



# Echoes of Emilie

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## *A Word From Our Team...*

Dear Friends of Blessed Emilie Gamelin,

The year 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin. During these ten years, Sister Therese Frigon, Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Blessed Emilie and Director of the Bureau of the Cause, and Sister Yvette Demers, Secretary for the Bureau of the Cause, have been persevering in their dedication to the Cause of Emilie's canonization. The correspondence received daily is a testimony to the widening circle of those who know and love Blessed Emilie Gamelin, who recognize her as a model of holiness and who pray for her intercession on behalf of their needs.

In 2010, the Bureau of the Cause reached its fifty year mark and, at the same time, Sister Therese Frigon celebrated fifty years as the Director of the Bureau. In recent months, as Sister Therese's health has declined, she has accepted the title of Director Emeritus and she has been relieved of her responsibilities as Vice-Postulator and Director of the Bureau of the Cause. She maintains her devotion to Blessed Emilie Gamelin and her strong commitment to the Cause of Blessed Emilie.

Sister Yvette Demers, Secretary for the Bureau of the Cause, will continue her work as secretary and is now also responsible for the daily activities of the Bureau.

We know that for the Canonization of Blessed Emilie Gamelin, another special and inexplicable

favour, received after the beatification, must be obtained and then recognized by the Church. We do not know which favour or healing might become the "case" that would be recognized by the Church. Obviously, this requires dedicated attention to detail and continual and persevering prayer on our part.

We thank Sister Yvette Demers for the excellence of her work and for her generosity in accepting responsibility for the work of the Bureau of the Cause. We assure her of our support and our prayers as she carries out the various tasks and functions related to this responsibility.

Sister Therese Frigon is now free of the challenging demands of the work related to the Cause of Blessed Emilie Gamelin. In the name of all those persons who have come to know and to love Blessed Emilie Gamelin, we offer Sister Therese an expression of our deep gratitude for all that she has done to advance the Cause of Emilie and to promulgate her life, her compassion and her love for the poor. We assure Sister Therese of our prayers for her in the coming months.

*Sister Kathryn Rutan, SP*  
General Superior



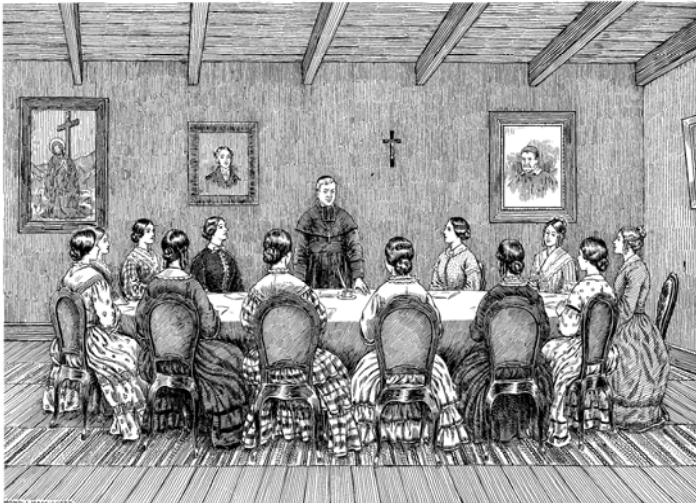
# AS A JUBILEE FADES OUT ...

## NEW ANNIVERSARIES TAKE PLACE...

As the Golden Jubilee of the Cause of Mother Gamelin (1960-2010) slowly comes to an end, new anniversaries appear at the dawn of 2011 for us to celebrate our Blessed Mother and Foundress.

### 170th Anniversary "Act of Incorporation of the Asile for the Aged and Infirm Ladies of Montreal". September 18, 1841 - 2011

On August 7, 1841, Madame Gamelin and her colleagues took the initiative to civilly incorporate the House of Providence. On September 18, 1841, the corporation was legally named "La Corporation de l'Asyle des femmes âgées et infirmes de Montreal" ("The Corporation of the Asile for the Aged and Infirm Ladies of Montreal").



Bishop Bourget meets the Ladies of  
"The Corporation of the Asile for the Aged and Infirm Ladies of Montreal"  
on December 20, 1841.

