



A Future Full of Hope



Music suggestions:

Je Mets Ma Confiance, Magnificat, Rooted in Hope

Ambiance suggestions:

SNJM scarf, SNJM crucifix, SNJM candle, copies of foundation stories and photos attached, maple sugar candies, apples, fall leaves.



Song

Introduction/opening prayer:

October is a rich month: crisp air, long shadows, multicolored leaves, crunchy apples, harvest moons. For us, it is a time of remembering new beginnings, of recognizing that we are the blessing of that “future full of hope.”

- 175 years ago, on October 28, four women met for the first time in a tiny school house in Longueuil, sharing hopes for a common future.
- 159 years ago, on October 21, twelve young women stepped off a ship at Fort Vancouver and later, the same day, their feet touched the muddy streets of Portland, their “new field of labor.”
- 154 years ago, on October 20, four “rejected and unwanted” statues arrived from Troy, New York, on the 8:00 a.m. train at the Windsor station, setting out to open a school four days later.

Let us listen to these Sisters’ stories. After each reading, take a moment of quiet to consider how they felt stepping out of the carriage, off the ship, or down from the train, into their future.

Reading: October 28, 1843

Quiet.

Reading: October 21, 1859

Quiet.



Reading: October 20, 1864

Quiet.

Possible reflection questions:

1. How do you imagine these women felt taking that first step into their new future? When have you been aware of taking that step? What feelings did you experience?
2. God has promised: "I know the plans I have in mind for you – plans for peace, for a future full of hope." We, today, embody that "future full of hope" promised in 1843, in 1859 and in 1864. How are we women and men of hope? Of peace?
3. God continues the promise: "Plans for peace, for a future full of hope." What signs, seeds, of this future do we see today? As SNJMs? As women religious? As women and men of today's church? As people of God in today's world?

Closing responsorial prayer:

I know the plans I have for you,
Plans for peace and a future full of hope.

When you call to me,
I will listen to you.

Henriette and Emilie, Blandina, Florentine and Febronia,
Thank you for reminding us of family, of shared past and shared future.

Eulalie and Melodie, John Baptist and Francis Xavier,
Thank you for finding strength in friendship, courage to walk together into our future.

Thomas and Agatha and Julie and Anastasie,
Thank you for rolling up your sleeves, picking up brooms, to build our future.

Alphonse, Mathilde, and Margaret,
Thank you for being willing to let go of one place to create our future in another.

Mary of Mercy, Arsenius, and Mary of Calvary,
Thank you for showing us that in our weakness we can also find our strength.

Perpetua and Mary of the Visitation,
Thank you for the youthful strength, energy, and humor you contributed to our future.

I will gather you from all the places I have scattered
you.

I will bring you home to me.

I know the plans I have for you,
Plans for peace and a future full of hope.



Share a “thank you” hug or a “hope for the future” word with one another.

Song



Prayer service created by: Sue Woodruff, SNJM

The Spiritual Ministries Network of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) provides a variety of prayer services for personal and group spiritual nourishment. May your prayer life draw you closer to the Divine.

The content of this document is licensed to the public under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, U.S.-Ontario Province. www.snjmusontario.org

October 28, 1843

As Emelie was coming down the narrow staircase, Henriette called to her sister, "Did Jean move the cots into the attic for us? They were sent over from the rectory for our use."

"Yes, Henriette. Everything is ready for tonight. Marie is cooking pork pies for supper."

Just then the rumble of carriage wheels attracted Henriette's attention. She hurried to a window that faced the road. As the carriage drew closer she could see two women sitting in the back seat.

She waited on the step for the carriage to draw up to the front door. Melodie and Eulalie were both smiling. Joy beamed from their faces as they greeted her. Henriette and Emilie were delighted to see them. How lovely they looked in their neat well-fitting suits. "Surely they are attractive women," Henriette thought to herself.

"Come inside and see our convent-to-be." Henriette opened the heavy door and led them into the house.

Excerpt: The Rose Tree. Sister Michaeline Falvey, SNJM. p.79.



Illustrator: Sister Annette Stewart, SNJM

October 21, 1859

We arrived at Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory, very early this morning, but remained aboard the steamer until 6 am. Two small boats were detached from their fastenings to conduct us to the wharf which is at some distance from the part of the river in which our steamer was anchored. Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart and Sister Blandina were awaiting us at the landing. Useless to attempt picturing our joy on beholding these dear Sisters of Providence so well known to us in Montreal. The joy of our dear Sister M. Florentine upon seeing her sister was unbounded.

After Mass in the church and breakfast at the convent, we wended our way to the steamer which was preparing to set out. Four hours later the cannon of the "Northerner" announced the return of our venerable Archbishop to the flock, the visit of General Scott, Major Thomas and other members of his staff, and our arrival.

A few minutes later our feet touch, for the first time, our new field of labor.

After a short pause at the Western Hotel we start for our future home. It rains, the streets are almost impassable – the distance is great and we are soon exhausted. We borrow new strength and at length arrive, only to meet with another contradiction. No key is at hand and locked doors greet us on every side. But the most ingenious, our youngest, removes the lock and we are finally at home, if such a scene as meets our eyes, can deserve that sweet name. The lowliest hovel could not have been filthier.

Fortunately, His Grace purchased two brooms on our way through the town and we are at work while resting! Alas! shovels would have answered the purpose better for removing the masses of debris from the corners and closets; it looks somewhat like a human habitation.

