



The Message



of



Maria Anna Blandina

The Message of Marie Anne Blondin

A Word from the Editor

Happy Birthday! Rejoice! Celebrate!

You probably wonder why this issue opens with such greetings. It's because we want to share with you our joy as we celebrate several birthdays and anniversaries:

- Montreal's 375th (founded as "Ville-Marie" in 1642)
- Lachine's 350th
- Canada's 150th
- Marie Anne Blondin's 16th anniversary of beatification.

A time to stop and reflect

In this issue, Sister Pierrette Petit takes a brief look back in time in Ville-Marie and links it to the missionary zeal of Mother Marie Anne. She also announces some good news about her. Go to page 5 to see what it is.

Prayer requests

We receive so many requests for prayers each day that in this issue we devote three full pages to listing how some of them have been answered. And, on page 9, we summarize the means you can take to contact us to add your own request for prayers and share your thanks for prayers answered. We note in particular that you can do so by referring to the congregation's website (www.ssacong.org).

Mother Marie Anne's "footprint"

In presenting the dossier to Rome in view of a possible canonization, it is important to demonstrate Mother Marie Anne's "footprint" across the globe today. We present on page 10 a brief summary of the places in the world where she has already made her mark—an interesting list indeed, which spurs us on to share devotion to Mother Marie Anne.

So...once again: Happy Birthday! Happy Summer! May it bring you many blessings and many opportunities to celebrate.

Madeleine Lanoue, SSA
General Secretary

MOTHER MARIE ANNE... AND OUR TIMES

I always enjoy experiencing the events of our time with Mother Marie Anne by my side, so to speak. It may be an occupational hazard of being a Sister, or it may be because my soul is deeply attached to hers. Her vision of things, her spirituality and her insight are all a part of me, which means that I view the events of the present time through her eyes.

The 375th anniversary of the founding of Ville-Marie (present-day Montreal)

This is a grace-filled anniversary. When I first began preparing for this anniversary, some time ago, I was very moved at the apostolic zeal of Jérôme Le Royer de la Dauversière, the father of five natural children and one adopted child. He was at the very heart of the founding of Ville-Marie, filled with an ardent desire to spread the reign of God in a foreign land. A tax collector, he founded a pious and financial association, the Société de Notre-Dame, and managed to send to Canada the Sieur de Maisonneuve, a brilliant and zealous military man; Jeanne Mance, a nurse; and men intended to populate the colony, so that native peoples and the French could grow together in faith and charity. Braving the risks and perils of the ocean voyage, the “founders” of Ville-Marie disembarked on the banks of the St. Lawrence on May 17, 1642. Right away, in an improvised setting on the edge of the forest, Father Barthélemy Vimont, a Jesuit, celebrated the first Mass.

Three hundred and seventy-five years later, on May 17, 2017, at Notre-Dame Basilica in Montreal, a Mass composed by Pierre Grandmaison, titular organist at the Basilica, marked the event.

It spontaneously brought to my mind Mother Marie Anne’s offering of herself to go on mission to Vancouver after dreaming for so long of founding a “motherhouse on foreign soil”. The distances to be travelled were so great at the time that Vancouver could well seem to be “foreign soil”. In 1857, Bishop Modeste Demers called on the

Sisters of Saint Anne to come to Vancouver Island. The entire community, then consisting of 38 sisters, was willing to answer the call, including Mother Marie Anne! At age 48, already suffering from illness and pain, she made her offering for the mission in Western Canada. “I offered myself with all the sincerity of my soul, hoping that I would be granted this favour in spite of my unworthiness and my lack of ability; I later learned that those who would be sent out had been named. I resigned myself to God’s holy will... The chief reason I wanted this mission was to strive for the Glory of God as much as I could, by making Him known to those poor children who had not yet had the joy of knowing Him... ” (C.133-134)

When we take a closer look at the epic mystic and missionary journey of the Founders of Ville-Marie, it quickly becomes apparent that Mother Marie Anne was no stranger to this same apostolic zeal. As she wrote to her sisters on December 26, 1856: “Let us be faithful in little things, and we shall be found worthy to be so in the great; let us be religious who sacrifice, let us constantly turn a willing ear to the inspirations of grace... then God will be with us in time, and we with Him in eternity.” (C.118-119) O Mother Marie Anne, help us to live in our times with the apostolic ardour and yearning for eternity that characterized you so well.

