



Echoes of Emilie

Volume XXXIII - No. 2 Spring - Summer 2010

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A word from our team

Dear readers,

The Team of the Emilie-Gamelin Centre is glad to present to you, the Spring-Summer issue of our Echoes of Emilie Bulletin.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OFFICE OF THE CAUSE

Last April 16, a moving Eucharistic celebration marked the beginning of the 50th anniversary of the Office of the Cause, which took place at the Motherhouse Chapel, in Montreal. We invite Sisters Therese Frigon and Yvette Demers, to whom we pay tribute, to tell us their impressions of this event.

For this occasion, the Emilie-Gamelin Centre wished to highlight the event, in a very special way, by a photo exhibit. The display pointed out the main stages that were achieved since 1960, in pursuing the great objective that is the canonization of Emilie Tavernier -Gamelin. This small exhibition will be open to the public until June 21, 2010, at the International Centre.

THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE IN YAKIMA

In this issue, the bulletin Echoes of Emilie is nicely enhanced by an article from the Yakima, region in Washington, United States. We sincerely thank Sister Roberta Rorke and colleagues, for their compassionate testimony in the presented article, which

confirms how Emilie Gamelin's heritage continues to live, and how it is transmitted to the world today.

Happy Reading to all!

Reine Charbonneau

Coordinator - Emilie-Gamelin Centre

Boutique Providence

Our Providence Boutique offers a new religious item, the **One-decade Rosary**, in two models:

Classical One decade Rosary Model:

Yellow or blue plastic beads, with silver-colored chain and medal

Price: \$ 3.50 / each

One Decade Bracelet model:

Red, yellow or beige wood beads, on a thin cord of brown thread with a gold-colored medal featuring Virgin Mary

Price: \$ 3.00/ each

These decade Rosaries are made by a sister of the Daughter of Charity Congregation, who gives the proceeds of the sales to needy families in Colombia.



Request your electronic
copy of our bulletin at:

lotero@providenceintl.org

Echoes of Emilie on the Web:

www.providenceintl.org



The Ministries of Casa Emily and Casa Guadalupe, Providence houses in Yakima

In the early 1990's, three sisters of Providence, **Chloe Keitges**, **Clare Lentz** and **Roberta Rorke**, felt called to move into the Hispanic neighborhood in Yakima, Washington. Their intention was to open an SP house, **Casa Emilie**, with prayer as one of their principle ministries.

In addition to from their common prayer ministry, Sister Chloe volunteered at Casa Hogar, a ministry which the Sisters of Providence had helped to establish. The mission of Casa Hogar is to provide a space for women to gather and to relate to one another. The services offered at the Casa Hogar include classes in English and Spanish, citizenship, budgeting, computer science and even dance classes for children. Sister Clare, who kept prayer as her principle ministry, offered spiritual direction to those who requested it.

Sister Roberta taught at Heritage University which specializes in providing an education for Hispanic and Native American students. These two groups make up the majority of the students at the University and they receive special opportunities that strengthen and demonstrate the richness of their respective cultures. The three founding Sisters also involved themselves in the life of the Hispanic community; for example, participating in the devotions to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Posadas and in the retreats for women.

Over the years, a second SP house was purchased, **Casa Guadalupe**, other sisters arrived and two of the original sisters moved on to other ministries. However, a solid foundation had been laid and the presence of the Sisters of Providence in the neighborhood is now part of the local scene.

This part of Yakima is very poor. At one point, the Sisters became involved with homeless people who were living in their alley. With the assistance of community funds, they helped to open residence for these people, many of whom are suffering from alcoholism. Aside from providing a place to live, possibly the greatest blessing has been the establishment of friendships with the poor who live on the street. Each day sees someone coming for food, prayer, a ride, and for a bit of conversation. It is not an uncommon sight to see Hispanic persons making the Sign of the Cross as they pass the Sisters' houses.

The Providence ministry carried on today in the neighborhood is a continuation of the work of various sisters who have lived at Casa Emilie and Casa Guadalupe. In addition to the ministries mentioned above, Sisters have given classes at the jail, kept the books for a local charity, taught English, visited homes, and established a literacy project.

At the present time there are four sisters of Providence in the local community in Yakima, **Sisters Alice St. Hilaire**, **Silvia Troncoso**, **Fe Sumalde**, and **Roberta Rorke**, living in two



"God shapes each of us from clay into a vessel, a clay pot. Some are cracked and broken, but all are filled with God's love to be shared with others."

An extract from La Casa Hogar Web site: www.lacashogar.org

adjoining houses. Sister Fe works at the Regional Hospital and, in addition to her ministry in pastoral care, serves on the hospitals' ethics committee and is on call for emergency situations. Since Yakima has a gang problem, Sister Fe frequently ministers to families who have lost someone due to gang violence. Sister Fe, together with Sister Silvia, works closely with our Providence Associates who are an integral part of our ministries.

