

Monsignor de Laval



Number 25 • Autumn 2012 - Winter 2013

Centre d'animation François-de Laval Newsletter

EVENT



The Seminary of Quebec: 350 years of vision, daring and dedication

- The anniversary celebrations committee



(Photo : Séminaire de Québec)

The lantern turret atop the Pavillon Camille-Roy exudes a solemnity that is sensed immediately by the traveler approaching Old Quebec City. For some, the Seminary - an immutable part of the architectural landscape - calls to mind the charm of this historic area, while others see it as the symbol of a deeply-rooted religious community whose involvement in the region dates back 350 years.

Founded on March 26, 1663 by François de Laval, a young vicar apostolic sent to New France, the Séminaire de Québec was later merged with the Society of Foreign Missions of Paris (Séminaire des Missions Étrangères de Paris), on January 29, 1665. In the young bishop's mind, the vast territory he was assigned, sparsely populated by a colony scattered along the shores of the St. Lawrence River, presented a number of significant challenges. The creation of viable parishes had to be deferred and the remoteness of some locations from the city called for a whole new formula. He therefore envisioned and built a residence that would serve two purposes: as a venue bestowing on

priests a sense of belonging and as an education institution in which candidates for the priesthood from all corners of this new country could prepare for clerical succession. This seminary, celebrating its 350th anniversary today, thus saw itself as "a repository from which we can select pious, capable candidates who will be sent to every meeting and, as needed, into this country's parishes and everywhere else..."¹, according to a contemporary description of its mandate. The Seminary's priests, remaining true to this ideal, traveled throughout this diocese - the largest in Christendom - and set up missions as far away as the Mississippi.

This new community of diocesan priests presided over the rapid spread of its various spheres of activity, in keeping with the colony's economic conditions and growing needs. One example is the Minor Seminary (Petit Séminaire), founded on October 9, 1668, in response to a mandate from Louis XIV to promote francization through the education of native youth. Although this goal did not meet with the success they had hoped for, the Petit Séminaire remained active for almost a century, hosting young people seeking to prepare for membership in this burgeoning community and help ensure that the faithful in this colony were adequately ministered to. In order to meet this need, the founder commissioned construction of the main building that would house priests, senior seminarians and new initiates, between 1675 and 1681. Some components of these early buildings remain visible today within the immense heritage complex that belongs to the Seminary.

Following the Conquest of New France in 1760, in the wake of which the Jesuit College was forced to close, the Séminaire

¹ Mandement d'érection du Séminaire de Québec [Pastoral order for building the Seminary of Quebec], Seminary archives.

(Continued in page 3)

Contents

Event

The Seminary of Quebec:
350 years of vision, daring
and dedication1

Interview

Monsignor Hermann Giguère3-4

History Page

Letters patent for the foundation
of the Seminary and clergy
in New France5

Event

A path of conversion and a life
lived in the company of
François de Laval6

Photo Album6-7

Iconography8

Monsignor de Laval

Number 25
Autumn 2012 - Winter 2013



Contact us

Centre d'animation François-de Laval
20, rue De Buade
Québec (Québec) G1R 4A1

Phone: 418 692-0228
Email: centre@francoisdelaval.com
Visit our website: www.francoisdelaval.com

This newsletter is published twice a year and sent for free by mail. It can also be found in PDF format on our website.

Executive Editor: Jean Duval

Contributor: Hermann Giguère, Mrg Denis Grondin,
Francis Jacques, Patro Laval

Copyeditor: Marie-France Cossette

Graphic design: Lecourscommunication.com

Print run: 3,500 copies, available in French,
English, and Spanish

Legal deposit:

Library and Archives Canada ISSN 2290-3496

NEWS RELEASE

A "must-see" exhibit!

To absorb the prevailing culture of François de Laval's era, you need to visit *Fine Arts in New France* at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. This exhibit offers a re-reading of art during the French régime. Every form of art - painting, sculpture, prints, drawings, fancy metal ware, furniture, textiles and decorative arts - depicting both the civil and religious spheres, is represented.

