



Engaged

in the God's plan

*Novena of the founders of the
Church of Quebec*

2022

Engaged in the God's project

If God has a love project for the human beings He has created as a unity, He also has one for each and everyone of us because He wants us to enjoy life abundantly. Every event, every person is an occasion to achieve God's project during the lifetime we have received.

By remaining watchful to providential events and faithful to the grace of the present moment, we will more easily discern the path God has drawn for us so we can invest ourselves in it with the utmost freedom and a full conscience.

However, in order to progress in this commitment, space is needed in our life to better grasp the movements of the loving Spirit, better forget ourselves, so that our involvement will be complete and fruitful.

The example of our holy founders, who built our Church, can mightily motivate us to put God's project at the center of our life.

Following the founders of the Canadian Church, let us commit ourselves to be sowers of peace and love in our own time, so that God's project will be realized.

Process of the Novena

Let us be inspired by the example left to us by our founders and foundresses in their commitment to divine projects.

Guided by the video capsule of the day:

1. Let us put ourselves in the presence of God by asking Mary to accompany us and by praying as His Son has taught us:
Hail Mary...
Our Father...
2. Let's meditate on the quote of the day using the accompanying commentary on the video capsule.
3. Let us recite the prayer for the 350th anniversary of the death of Sainte Marie de l'Incarnation.

* To learn more about the founders:

<https://fondeurs.ecdq.org/en/home/>

Day 1

Citation of Sainte Marie de l'Incarnation



Video Capsule: [Here](#)

I very well know that I will not go [in Ontario], yet the desire to gain souls for the Glory of God consumes me. (...) I do not think about the present; rather I look to the future. I consider myself blessed to work to the founding of this great establishment.

You may say that, at 53 of age, I am unwise to have these feelings of which I write. Think what you will, but if I was told, "We must now go to the Indies, to China, or to the Iroquois", I would be ready.

Letter CLI from Quebec to Mother Françoise de S. Bernard,
Ursuline Sister in Tours,
September 1653

Day 2

Excerpt from the testimony of Father Da Silva, Jesuit, taken hostage for four days in Haiti, in 2020.
He returns here to this event.

Video Capsule: [Here](#)

I plunged totally into the hands of God. (...) Totally at the mercy of my powerlessness, hostage, I was left with only the intimate tabernacle of my heart. (...) My cell gave me the opportunity to make a retreat. (...) I reread my whole life. I also projected myself into the future (...)

During these days, we even prayed together, the seven hostages who were living in the same situation as I in this room. It was an opportunity for us, belonging to different religious confessions, to learn the way of ecumenical prayer.

P. Rogério Mosimann da Silva, sj,
September 23th, 2021
www.jesuites.com

Full testimony: Click [Here](#)

Day 3

Citation of Saint François de Laval

Video Capsule: [Here](#)



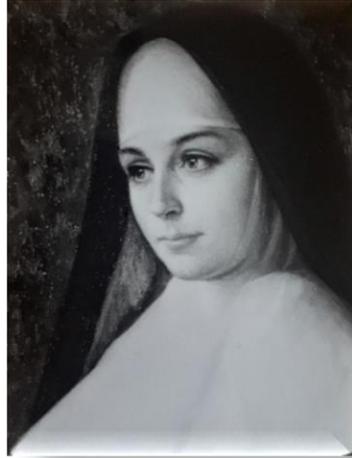
There are three things a missionary must use in a successful mission: prayer, study and good example. Study alone is without unction, stifles the spirit and bears no fruit. Prayer alone, without knowledge, is not enough to teach, but knowledge animated by prayer enlightens the spirit and inflames our will; and when they are accompanied by method, success is assured.

*Instructions by François de Laval and the Paris Seminary directors
to the Seminary of Quebec missionaries
(1663-1665)*

Day 4

Citation of Blessed Marie-Catherine de Saint-Augustin

Video Capsule: [Here](#)



Catherine's commitment for the mission in Canada was a gift constantly renewed in time, until it became a vow of stability for her new country.