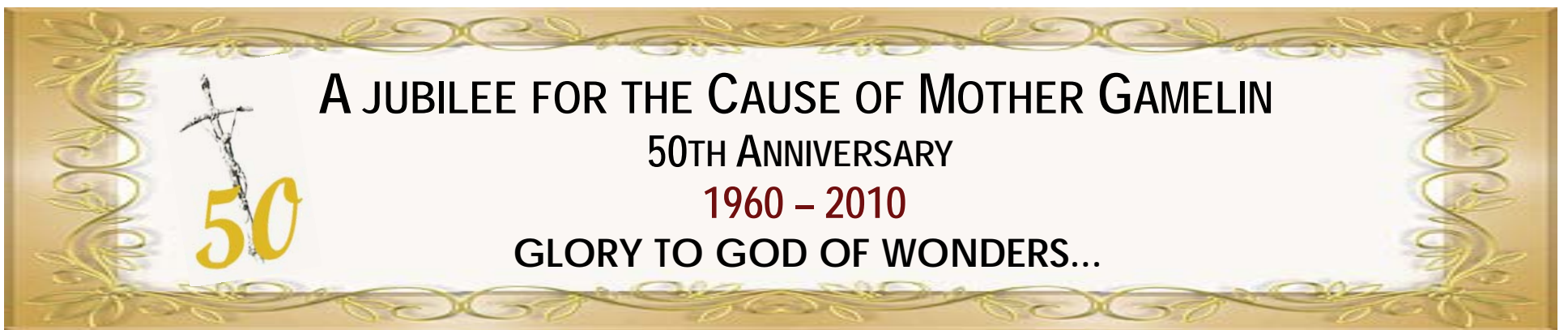
Sister Silvia ministers at St. Joseph Parish and has had, in her 17 years in Yakima, over a thousand students in her classes. She is also partly responsible for a large yearly gathering of over 7,000 Spanish speaking participants in the Catholic Charismatic Conference.

Sister Alice offers spiritual direction, participates with the Jesuit fathers in providing the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and serves on the diocesan vocation group. She is also the one who frequently prepares the food for the poor who stop at the door.

Sister Roberta teaches at Heritage University, is on the Casa Hogar Board of Directors and ministers to gang members.

While each Sister has her special ministry, our common ministry of presence is the most important. We frequently stand with the suffering, as did our Mother of Sorrows, and, while we cannot solve all problems, the people know that our presence is the reflection of a caring God. We are the face of Providence in a world of poverty and violence.

Sister Roberta Rorke, SP
Sisters of Providence
Yakima, WA U.S.A.



A JUBILEE FOR THE CAUSE OF MOTHER GAMELIN
50TH ANNIVERSARY
1960 - 2010
GLORY TO GOD OF WONDERS...

"In the Church's history every jubilee is prepared for by Divine Providence."
John Paul II, Jubilee of the Year 2000, No. 17, P. 24

We easily recognize Providence's presence when we remember the events that have marked the fifty years of the Office of the Cause of Canonization of Mother Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin (1960-2010). Providence guided, day after day, those who worked on the preparation of the documents presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. Providence smoothed out the difficulties, gave support in facing challenges; in a word, guided them right up to the Jubilee day. We thank Providence with all our hearts!

The Congregation of the Sisters of Providence chose to celebrate this unique event on April 16, 2010, in order to include the leadership teams from different regions who were attending the General Conference at the Providence International Center.

More than 200 people, Sisters of Providence, collaborators of the Office of the Cause, and friends of Mother Gamelin attended the **Eucharistic celebration**. **Mgr Michel Parent**, E.B., Chancellor of the Diocese of Montreal, was the main celebrant for the Mass; **Father Roger Laberge**, rsv, Postulator for the Cause of Emilie-Gamelin, **Father Yvon Beaudoin**, OMI, Relator of the Cause from 1985 to 2010, **Father Jacques Sylvestre**, OP, **Fathers Paul Michalak** and



Rejean Vigneault, OMI, Chaplain at the Mother House, and **Father George Avram** were the concelebrants. The homily, given by Mgr. Michel Parent, E.B., focused on the charism and mission of our Foundress, with reference to the Gospel of St. John (Jn 15: 1-5) and to the Hymn of Charity (1 Cor 13: 4-13). Following the procession to the Tomb of our Blessed Emilie, we sang our community, hymn "O Providence Most Gentle".



After Mass, guests were invited to Providence Hall for a **cocktail reception**.

Some guests were invited to express their appreciation and best wishes to Sr. Therese Frigon, SP, Vice Postulator and Director of the Cause for 50 years, and to Sr. Yvette Demers, Assistant and Secretary for 38 years, for their strong commitment to serving the Cause of Mother Gamelin.