Ends April 28, 2013.

The Séminaire de Québec is one of the founding institutions of modern Quebec. The presentiment that formed the basis of its foundation maintains a strong presence in the minds of these community members, who look to the future while remaining aware of the value of their heritage - as reflected in the logo adopted for the 350th anniversary celebrations. The tapering banner speaks to its dynamic nature; the gold colour, part of the Seminary's coat of arms, recalls its deep roots in the community; and the transition to green signifies hope. Reproduction of the small steeple on the Procure wing, the oldest part of this heritage complex, introduces a visual element that is familiar to both priests and residents of Quebec City. And the arrow pointing skyward represents a history that continues to unfold.



Prayer intentions and favours received

All received prayer intentions are given to the Brotherhood of the Holy Family, which meets once each month. At a mass, the prayer intentions are entrusted to the intercession of the Blessed François de Laval.

Your prayer intention will be grouped with all those written by the dozens of pilgrims and visitors who come every day to the tomb of our Blessed François de Laval. You can send us your prayer intention by mail or email, through our website or directly in the funeral chapel at the Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral.

We promise that your requests will remain confidential.

Please report all favours granted:
Séminaire de Québec
Cause du bienheureux François de Laval
1, rue des Remparts
C.P. 460 H.V.
Québec (Québec)
G1R 4R7



(Continued from page 1)

de Québec assumed responsibility for clerical succession and converted the Petit Séminaire into a teaching institution for all youth wishing to receive an education. The resulting institutional model fulfilled this role for two centuries, as a seminary/college-type school admitting boarders and day students aspiring to either the priesthood or a liberal profession. Illustrious humanists such as the Reverend Jean Holmes and the Reverend Jérôme Demers left their mark through curriculum reforms and the introduction of a number of scientific artifacts that remained a part of the Seminary's collections. To this day, the Petit Séminaire de Québec - renamed the Collège François-de-Laval - offers a high-calibre education within the same buildings in which it first came into being.

In 1852, the Séminaire de Québec drew on acknowledged expertise, in response to the increasingly pressing need to provide Quebec with a French-language institute of higher education, to founded Université Laval, the first francophone university in North America. From its inception in 1852 until 1970, the Seminary priests ensured its expansion, helping transform it into what it is today: an educational institute, recognized within Quebec, across Canada and worldwide, that is able to meet the expectations of an unceasingly evolving society.

The contribution made by a major university facilitates

the enrichment of its home city, and its presence is a source of considerable influence. As such, Université Laval represents an extraordinary legacy left by the Seminary priests to Quebec City and all Quebecers. In 1878, the university opened a branch in Montreal, which became a stand-alone entity in 1920, changing its name to Université de Montréal.

In order to commemorate and highlight the significance of this grand adventure, the general public will be invited to join in the institution's 350th-anniversary celebrations in 2013. A number of foundations that have evolved into respected institutions trace their origins back to the Seminary. The organizing committee for these festivities has made every effort to put together a diversified program that covers the five fields of endeavour in which the Seminary has been involved: training successive generations of priests, education, society, culture and heritage conservation. This influence bespeaks the clergy's commitment to meeting the community's needs throughout the course of history.

For more information or to find out what's new, feel free to visit the website at www.350eseminairedequébec.com

INTERVIEW



Interview with Monsignor Hermann Giguère, Seminary of Quebec

Still today, Msgr de Laval inspires us. In every edition, someone shares their bond with François de Laval.



(Photo : Denise Morneau, Photographer, 2009)

What prompted your interest in Monsignor de Laval?

My interest stems from a number of sources. During my college years, we were invited to pray for his beatification. I even took part in a nationwide writing contest, the topic of which was Monsignor de Laval's arrival in Percé in 1659. Many years later, I rediscovered François de Laval at the time of his beatification on June 22, 1980. I then wrote an article on the spirituality of this newly beatified figure for *Communio*,

titled "Un saint évêque : le bienheureux François de Laval [A holy bishop: Blessed François de Laval]".

