



OBITUARY NOTICE



SISTER ALBERTINE BEAUDOIN
SAINTE-ALBERTINE

Entered eternal life on October 17, 2020
At the age of 104
and 83 years of religious life.

+1976

“The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” Pr 18:10

The path of life mysteriously traced by Providence sometimes reaches unsuspected heights during the pilgrimage of a lifetime. In these moments, it is appropriate to take time to contemplate all the accomplishments and absorb the memories. This text will paint a testimony of the life of Sister Albertine Beaudoin, whom the Lord crowned with 104 years of life, 83 of which were spent in consecrated life.

First of all, Sister Albertine is somewhat kin to our neighbors, the Americans. That’s right! Her parents, Mr. Joseph Beaudoin and Mrs. Mélanie Roy, met, dated and married in the United States. Following their marriage and the birth of a son named Joseph, they settle in New Liverpool, Quebec. It seems like a favorable environment to them and Mr. Beaudoin finds work in the construction of the Quebec Bridge.

It’s in this part of the country that, on April 17, 1916, a new baby girl brought joy and pride to the Beaudoin home. That same day, at St-Romuald Church, with baptismal grace, the sweet name Albertine is given to her. Only two jewels would adorn the family crown, as the parents will see at least ten cherubs fly to heaven after their birth. The arrival of little Albertine is a pure ray of hope!

Sister Albertine gives us a complimentary presentation of her parents. “My father was a man of few words, he respected my mother and there was good communication between them; he loved us very much. My mother was gentle, understanding, intuitive, discreet and hard-working. Thanks to her, I pursued my studies. My parents were devout Catholics. Sunday Mass was very important, and my mother liked to participate in the Eucharist during the week. When we were young, we prayed the rosary as a family.”

This tiny woman proves to be determined and very precocious. One day, at the age of four and a half, without her mother noticing, she follows her older brother to school. One can imagine her mother's anxiety. After such a surprising elopement, she

nevertheless manages to continue her schooling at that school where classes are taught exclusively in English. It is no surprise that she has always been so proficient in the language of Shakespeare!

Having reached grade 12 without difficulty, she chooses to further her education as a resident at Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur Convent in Ottawa. Through the pious atmosphere of this boarding school and her first contact with Sisters, her vocation takes shape and she enters the novitiate at Hurdman's Bridge.

With her covenant sealed with Jesus Christ, she travels the long road of life in a generous and selfless way as an experienced educator in Ottawa, Orleans, Verner and Pain Court. While teaching, she studies and obtains a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Science. At Mount St. Joseph's Convent, she teaches biology and wants to learn more about the plant and animal kingdoms. To do so, she requests resourcing: "I was fortunate to attend a summer course in Wales with a religious companion. We had the chance to visit part of Europe and the Holy Land. I am very grateful to the authorities who granted me this favor."

She would go on to teach for 34 years. She admits that she did not want to teach and did not even like studying. However, she adds: "Once I got into teaching, I really liked it. I have always tried to talk to my students about Jesus, to make them love studying so that they could all succeed in their classes. I loved my students very much." It goes without saying that things have a way of working out for the best for those who love God.

For Albertine, the mission does not stop here. In 1969, help is needed for a mission in faraway Africa. And so, for two decades, Albertine takes part in a variety of activities that allow her to exercise her apostolic zeal: teaching, laboratory work, accounting, librarianship, authority service, and even care for premature babies. She says: "With the grace of the Lord, I can say that I enjoyed my time in Africa. I have gained other experiences and I have been in contact with amazing Sisters and teachers."

Upon returning to Canada in 1990, her heart continues to beat for the mission, which leads to a generous fourteen-year service as General Treasurer. After all this incredible devotion, it is time to take a break at the infirmary of the Sacred Heart Residence. She continues to live her mission with joy and enthusiasm and learns to let herself be spoiled by God's magnanimous Providence. "I have always had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin, to Jesus Providence and Good Shepherd. As a Sister, I have come to know and love Mother d'Youville and Mother Bruyère. In my life, there has been no lack of trials, but thanks to them, I have acquired wisdom, understanding and empathy in the suffering of others. The joys also brought me closer to the Lord. On these occasions, I have always had the desire to sing the Magnificat." She concludes: "I have always been happy within a community!"

Dear Sister Albertine, until the age of 104, you have always walked generously in the ways of justice and truth. We are proud of you; now the time has come to let yourself be looked upon by Christ who has shaped for you a life rich in graces and who has always had for you a love of predilection.