Pierrette Petit, S.S.A.

NB: The notes in parentheses refer to pages from *The Correspondence of Mother Marie Anne*.

PS: I cannot end this article without mentioning some “Good News” about Mother Marie Anne. Thanks to the hard work of Sister Christine Mailloux, a dossier was submitted to the City of Montreal, which had asked each borough to present a woman who had distinguished herself as a “builder” of the city. Mother Marie Anne was accepted to represent the borough of Lachine. What a joy for us, and how proud we are! Esther Blondin, Mother Marie Anne Blondin, was posthumously named a “Builder of the City”. A ceremony was held on March 17, 2017, at Montreal City Hall to celebrate the occasion.



GRATEFUL TESTIMONIES FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

HEALTH

I have a strong devotion to Mother Marie Anne. I prayed to her before and during an operation on both my eyes and I felt her presence until the operation came to a successful end. I'm 88 years old, and I have great trust in Mother Marie Anne. She has obtained many favours for me. Thank you!

CP, Lynn, MA, USA

After several breast examinations, including a mammogram and a biopsy, the final result was that my wife doesn't have cancer, thanks to Mother Marie Anne. She also obtained a personal favour for me.

MA, Napierville, Quebec

Little MP was near death. Now she's going to receive two lungs. Thank you to Mother Marie Anne. MP's mother says that it's through your prayers that her little girl is going to be saved. It's a miracle!

RJS, Île Dupas, Quebec

My devotion to Mother Marie Anne keeps me in good health.

DRF, Cornwall, Ontario

I have just prayed a novena to Mother Marie Anne. I am very grateful to her for everything she's done for me: a job for my grandson, good health for me and my husband...

AR, St-Ignace, New Brunswick

Thank you to Mother Marie Anne for my granddaughter's successful eye operation. I gave her a relic to wear on her person, as well as the prayer to Mother Marie Anne.

NL, Quebec City, Quebec

We have great confidence in Mother Marie Anne, who answered our call to help our daughter.

DW & MJC, Shelburne, NY, USA

I was in a lot of pain and I cried out to Mother Marie Anne who healed me. I feel fine now. Here is an offering for two Masses. I am continuing to pray to her.

JL, St-Pamphile, Quebec

A small miracle! I was supposed to have surgery to place two drains in my intestine for a one-year period, but on the ninth day of the novena, when the surgeon started to operate, everything had gone back to normal. No need for a drain.

FC, St-Lazare, Quebec

Here is a small offering for your charitable works, with thanks to Mother Marie Anne. My daughter and her partner are expecting a little boy who'll be born in July. I said a novena to Mother Marie Anne for the baby's arrival and to help them find a home. They quickly found a suitable place.

DB, Sainte-Julienne, Quebec

For many years, I have had great trust in Blessed Esther Blondin, who has been very present to me during several serious episodes with my health since 1988. Thank you to all you Sisters of Saint Anne for all the people you help around the world.

MB, New Richmond, Quebec

Thank you to Mother Marie Anne for her visible intercession in the miraculous healing of our son, who was suffering from influenza and double pneumonia. During his month-long convalescence, he constantly wore the medal of Mother Marie Anne over his heart. He is now fully recovered. Thank you to Mother Marie Anne for answering our prayers.

HV, Métabetchouan, Quebec

I'm proud to testify how close Blessed Mother Marie Anne is to the Almighty, that she is able to obtain favours for us... I have prayed to her for years, and believe me, I have received a lot of favours, and even healings.

JB, Longueuil, Quebec

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

I am sending a donation to your charitable works to thank Mother Marie Anne for many favours received, including a promotion at work for my daughter.

RM, Hawkesbury, Ontario

Thank you to Mother Marie Anne for a favour received. Here is a small gift with my thanks.

RL, Pittsfield, MA, USA

After several novenas, my granddaughter finally found a job that meets her expectations in research and education, with the challenge of starting a new university program. I'm deeply grateful to Mother Marie Anne for everything she's done for my family.