(Continued in page 4)

Monsignor Hermann Giguère, who was superior general at the Séminaire de Québec from 2002 to 2012, hails from St-Joseph de Beauce. Following his studies in philosophy and theology at Université Laval, he completed a doctorate in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. After his ordination on July 1, 1962, he committed himself to pastoral and other similar work focusing on new spiritual movements, including the Charismatic movement, and the training of candidates for the priesthood and lay deacons in the Quebec City diocese. He served as a professor of spiritual theology and the history of spirituality for 33 years at the Université Laval Faculty of theology and religious sciences. A founding member of the Centre d'études Marie-de-l'Incarnation, he is interested in mystical discourse and the language of believers among those of a spiritual bent.



(Continued from page 3)

This afforded me a perspective on the depth of this "mystic", who was all too often associated solely with pastoral and political matters, and presented as a forbidding, austere figure. As the superior general of the Séminaire de Québec, I suggested that 2008 be declared and celebrated as a Jubilee year commemorating the 300th and 350th anniversaries, respectively, of his death and ordination as vicar apostolic in New France. This Jubilee year was a success and helped convey a new image of François de Laval. Our memories are sustained today by a chant composed by Robert Lebel, which was performed at the June 2008 International Eucharistic Congress.

In what ways has he influenced your life?

You can see that François de Laval has been a significant presence in my life since 1980. I have often prayed to him and sought, in him, the keys to wisdom and sound judgment. As I became closer to him, my perusal of a few writings led me to discover the person behind the image that had been conveyed to me. I therefore read about how he could become justifiably impatient with Rome's delays to issue the Papal Bull announcing his appointment as bishop of Quebec City in 1674. He went so far as to say that he was losing all confidence in the Roman Curia. This human side of François de Laval forcefully emerges after his young secretary, Abbé Jean Guyon, whom he had brought with him to Paris in 1684, suddenly died there at the age of 27. As another example of his influence, I joined the community of priests at the Seminary he founded. His spirituality and sense of initiative remain, to this day, a source of inspiration to the priests of the Seminary.

What has touched you the most about him?

How close he was to his friends - his fellow priests. Fraternal support was a central tenet of his life. As a young priest, he joined forces with some colleagues who went on to form the Paris Foreign Missions Society (Séminaire des Missions Étrangères de Paris) and supported it all through his ministry. As a bishop in New France who had to cover enormous distances in daunting climate conditions,

(Photo : Hermann Giguère, 2009)



Monsignor Hermann Giguère, in front of the castle at Montigny-sur-Avre, the birthplace of François de Laval.

his objective in founding the Séminaire de Québec, an apostolic society for priests, was to bring his priests and himself together into a single family, forging solid ties of mutual aid and fraternity among them. I would add that I remain fascinated by the depths of his complete surrender to God's will, since I interpret it as an acceptance of whatever happens, such as the two fires that consumed the Seminary, impacting his still-emergent life's work and prompting complete submission to God that, from a spiritual standpoint, induced his transition to the state of mystical passiveness described by St. Teresa of Ávila and Saint John of the Cross.

How can he serve as a role model for Christians today?

François de Laval's boldness and creativity in spreading the Holy Word is a source of inspiration for us in these times. He was appointed bishop at the age of 35, and landed in an unknown country where he lived for 50 years. He worked to implant a new Church closely resembling that of the first Christians, which he wanted to see unhampered by any ties to the old Churches of Europe. He worked assiduously toward this goal - even in the face of many challenges, especially with his eventual successor. However, he always kept his eyes turned to The One whom he served: Christ our Servant, Whose faithful and humble disciple he sought to be.

What do you see as his legacy to us?

François de Laval has left us a rich but - sadly! - little-known legacy. He was cut from the same cloth as our ancestors - indefatigable builders, generous and devoted to their peers. His forceful personality teaches us that anything is possible to those who are determined in their commitment and remain attentive to the Lord. His struggle to curtail the sale of alcohol to our First Nations inhabitants, out of respect for their dignity, is a remarkable lesson in courage, ranking him first among the friends of the First Nations, who called him "Hariaouagui", a "man of great vision".