Following this memorable celebration, we express our gratitude to Divine Providence, to those in leadership in our congregation, to our distinguished guests, and to all who participated in our joy.

**Glory to God of wonders,
 God Providence!
 Today, our hearts celebrate
 His preferential love.**

Lyrics and Music: Sr. Madeleine Dube, OP

Sister Therese Frigon, SP
 Vice-Postulator and Director

Sister Yvette Demers, SP
 Secretary

Office of the Cause Emilie-Gamelin

Gratitudes to Emilie

Blessed Emilie Gamelin with her compassionate heart...

I am grateful to Emilie for my improved health and for the quick sale of my house.

D.R., Ville-Marie, QC

Thank you to Blessed Mother Gamelin for her intercession with God. Every day, I think about her and ask her to have a great day and every evening, I thank her for her assistance.

G.R.A., Trois-Rivieres, QC

Mother Gamelin protected me during a fall; I was hurt badly, but I had no broken bones. In addition, I entrust my son to her, so he can keep his present employment.

Mrs. P.C., Victoriaville, QC

After a novena to Blessed Emilie, my son sold his condo, and another property was leased, despite difficult times that we are going through.

M.C., Edmonton, AB

I entrust my health to Mother Gamelin for the cure of my cancer and for the success of the treatment. Be assured of my prayers for the canonization of your Foundress and for the protection of the entire Providence community.

Mrs. D.M., St-Leonard, QC

It would take too long to list the many favours I received from Mother Gamelin. I think the greatest present I can receive is the marvellous gift of a strong faith.

J.-G.D., Longueuil, QC

I deeply thank our Beloved Mother Gamelin who listened to my prayers and eased my anxiety and pain.

V.R., Montreal, QC

Thank you to Mother Emilie for the cure of my granddaughter who underwent a serious operation. She is doing very well. I ask Emilie to keep us healthy, for both my husband and I.

C.F., Acadieville, NB

I made two novenas to Mother Gamelin for my granddaughter V. and her companion N., so they

could obtain teaching positions and this was granted.

T.C.A., Beloeil, QC

I thank Blessed Emilie Gamelin. My prayers to her helped my husband and children obtain great jobs.

J. and R.B., Fall River, MA

Thank you, Mother Gamelin, for healing my son P.

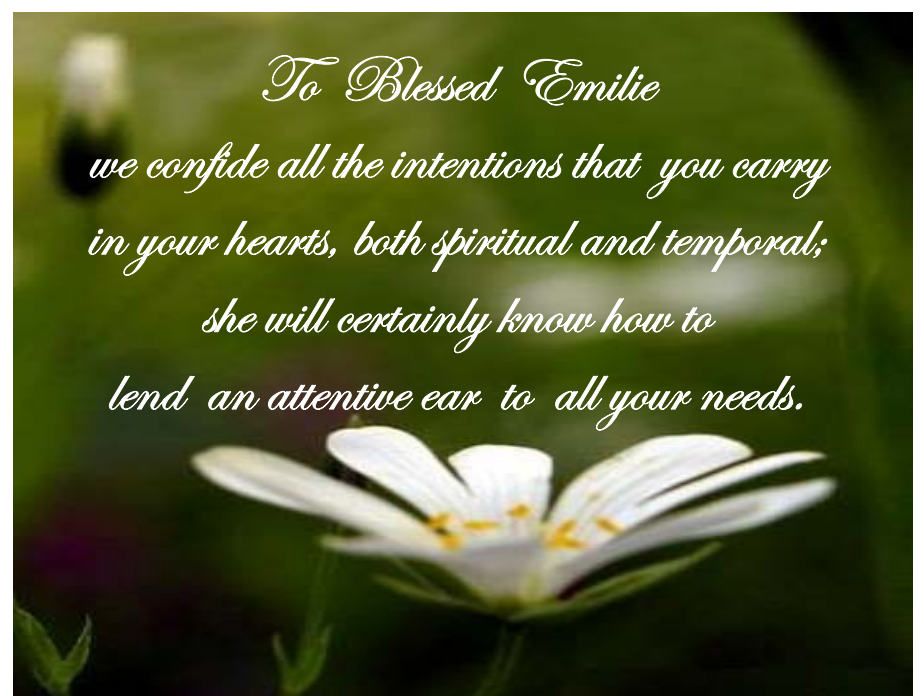
M.F. Montreal, QC

Blessed Emilie, Pray for us!

Sister Therese Frigon, SP

Vice-Postulator and Director

Office of the Cause Emilie-Gamelin



To submit a comment, a new address or to place an order at our *Boutique Providence*, please contact us at:

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