Excerpt: Sister M. Alphonse's Journal recounting the voyage from Longueuil



SNJM Founding Women
First Foreign Mission

Seated:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Sister M. Francis Xavier | Vitaline Provost |
| 2. Sister M. Arsenius | Philomene Mesnard |
| 3. Sister M. Alphonse | Marie-Louise David |

Standing:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sister M. Febronia | Melanie Vandandaigue |
| 2. Sister Mary of the Visitation | Claire Aglae Lussier |
| 3. Sister M. Perpetua | Martine Lachapelle |
| 4. Sister Mary of Calvary | C. Violet McMullen |
| 5. Sister M. Agathe | Celina Pepin |
| 6. Sister M. Margaret | Mary O'Neill |
| 7. Sister Mary of Mercy | Adelaide Renault |
| 8. Sister M. Florentine | Alphonsine Collin |
| 9. Sister M. Julia | Olive Charbonneau |

October 20, 1864

In Troy, New York, a scenario was being enacted, the participants themselves totally unaware of the repercussions. Because of its dramatic significance in the history of the Sisters of the Holy Names of the Ontario Province, that happening deserves to be told. It is the story of the ill-fated attempt to establish a mission in Troy, New York.

Two Sisters, Sister M. Jean-Baptiste and Sister M. Mathilde left for Troy on August 24, 1864.

On September 1, 1864, Sister M. Alphonse and Sister M. Thomas joined them.

Writing from Troy on September 6, 1864, Sister Marie Alphonse acquaints Mother Theresa with their awkward situation.

Very dear Mother,

We are still anchored at Mount Saint Mary waiting patiently for the wind to blow in our favour so that we can get sailing. Our destiny is in the hands of Providence which seems to enjoy testing our metal.

There is not much we can do. Today, however, we did scrub the parlour, in spite of the fact that Father Conroy advised us to leave things as they are. We miss working; not being accustomed to an exclusively contemplative life, we find it difficult to become statues all of a sudden.

Your affectionate daughters,

The Sisters "not yet established" in Troy
by Sister Marie Alphonse

The telegram which announced to the Bishop the immediate arrival of Windsor's four foundresses must have been to say the least, "unexpected."

*Sister Marie Jean-Baptiste, Sister Marie Alphonse,
Sister Marie Mathilde and Sister Marie Thomas
will arrive at the Windsor station on October 20, 1864, at 8 AM.*

On that cold, autumn morning four brave-hearted pioneers, unwanted and rejected in Troy, New York, stepped onto Windsor soil.

Excerpt: Rooted in Hope. Sister John Thomas, SNJM (Helen Batte). Pgs. 12 – 14.

Yes, Californians, this is your Sister M. John Baptist and your Sister M. Mathilde.

Yes, Pacific Northwesterners and New Yorkers, this is your Sister M. Alphonse.



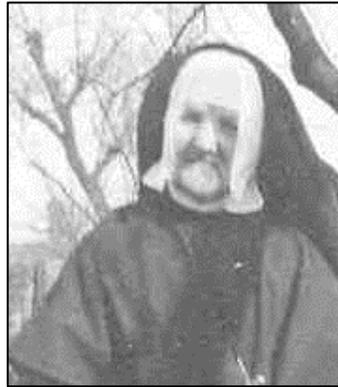
Sister M. John Baptist



Sister M. Mathilde



Sister M. Alphonse



Sister M. Thomas

SNJM Ontario Founding Women

Rooted in Hope

SNJM's Windsor

Claire Durocher

March

Lord Je - sus be our hope re-new our
Jésus sois notr es - pé ran - ce en - ra - ci-

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The vocal line begins with a whole rest followed by a melodic phrase.

5

faith in You. Grace us with Your new Spi - rit
né en ton a - mour. a ten-dresse nous fait vi - vre

The second system continues the musical score. The piano accompaniment maintains its rhythmic pattern. The vocal line has a melodic phrase starting on a dotted quarter note.

9

Help us call each o-ther forth to jour-ney in Your love, to

The third system concludes the musical score. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The vocal line has a melodic phrase starting on a quarter note.

glad - ly serve Your peo - ple Lord, in Your king dom here on earth.

The first system consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of quarter and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment features block chords in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

Jé - sus et Ma - ri - e, soient notre es - pé -

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter rest followed by quarter and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment maintains the same harmonic and rhythmic structure as the first system.

ren - ce au - jour - d'hui et pour l'é - ter - ni - té.

The third system concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line ends with a quarter rest. The piano accompaniment concludes with a final cadence in the right hand and a few final notes in the left hand.

My Trust Lies in You
 Translation of *Je mets ma confiance*
 (By Lorna Cooney, SNJM)

Refrain

O - Vir - gin most ho - ly, my - trust lies in you, I -

Fine **Fin**

pray you'll pro - tect me now and all my life through. 1. My
 2. You
 3. Fol-
 4. And

heart is full of hope as you guide me on my way, Be
 are a lov-ing moth - er, and Je - sus is your son, Speak
 low - ing your ex - am- ple, I vow with all my heart, To
 when my life is o - ver, I'll breathe my fi - nal breath, Pray

ev - er my com - pan - ion, each mo - ment of the day.
 to him of your chil - dren, your daugh - ters and your sons.
 be a true dis - ci - ple, 'til this world I de - part.
 that I will be blest with a ho - ly, peace-ful death.

*Je mets ma confiance,
 Vierge, en votre secours.
 Servez-moi de défense.
 Prenez soin de mes jours.*