(Photo : Daniel Abel, photographe, 2011)

International Eucharistic Congress, held in Quebec City in 2008



Letters patent for the foundation of the Seminary and clergy in New France

Presented in Paris, on the twenty-sixth day of March, in the year sixteen hundred and sixty-three. (Adapted translation)

FRANÇOIS, by the grace of God and the Holy See, Bishop of Petra, vicar apostolic in Canada (the region designated as "New France"), appointed the first bishop in this country by King Louis XIV, when Our Holy Father the Pope was pleased to declare this city a bishopric.

Greetings to all who shall view these letters!

In order to effectively restore the original efficacy of the Ecclesiastical Discipline, the Council of Trent and all other Ecumenical Councils have deemed that the most useful recourse is to order the restoration of our seminaries' former role as institutions for educating clerics in the virtues and sciences, as befits their status.

The excellence of this decree became evident through a highly tangible initiative, first performed by the great Saint Charles Borromeo immediately following this Council and then emulated by several bishops, all of whom began to restore the clergy's initial splendour, especially in France.

This highly effective means of reforming ecclesiastical behaviour in locations where it had deteriorated led to our determination that introducing it in new locations would be no less useful than it had been during the early centuries of Christianity; to these causes, since divine Providence was pleased to declare us responsible for the emerging Church in Canada (New France);

And given the extreme importance, in these initial stages, of providing the clergy with the best possible of educating God's servants and rendering them capable of cultivating this new Vine for the Lord, pursuant to the authority vested in us, we have built and continue to build - to date and in perpetuity - a seminary intended to serve the clergy of this new Church, which shall be led and governed by the superiors appointed by ourselves or the future bishops in New France, pursuant to the rules we shall set up to this effect

In which we shall raise and train young clerics who will be deemed fit to serve God, and will for this purpose be taught proper administration of the sacraments, apostolic catechism methods and delivery of sermons, moral theology, the rites of the Church, the Gregorian form of plainchant and all other aspects of the duties assigned to a competent cleric.

Additionally, so that a Chapter can be formed, comprised of clerics of our choosing from said Seminary, and the subsequently appointed bishops of said country, (...) or that this Seminary is able to provide this institution through the blessing bestowed on it by God, we wish this to be a permanent school of virtue and a repository from which we can select pious, capable candidates who will be sent to every meeting and, as needed, into this country's parishes and everywhere else, to perform parish-related and other functions for which they were destined, and to withdraw them from these parishes and functions when deemed appropriate, reserving to ourselves, in perpetuity and for successor bishops of this country, as well

as to said Seminary by virtue of our orders, and of Their Excellencies said bishops, the authority to recall all clerics who are, at all times and when deemed necessary, assigned and delegated to parishes and other locations, without any one of them being declared an incumbent, and assigned to a specific parish, seeking on the contrary to be fully vested, subject to transfer, with revocable status and open to dismissal at the bishops' and the Seminary's pleasure, upon issuance of their orders, pursuant to the sacred practice of those early centuries, which remains in place to this day in a number of dioceses in this kingdom;

And to the extent of the absolute necessity of supplying said Seminary and clergy with an adequate revenue for supporting their obligatory costs and expenses, we have applied and are applying, have allocated and are allocating - at the present time and in the future - all forms of tithes, in the manner levied in all parishes and locations within the country to be pooled and administered by said Seminary as ordered by us and under our authority, and that of bishops subsequently appointed in that country, provided that sustenance is provided to all clerics assigned to these parishes and elsewhere in this country, and who can be transferred or dismissed at the pleasure of said bishops and said Seminary, on their orders and at any time; that it maintains all of these servants of God, in both sickness and health, in either the performance of their duties or within the community, when they are recalled;

That the costs of their travel from France and back, when recruited there, will be borne by us, and all this based on the amount levied by us and subsequent bishops in that country, in order to obviate any disputes and disarray that could ensue in the absence of rules;

And in light of the need to build several churches for the performance of divine service, and to adequately accommodate the faithful, we hereby order, without prejudice regarding the obligation of the people in each parish to fund the construction of said churches, that once all annual expenses have been provided by said Seminary, its remaining revenue will be used for building churches, giving alms and performing other good works for the glory of God and as deemed useful by the Church, as ordered by the Bishop, without any of it being put to personal use by either us or subsequent bishops in said country, to which end all bishops - including ourselves - are divested of the power to appropriate any funds from said Seminary should the need arise, without the express consent of four people serving in the corps of the Seminary and clergy in question, specifically the superior, his two assistants and the bursar.