Drawing of Edmond Massicotte  
(APSP Providence Archives- Sisters of Providence)

When Bishop Ignace Bourget, bishop of Montreal, was informed of this event, after his return from Europe, he saw in their initiative a sign from Providence. Therefore, he unveiled his plan to bring some sisters to ensure the permanence of Madame Gamelin's work, which he considered "a very important work in the diocese."

From 1843, the foundation year of the Sisters of Providence religious community, until 1861, the works of Providence had continued to evolve under this corporation. On May 18, 1861 the charter was amended and the corporation adopted the name of "Sisters of the Asile of Providence of Montreal". On June 10, 1884, an Act was decreed by the Quebec legislature to consolidate and amend previous acts of the said corporation, to adopt a new corporate name: The Community of the Sisters of Charity of Providence. This mother-corporation still exists today at the General Administration of the Congregation.

### 160th Anniversary Death of Mother Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin September 23, 1851-2011

Victim of the cholera epidemic raging in and around Montreal, Mother Gamelin, impassioned by her charity, gave her soul to God, on September 23, 1851, after twelve hours of illness. She left to her daughters these three simple words: "Humility, simplicity and charity." as her spiritual testament.



Her spiritual daughters will receive  
these words from her dying lips on September 23, 1851.

In the afternoon of September 24, 1851, after the funeral, Bishop Bourget visited the Sisters to highlight the virtues of their foundress. He said: "I have subjected her to severe trials to purify her virtue; in view of this I have a real obligation to reveal, after her death, the solid virtues hidden in her beautiful soul and which remained hidden until this moment".

### 10th Anniversary Beatification of Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin October 7, 2001-2011

Under a sunny sky, on October 7, 2001, pilgrims from all around the world filled St. Peter's Square in Rome to attend the Beatification of seven new Blessed, including our dearest foundress Mother Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin, first woman of Montreal to be beatified.

In his homily, Pope John Paul II spoke of Mother Gamelin in these terms : "During her life, as a mother and as a foundress of the Sisters of Providence, Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin was the model of courageous abandonment to Providence. She had an open heart to any kind of suffering, helping especially the poor and the lowly whom she desired to treat like kings. May the newly Blessed be the new model of contemplation and action for the Sisters of her Institute and for those who work with them!"

At the beginning of 2011, and in light of these anniversaries, we wish to express our sincere greetings to all our readers. May each of you benefit from the abundant favors Providence deigns to give to those who hold in their hearts the "Great lady of Montreal", Blessed Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin.



**Image of Blessed Emilie Gamelin in the glory of Bernini\*** exposed on the facade of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome during the Beatification ceremony.

**HOLY YEAR 2011,  
UNDER THE GAZE  
OF PROVIDENCE !**

*Sister Yvette Demers, SP*  
**Secretary  
Bureau of the Cause Emilie Gamelin**

\***Glory of Bernini:** Refers to the work of art created by the Italian baroque artist, architect and sculptor, Lorenzo Bernini (known as Le Bernin), located in the Sanctuary of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This masterpiece is a sculpture dedicated to the Holy Spirit. It shows a group of adoring angels around a white dove and over sunrays in stained glass. When a servant of God reaches the Bernini's Glory, it means this person has been honoured as Blessed or Saint; his or her portrait, placed on the façade of St. Peter Basilica, Rome, is unveiled during the official ceremony.

## **Fire at Casa de la Providencia (Provincial House) in Santiago, Chile**

On January 24, 2011, in a matter of two hours, more than 150 years of history was completely destroyed. The Mother Church of the Sisters of Providence in Chile and the home for elderly persons were totally consumed by a devastating fire.

The fire broke out after 6:00 PM in an upstairs bedroom of Our Lady of Sorrows senior residence, and the fire spread within minutes to the Museum and the noviciate of the Sisters of Providence Congregation. The fire mobilized up to 270 volunteer firefighters from 19 fire companies. Their quick action helped evacuate about 30 people who were inside.

The flames caused incalculable damage to both, religious and historical Heritage of the Nation and the Congregation. The novitiate, the Church and the aged ladies residence (2 wings), were completely destroyed. Fortunately the 30 resident women managed to escape just in time. In the museum attached to the chapel, many objects having belonged to Mother Bernard Morin (Founder of the Congregation in Chile) and other valuable works of art of the Community were completely lost.

