling a condo, finding a new place, discussing a doctoral thesis...and all in the space of two months? A virtually impossible challenge without the intervention of Mother Marie Anne (as she is affectionately known in our family), who was especially present to us in coordinating all these steps.

*DM, Montreal, Quebec*

Thank you to Mother Marie Anne for all the miracles she has done for me and for my family.

*MC, Leeds, England*

I am 92 years old, and after a fall, I found myself with a broken shoulder and fractured pelvis. After a novena to Mother Marie Anne, I can walk again.

*AM, Saint-Polycarpe, Quebec*

Thank you for your prayers. Mother Marie Anne found me a job beyond all my expectations.

*RLB, L'Ascension, Quebec*

I said a novena these past few weeks and asked Mother Marie Anne to help my family and me through a very long and difficult period in terms of work. Mother Marie Anne, through our prayers, spread an immense balm on our worries. Mother Marie Anne is a saint. I continue to pray to her every day.

*CR, Alexandria, Ontario*

I have been able to get to know Blessed Marie Anne Blondin by reading about her and by meeting her daughters. I pray to her and feel that she is supporting me. I hope that she will be canonized one day.

*MC, Derby, NH, U.S.A.*

I introduced Mother Marie Anne to a couple of friends when they were selling their ranch. They couldn't believe how quickly things happened, even before the end of the first novena.

*LP, Mascouche, Quebec*

Please accept this offering for favours received, especially for the healing of a Type 3B rectal cancer.

*MG, Medway, MA, U.S.A.*

In May, we decided to sell our house and move to an affordable seniors' residence. Mother Marie Anne supported us through the entire process.

*LBJB, Boucherville, Quebec*

## *Cause of Marie Anne Blondin*

### *What's new?*

Our postulator, Father Thomas Klosterkamp, OMI, has advised us to send him any documentation that could be considered as pointing to a miraculous action on the part of Blessed Marie Anne Blondin. He would then study it and give us his opinion.

If you have any information about an experience that, according to you, could be considered miraculous, please let us know. In that case, we would let you know what supporting documentation would be needed.

### *Favours received:*

- Thank you for telling us how your prayers have been answered.
- If you wish to make a donation, please make your cheque to the order of:

Œuvres de charité — Sœurs de Sainte-Anne  
1754 Provost Street  
Lachine, QC H8S 1P1

### **THE MESSAGE OF MARIE ANNE BLONDIN**

The Eucharist is celebrated quarterly for the intentions  
of all our benefactors and friends

This publication is not intended to anticipate in any way  
the decisions of our Holy Mother Church,  
but wishes to conform entirely to her rules and spirit.

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