In witness whereof we have signed and sealed this document.



A path of conversion and a life lived in the company of François de Laval

By †Monsignor Denis Grondin, Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Quebec

Two years ago, Ricardo Corea Cruz of Honduras, one of 15 seminarians at the *Redemptoris Mater international seminary in Quebec City*, was told that he had cancer. Having spent three years in this country, he opted to live out his life here and offer it to the Lord as a form of intercession for youth, the new evangelization and vocations in our country. Last June, all Neocatechumenal Way communities were invited to pray to Blessed François de Laval using the image provided by the Centre d'animation François-de Laval, a novena ending on June 24, with the celebration in the cathedral Notre-Dame de Québec.

More than three hundred people, including youths from the Petit Séminaire diocésain de Québec, took part in this novena. These young people also met with Ricardo, who related the story of his call to vocation and his experience of the love of Jesus Christ.

Although he was destined for a career in medicine, this was superseded by his answer to God's call, after which he agreed to be sent to one of the 70 *Redemptoris Mater* seminaries founded for the new evangelization.

At a national gathering of Neocatechumenal community leaders and catechists held in early October, Ricardo witnessed the fruits of his chosen vocation and his disease, which



David Ricardo Corea Cruz
(1989-2012)

included his mother's and brother's return to the Church and their faith, as well as the freedom, serenity and strength he now felt, calling on the medical establishment to witness the support and community life that sustained him through to the end. He hoped to live until October 24, the date of his official acceptance as a seminarian at the Sunday Eucharist, during which he recited Isaiah 53, one of the four Songs of the Suffering Servant. This was also the day Kateri Tekakwitha, who died at the age of 24, was canonized.

We need testimonials from young people who will not shrink away from answering the Lord's call. Blessed François de Laval has apparently helped a seminarian and a number of baptized Catholics attain a hope for conversion to God's will.

On the evening of October 24, Ricardo peacefully departed this earth. He remained conscious almost to the very end, and indicated to one of his young visitors that afternoon that he was gazing upon Jesus on the cross, Whom he had joyously chosen, loved and followed.

Thank you, Lord, for Ricardo and for witnesses in life such as François de Laval, who invites us to move forward along the path set out for us by the Lord.



Photo album

If you mention Monsignor de Laval in one of your activities, please let us know. We will be happy to announce it.



(Photo : Daniel Abel, 2011)

1



1952

2010

2



(Photo : Noémie Landreau, 2010)



(Photo : Jean Duval, 2012)



(Photo : Jean Duval)



(Photo : Jean Duval)

- 1- Monsignor Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, 24th successor to François de Laval, will now be assisted by two auxiliary bishops, Monsignors Denis Grondin and Gaétan Proulx, who were concurrently appointed to their posts on December 12, 2011. They were ordained as bishops on February 25 of this year. Their card of thanks depicts the two new appointees under the benign gaze of Monsignor de Laval.
- 2- Patro Laval, a youth initiative set up in the Saint-Sauveur district of Quebec City by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, marked its centennial in 2010. The organizers' idea was to replicate a 1952 photo taken in front of the *Monument Laval* at the time of the *La Clique Alouette du Patro Laval's* first outing. A tribute of sorts to their protector, Blessed François de Laval.
- 3- The recent release of a new book, *François de Laval et son époque [François de Laval and his time]*, has elicited a marked interest in this renowned bishop. The author, Gilles Bureau, has since then been invited to present his research during radio interviews, lectures and talks. On July 18 of this year, retired priests from the Cardinal-Vachon residence came to the Centre to "recharge their batteries". Purely by chance, Monsignor Maurice Couture, Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Quebec, was passing through, took the time to greet them and ultimately listened to our speaker with great interest.
- 4- A tribute to the initiative shown by the sacristans in Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Québec, who marked the feast of François de Laval on May 6 by exposing his relic for veneration by visitors and pilgrims during their devotions. The vast turnout of devout followers for this occasion was a surprise to all of us.
- 5- Last June, municipal workers did a thorough clean-up of the Monument to Monsignor de Laval, the highest monument in Quebec City, located on *côte de la Montagne*.

