

August 20 and 21, 2011 - East Angus

For steadfast is his love for us, and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.

This is the psalm refrain from today's liturgy: ***For steadfast is his love for us, and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.*** This is what we have seen here in East Angus over the last 102 years...and it is what you will continue to see here in East Angus in the years to come.

Today, we give thanks to God for his love made visible through the presence and the work of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary for 102 years.

Today, we also thank God for his love made visible in the welcome, the love and the support which you, priests, laypeople and parishioners have shown to the Sisters, with whom you have lived, prayed and worked for 102 years.

In the name of all of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in Quebec, I thank you for so many good memories from having worked together in education, particularly education in the faith and for so many precious memories of care and concern for the underprivileged, the sick, the elderly, the lonely, far-off missions and parish life.

While preparing the leaflet which you received today as you came into the church, I consulted our archives and read, with emotion, the homilies and the tributes paid to our Sisters at the centennial celebration of the arrival of our Sisters in 1909.

The homilist, M. Gerard Begin, asked: "Is the work of Mother Marie-Rose as we know it finished?" And he himself answered, "Certainly not!" And I am sure that Sister Rachel and Sister Lorraine agreed with him. That day Sr. Lorraine said, and I think she would say it again today: "We hope that what was sown by those who came before us will continue to bear much fruit."

It is certain that our dear SNJM Associates, who live in the area, will continue to fan the flame of God's love in their milieu. But it is also up to all of you to continue to live in the spirit of Mother Marie-Rose, a spirit which

gives meaning to life by helping people to believe in God's love for them and by spreading this love to others.

At the centenary Sr. Rachel stated: "It is beautiful to live here," and Sr. Lorraine continued: "May Mother Marie-Rose watch over all of you." Today, I pray that you may realize that it is always beautiful to live here. And may Mother Marie-Rose, whose 200th anniversary of birth we are celebrating this year, grant you:

the audacity of FAITH, the simplicity of HOPE, and the strength of LOVE so that you may bring to fruition Jesus' words, Mother Marie-Rose's favourite scripture passage:

I have come to cast FIRE on the earth and how I wish that it were already burning. (Luke 12, 49)

Sister Beverley Wattling, S.N.J.M.