It seems to me that I want, or do not wish to want, anything else than the fulfillment of His holy will within me. In this, I find my peace and my rest, and a joy that nothing in this world could possibly take away from me. (...) Moreover, my dear aunt, please do not doubt of the stability I have found in this country. We must remain faithful to God until the end (...) It is for me a certainty that I will never depart unless everybody left.

Paul Ragueneau, *Vie de la Mère Catherine de Saint-Augustin*,
Paris, 1671. p.47

Day 5

Citation of Saint Gabriel Lalemant

Video Capsule: [Here](#)



I abandon to your example all those things for the sake of the salvation of souls whom you consider to be yours, whom you loved to the point of death, and of whom you said: "What you did to the least of these, you did to me" (Mt. 25:40). I would do it with all my heart, in consideration of the greatness of your adorable Majesty, who deserves that a man should generously abandon himself in order to faithfully accomplish what he judges to be your will for him and the particular inspirations which you are pleased to give him for the sake of your greater glory.

*The Writings of the Holy Jesuit Martyrs, choice of texts,
Montreal 1999 (La Compagnie de Jésus, Montréal)*

Day 6

Citation of Sainte Marie de l'Incarnation



Video Capsule: [Here](#)

You are right in thinking that I wish to die in this new Church, for my heart is so tied to it that unless God detaches it, (...) it will not leave; not in life, nor in death. Our cloister does not allow me to follow the workers of the Gospel. (...)

Yet being part of this new Church, as indeed I am, God having given me the honor of calling me to it, He binds me so tightly to them in spirit that I feel as if I follow them everywhere and work with them to such rich and noble conquests.

Letter CCXIII, from Quebec, to Mother Angélique
de la Conception, Ursuline Sister in Tours,
August 19 1664

Day 7

Citation of Saint François de Laval

Video Capsule: [Here](#)



He must be firmly convinced that he is employed on divine, rather than human, work and that being above human forces, we can no more succeed by ourselves than a branch can bear fruit unless it be attached to the tree. "No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. [...] If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
(John 15:4-5)

*Instructions by François de Laval and the Paris Seminary directors
to the Seminary of Quebec missionaries
(1663-1665)*

Day 8

Citation of Saint Charles Garnier

Video Capsule: [Here](#)



Here is what Charles Garnier wrote to his superior three days before his death:

It is true that, sometimes, I suffer from hunger (...). It is not of this aspect that I fear; what I would fear more would be that by leaving my flock, in these times of misery and fears of war, when it needs my presence more than ever before, I would miss the opportunities that God gives me to abandon myself to him (...). If I should notice that I was about to lack the necessary strength, since Your Reverence commands me to do so, (...) I am always ready to leave everything in order to die in obedience where God wants me to.

Charles Garnier to Father Ragueneau,
December 4th, 1649

Day 9

Citation of Blessed Marie-Catherine de Saint-Augustin

Video Capsule: [Here](#)



Catherine de Saint-Augustin identified very early during her youth the project God had for her of a religious and missionary vocation. Concerning her noviciate period in Bayeux, France, she wrote the following at the age of 14:

Whatever may be said or done to me, I remained firm in the thought that I would assuredly be a nun and I told Mother of Novices, "Do to me whatever you wish, you will not make me remove my habit nor will I leave from here, unless it is to go to Canada." The Blessed Virgin had given me such a firm hope that nothing could make me lose it or make me mistrust it.

Paul Ragueneau, *Vie de la Mère Catherine de Saint-Augustin*, Paris, 1671. p.31

Sainte Marie de l'Incarnation

350th anniversary of the death, April 30th, 2022

God our Father,
you revealed yourself to Marie of the Incarnation
as the God of Love
and you inspired her with the immense desire
that your name be known and loved throughout the world.

We give you thanks for calling her
to bring your Name to this country
and to contribute to the birth of your Church
in New France.

May her intercession accompany us
when it is our turn
to announce
the joy of the Gospel to those we encounter today.

We ask you this through the Heart of Jesus,
our Way, our Truth and our Life.

Amen.

Nihil obstat, Québec, 17 mars 2022
M. le Chanoine Jean Tailleux, v.é.
Chancelier

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Archevêque de Québec