MFL, Victoria, British Columbia

My daughter had been out of work for more than two years because of a move and the birth of her sons. She was looking for a job in her area of special education, and she found one as a replacement in the school board of her choice, all thanks to Mother Marie Anne. Thank you to Mother Marie Anne and to you for your prayers.

CC, La Pocatière, Quebec

My saint (which is what I call her) has done so much for me: she sold my son's house and helped him buy another; she found my daughter-in-law a job and saved my grandson from drowning.

LV, St-Jérôme, Quebec

For six years, I asked for a favour for my son and daughter: clarification of the title to some land. After several novenas, everything has been cleared up. Here is a gift for a favour received.

MM, Judique, Nova Scotia.

GENERAL

Here is a gift for prayers and favours received.

SMP, Brooklyn, NY, USA

I have trust in Mother Marie Anne. She is with me and protects me and my family. I thank her for everything...

NL, Quebec City, Quebec

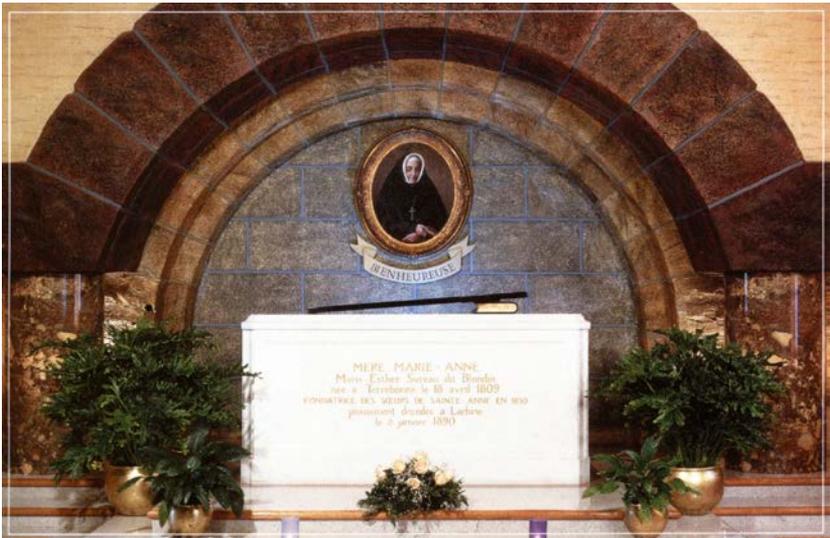
Prayer Requests

Would you like the Sisters of Saint Anne to pray for your intentions?

We encourage you to send us your prayer requests. Let us know, also, how your prayers have been answered, You can do this in one of three ways:

1. By mail (see the address on the back of this newsletter).
2. By telephone, by calling [514-637-1809](tel:514-637-1809) ext. 221.
3. Online, by visiting the Congregation's website at www.ssacong.org and clicking on the "Prayer Corner" icon on the home page.

The Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Anne regularly receives your prayer intentions, which are placed at the foot of Blessed Marie-Anne Blondin's tomb. Everyone who comes to the tomb is asked to pray for your intentions.





The influence of Blessed Marie Anne Blondin

Since the beatification of Marie Anne Blondin in 2001, more than 20,000 testimonies of favours received have been recorded. All this information is important and is compiled for the study of the Cause. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to write to us to share this invaluable information.

An analysis of the place of origin of the testimonies and prayer requests we receive every day, either via mail or via e-mail, shows Mother Marie Anne's influence, not only in Quebec, the rest of Canada and the United States, but in several other countries as well.

Correspondence via mail:

- Montreal area 54%
- Other regions of Quebec 29%
- Other provinces 10%
- U.S. and other countries 7%

Correspondence via e-mail:

- Canada, U.S. and Mexico 67%
- Other 33%
 - >South America Brazil, Chile
 - >Europe England, Belgium, Croatia, France, Italy, Turkey
 - >Africa Cameroon
 - >Asia India, Vietnam

Cause of Marie Anne Blondin

What's new?

Our postulator, Father Thomas Klosterkamp, OMI, has advised us to continue 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

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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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