Prayer for the canonization of blessed François de Laval

Lord Jesus, it is with great confidence that we pray to blessed François de Laval, whom you chose to send to our country to announce the good News of salvation.

Through his intercession, please grant us the favours we now implore. Give us the grace to imitate his audacity, his perseverance, and his complete surrender to Providence, and, if it be Your Will, may he soon be counted among the saints. We ask this in Your name, You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen

Picture: Stained glass window depicting Bishop de Laval at a sick person's bedside

« Bishop de Laval was continually there helping the sick and making their beds (...)
No eloquence would turn him from acts of humility. »

Marie de l'Incarnation

If you have obtained a favour, please contact

The Cause of blessed François de Laval
Séminaire de Québec
1, rue des Remparts, C.P. 460 H.V.
Québec (Québec) G1R 4R7

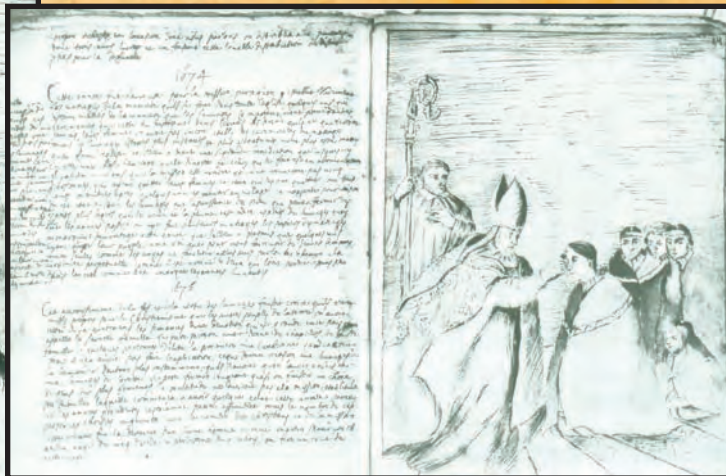


François

evêque de Québec



ICONOGRAPHY



Natives receive the sacrament of Confirmation

This illustration, one of the first known depictions of Monsignor de Laval, is taken from Claude Chauchetière's anthology titled *Narration annuelle de la Mission du Sault depuis la fondation jusqu'à l'an 1686* [Annual account of the Sault Mission from its inception to 1686]. Monsignor de Laval is shown administering this sacrament to more than 80 natives at Sault-Saint-Louis (Caughnawaga).

Pen-and-ink sketch with an enhancing wash, circa 1686. Archives départementales de la Gironde, Bordeaux, France.

Claude Chauchetière (1645-1709), a Jesuit missionary who arrived in New France in 1677. A portrait in oils of Kateri Tekakwitha, which inspired the piece of art currently on display in the Kanawaké church, is credited to him.

In the words of Monsignor de Laval

You should all rest assured that, since you were sent here with a mandate to convert these people, yours is the most important calling in the Church, requiring you to be worthy instruments of God.

Excerpt adapted from L'Instruction pour Claude Trouvé et François de Salagnac, prêtres, allant en mission aux Iroquois situés en la côte du nord du lac Ontario [The education of Claude Trouvé and François de Salagnac, two priests embarking on a mission to minister to the Iroquois on the north shore of Lake Ontario]. (1668)



Blessed François de Laval
first bishop of Québec
1623-1708



www.francoisdelaval.com

Next issue:
May 2013