

Marguerite's Journey

1620
April 17 – Birth and baptism

1640
October 7
A spiritual experience

1653
November 16 – Arrival in Canada

1657
Marguerite rallies the colonist to build a chapel of pilgrimage

1658
April 30 – Opening of the first school in a stable

1658-1680
Three trips to France to invite new members to join her

1700
January 12 – Death of Marguerite Bourgeoys

1982
October 31 – Her canonization by Pope John Paul II

And now – Her journey continues in the global community

To Read More

- Burton, Katherine. *Valiant Voyager: Blessed Marguerite Bourgeoys*. Bruce Publishers, Milwaukee, 1964, 194 p.
- Marguerite-Bourgeoys Museum. *In the Footsteps of Marguerite Bourgeoys in Montreal*.
Walking Tour. Marguerite-Bourgeoys Museum, Montreal, 2000, 32 p.
- Quigley, Florence, CND. *In the Company of Marguerite Bourgeoys*. Novalis, Ottawa, 1982, 124 p.
- Simpson, Patricia, CND. *Marguerite Bourgeoys. Brave Beginnings*. Éditions Fides, Montreal, 2009, 120 p.
- Simpson, Patricia, CND. *Marguerite Bourgeoys and Montreal 1640-1665*. McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal & Kingston, 1997, 247 p.
- Simpson, Patricia, CND. *Marguerite Bourgeoys and the Congregation of Notre Dame, 1665 – 1700*. McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal & Kingston, 2005, 292 p.



Marguerite Bourgeoys



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A Woman of God for Others



During a celebration in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary in 1640, a special touch from God transformed Marguerite's heart and challenged her faith. "Something in me changed."

She joined a group of young Christian women who prayed together, taught and helped the most impoverished. With the help of a spiritual guide, Marguerite came to know her own dream to serve God and others in simplicity.

Like Mary, Marguerite never excused herself from any journey on which there was good to be done or work of charity to be performed.

Writings of Marguerite Bourgeoys

Marguerite Bourgeoys

A Woman of Dreams and of Action

Marguerite Bourgeoys set off for Canada in 1653. She dreamed of taking part in the founding of a society that would embody the ideals of the first Christians.

Very quickly, God's call for her to serve became clear. Plague broke out on the ship bringing her from France to Canada; she then served as nurse with a compassionate heart.

In Montreal, Marguerite entered whole heartedly into the lives of the families she met. She was the social worker, marriage counsellor, mentor, grief counsellor, mother, friend.



Francis Back

Wanting to pass on the faith to children, she opened the first school in Montreal in an abandoned stable in the spring of 1658. A daring teacher, she created a place where young women could gather to learn new domestic skill to earn a living. In all situations, she sacrificed herself so that the great precept of the love of God and of the neighbor be written in every heart.

A Woman for All Times

Moved by the breath of the Spirit, Marguerite answers, not only to the needs of her time, but opens vast possibilities through which one can commit oneself in the 21st century.

Today the Congregation of Notre Dame continues to respond to the needs of the times. A few places where you will find the Congregation include: with families, with youth, with refugees, in soup kitchens and journeying with people who continue to discover God's place in their lives. Following her example, Congregation of Notre Dame sisters try to respond creatively to the challenges of each moment.



Francis Back