



BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE



SISTER LISE LAMY
Lise-Marie

returned to the Father's House on 24 August 2023
at the age of 83
including 64 years of religious life

+ 2956

(2142)

*"I am the handmaid of the Lord.
Let it be done to me according to your word". Lk 1:38*

This Word of Saint Luke runs through the whole of Sister Lise's life, thanks to a prayer that deeply impressed her as a youth, a prayer that she recited every day as a Girl Guide. "*Dear Jesus, teach me to be generous, teach me to serve You as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that of knowing that I do Your Will.*" This prayer describes the whole of Sister's life!

Celebrating her life today is not only a fraternal duty but also a precious joy of friendship. It is also an honour to share what she has always been: a woman of faith deeply rooted in the will of God, a welcoming woman, a woman of hospitality, of self-giving, of free service and care, a woman who was always ready. "***Be prepared***" was her motto.

This great and simple woman was born in Trois-Rivières on 5 May 1940. The ninth of twelve children, eight girls and four boys, she grew up under the watchful eye of her older sisters in a spirit of unity, respect and joy.

Lise was three years old when the family moved to Shawinigan. Her education continued under the loving eye of her paternal grandmother, who was respected by all. In her childhood memories, Sister Lise recounts the happiness she experienced with her grandmother, who delighted in rewarding her grandchildren with "peppermints" that she magically produced from her apron pocket. Her father, Albert Lamy, wanted to create a strong family spirit. He exercised authority with great respect for his wife, Alice Gagnon, whom he described as "the best." In her personal notes, Sister Lise speaks of her mother as a strong, devoted, welcoming and quiet woman, a woman who listened to both her husband and each of her children, to whom she passed on the values of faith, respect, charity and non-judgment towards the actions and words of others.

It was at the School of the Grey Nuns of the Cross, that a dream of following Jesus was born in her heart. Two of her teachers, Sisters Jacques Robert and Jean Bosco, confirmed the authenticity of her vocation. Then, in 1956, the plane crash on the farm of Saint-Louis became the key event in her decision to follow Christ. She entered the novitiate in Ottawa on 1 August 1957 and made her temporary profession two years later.

After some practice as an assistant to the sick at the Hôpital Saint-Joseph in Maniwaki and at the *Foyer* for seniors in Mont-Laurier, she began her studies at the School of Nursing of Hôpital d'Youville in Noranda. She then spent seven years working with patients, excelling in this service.

A second call came into her life. A call to "be more: be a missionary." Her *yes* to the Lord led her to the Land of the Rising Sun in April 1972. Five years later, Sister Lise became the first Regional Superior, a position she held for seven years. She then took responsibility for initial formation for a number of years. She has spent most of her life in Japan, working with the sick at Spellman Hospital in Sendai. A born nurse, she has a radiant presence with both the nursing staff and the patients. Her very presence reassures and encourages patients and staff alike.

After a year studying palliative care in Canada, she returned to Japan. With a team of lay people, Sister Lise opened the palliative care unit at Spellman Hospital. She worked there for twelve years as coordinator of the chaplaincy and volunteers. She then spent several years as a counsellor at Caritas Secondary School in Kawasaki and at Caritas College in Azamino, where she taught courses in personality and religion. The Sisters of Charity of Quebec ran these two institutions.

She finally returned to her home country in 2016. Sister Lise had been suffering from cognitive decline for several years, but she continued to provide community services at the Motherhouse and at the Convent of the Good Shepherd at Mont Saint-Joseph. The illness progressed. She had to give up her role as a nurse, but she kept a watchful eye, always looking for someone to care

for. Whatever happened to her, she was beautiful in her illness and remained true to her rich personality. She wanders the corridors saying she is on her way to Japan or welcoming visitors of her world of imagination and taking good care of them. This desire to serve and care never left her. Bright and cheerful, she remained so until the last minute of her life.

On the morning of 24 August 2023, her vital signs suddenly deteriorated. When her superior came to check on her, forgetting herself she asked about her visitor: "And you how are you?" In the early afternoon, knowing that this was her master's last call, she said, pointing to the sky, "I'm going, but I don't know if I'm going to the right or the left."

May you rest in peace, Sister Lise! 永遠の安らぎを受けなさい! You are indeed at his right hand. The Lord is calling you saying, "Come, my beloved. Throughout your time on earth, you have learned to be generous; to serve me as I deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, except that of knowing that you were doing my will." Come and enter in the joy of your master for all eternity.

Thank you, Sister Lise, for your light-filled and inspiring life! Enter in the heart of the Risen One who welcomes you warmly. Your natural and religious families bid you a fond farewell. Rest in peace, you will always shine in our hearts!

