

Heartbeats

Servants of the Holy Heart of
Mary

October, 2017

Volume 1, Issue 2
Kankakee, Illinois

Trip to Québec, Canada By Sister Marie-Ange

What a blessing to be asked to represent the American Sisters in Québec for the 125th anniversary of the arrival of our Sisters at Saint-Ephrem....thank you.

I was deeply touched by the very warm welcome by our Sisters when we arrived at 30 des Cascades. We received many double embraces. The same was true when visiting our Sisters at 37 des Cascades as well as in some of the smaller communities. The Family Spirit was truly very, very evident wherever we went.

The absolutely beautiful trip to and from Saint-Ephrem with all the beauty of the trees was magnificent! Yellows, oranges, reds, etc. It was a masterpiece of God's beautiful creation. When walking into the church one could feel the joy of celebration. Carol and I were directed to the reserved pews than asked

to go to the back of the church to be part of the procession. We were handed a beautiful white rose. In standing there with Sisters Françoise Moreau and Martine in front of us I felt an explosion of joy inside of me. "I was a part of this beautiful celebration" and, I began to have tears in my eyes. It was such a gratifying experience to be part of 125 years of history. I immediately thought of the four Sisters who arrived in Bourbonnais 128 years ago. What a gift to be part of the family of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. I have tears as I am writing this! I don't know where they are coming from I just know that I am so PROUD to be part of the SSCM's. Thank you, thank you, thank you for giving me this great opportunity.



Sister Françoise Moreau
Sister Martine Dumant



Sister Susana Teruel
Sister Paule-Marie Ndjom



Sister Carol and Marie-Ange
waiting for procession



Saint-Ephrem Church

Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary Celebrate 125 Years in Québec. By Sister Carol

October 12, 1892 marked the 125th anniversary of the arrival of the SSCM's to Canada and to the parish of Saint-Ephrem in the village of the same name. Sister Marie-Ange and I had the honor of representing the U.S. Province at the special celebration on Sunday, October 9, in Saint-Ephrem.

Fall had arrived before we did. The countryside was painted in bold yellows, oranges and reds that contrasted with the deep green of the pines. We experienced breathtaking views as we travelled with Sisters Kathleen Mulchay and Anne-Marie Richard to the celebration. What must the young Sisters have felt at their first glance at this magnificent land! (Perusing Wikipedia I found that this area, called "Beauce", located south of Québec City, is named for an area in France, and borders the state of Maine. The rolling hills are part of the Appalachian Mountains which extend from southern Québec to Alabama along the eastern part of North America).



The Mass of thanksgiving was held at the parish church. Its patron, St.-Ephrem, was born in Turkey. He was a biblical scholar and gained the nickname "the harp of the Holy Spirit" for the beautiful prayer poems and lyrics he composed in the Syrian language. This Doctor of the Church died around the year 373 AD.



The celebrant of the Mass was Cardinal Gerald-Cyprien Lacroix, Cardinal Archbishop of Québec and Primate of Canada. Cardinal Lacroix is a gracious and genial man who credits his first-grade teacher, one of our sisters, for instilling in him a love for the Gospel.



In the accompanying pictures, you will see the style and magnificence of this church.



The celebratory meal and testimonials were held in the village's Civic Center. Dignitaries from local, provincial and national government spoke, as did the pastor. Sister Kathleen's spirited tribute to the Sisters was a high point of the afternoon.



A number of Sisters joined together to offer a lively choral presentation. Upon exiting the dining area, we found a display of artifacts from the old convent presented by the local

historical society. The day was unforgettable from beginning to end.

On Monday, Ange and I took some quiet time with Sisters Anne Marie Richard and Irène Baillargeon in order to present them with a check from our province for \$1,250. The accompanying note spoke our love for them and a wish that they would use our gift for something needed in their new dwelling and/or to preserve the heritage of the "cradle of the Canadian foundation". Their gratitude was touching.



Autumn's Symphony: Andante Movement

Earth's concert hall quiets slowly –

Sound are blended, rich colors abound—

As the baton is lifted...

The **Violins**:...Rasping, dried out stalks and leaves once

green, stand sentinel, awaiting the noisy picker to rumble by, and pluck and snatch the dropped, turned wrong-side-to-pockets richly crammed with golden coin.

The **Horns**:...honking geese in flight formation, shattering the crisp blue sky in raucous wave, after wave, after wave.

The **Flutes and Reeds**: ...shrilling brazen maples shake their freshly frosted halos, their reddened carrot-tops, as brazen harridans, scream "Look at me! Look at me!"

The **Cellos and the Basses**:... Echo the land in groaning abundance, as garish pumpkins, and multi-gourds resound their own ache and somber heralding, of each passing Indian summer day, of each rising harvest moon, of each rattling west wind's snare.

While the **Harp**:...as newly raped fields, where soy's proliferation once flourished, now hushed, waits with grief's sweet relief and rests in poised adagio. Amen.

Sr. Mary K. Himens, sscm