We deeply thank Providence for watching over us, nobody was injured and no casualties were reported. Elderly people who lived in the house are currently with their families and some were transferred to other shelters.

*Lorena Otero*

**for the Emilie-Gamelin Centre Team**

### **Opening hours:**

Monday to Friday - 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Self-guided or guided tours available  
Reservations required for guided tours or outside our opening hours (evenings/weekends)

12055 Grenet Street, Montreal, QC H4J 2J5  
Information: (514) 334-9090 (Ext. 217)  
[lotero@providenceintl.org](mailto:lotero@providenceintl.org)

**Admission fees: Free**

## **MUSÉE DES SCEURS DE LA PROVIDENCE**

MUSEUM OF THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE  
MUSEO DE LAS HERMANAS DE LA PROVIDENCIA



## **Did you know that...**

The Congregation of the Sisters of Providence remains active in today's world, to assist, as Emilie did, the people in need?

Their communitarian work reaches the poor, the mentally challenged, drug addicts, AIDS patients, patients losing their independence, elderly persons, orphans and immigrants, among others.

They are actively involved in justice issues such as promoting the rights of women and children as well as respecting the environment.



*"Much kindness and great  
charity for our neighbor".*

*Emilie Gamelin*

# Gratitude to Emilie

*Blessed Emilie Gamelin with her compassionate heart...*

*Thank you to Blessed Emilie for helping me during health problems.*  
G.I., Laval, QC, Canada

*I obtained several favors from Mother Gamelin, especially, the improved health of my husband who was very ill. Now, he is doing well and I deeply thank Blessed Emilie.*  
R.R.C., Ovalle, Chile

*Enclosed you will find a donation to Mother Gamelin's Cause of Canonization, in gratitude for favors received: relieving pain, obtaining employment and improving my health.*  
A.L., Cowansville, QC, Canada

*I confided to Mother Emilie Gamelin myself and several family members who were sick. I asked her intercession, when I was hospitalized. We all felt her protection, and we are deeply grateful.*  
J.V., St-Justin, QC, Canada

*Thank you for continuing to send me the "Echoes of Emilie" bulletin. I read it regularly and it helps me not to despair and also to grow in faith.*  
L.J., Quebec, QC, Canada

*I want to express my gratitude to Blessed Emilie Gamelin for the great favors obtained: I have noticed some change in the hearts of loved ones.*  
L.H., Victoriaville, QC, Canada

*Mother Gamelin listened to our prayers; our health really improved. Thank you for praying with us.*  
L.L., Longueuil, QC, Canada

*Thanks to Mother Gamelin, my son E. has regained his health after having a bone marrow transplant in 2003. Now he is doing well and he can continue his studies.* Mrs. C.L., Ruisseau-a-Rebours, QC, Canada

*For several years I have put my son and his spouse under the protection of Mother Gamelin. I know my prayers were heard, because things are changing, especially at work. I am very confident Emilie will continue to protect them.*  
M.L., Grand-Mere, QC, Canada

*I would like you to publish, in your bulletin, a great favor obtained from Blessed Mother Gamelin: my son and his wife were about to separate. I have confided them to this good Mother and they decided to stay together for the sake of their children.*  
E.T., Colorado Spring, CO, U.S.A.

*Here are some Mass stipends in gratitude to Blessed Emilie, because I always feel her close to me and my family, through difficult times in life.*  
T.B., Longueuil, QC, Canada

*I thank Mother Gamelin for allowing me to believe in myself, and finally to be able to achieve my goals.*  
D.G., Gatineau, QC, Canada

*Thank you for praying for me at the Tomb of our beloved Emilie; for the strength she gave me ever since my husband was severely ill. Please continue to pray for us.*  
L.B.R., Quebec, QC, Canada

*Thanks to Mother Gamelin for her attentiveness to us.*  
L.D., Trecession, QC, Canada

*Thanks to Emilie for helping my grandchildren.*  
J.C. Levis, QC, Canada

*Enclosed find a donation for Mother Gamelin's Cause of Canonization, to thank her for all the help she gives to me. I have great confidence in her.*  
Y.M., Montreal, QC, Canada

**Blessed Emilie Gamelin, Pray for us!**

*Sister Yvette Demers, SP*  
Secretary  
Bureau of the Cause Emilie Gamelin



**PLEASE ADDRESS ALL  
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