

EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTERS

OF

MOTHER MARIE ROSE

Translated by

Sister Mary Innocentia, S.N.J.M.

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Miss Eulalie Durocher to Miss Melodie Dufresne

Beloeil, October 18, 1843

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and Saint Theresa.
Live in the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

My dear Sister,

I had a pleasant trip; let us thank Divine Providence which takes such special care of us.

The ceremony was very beautiful. Father Durocher (1) is now a religious, and I hope a good, fervent one; we must prepare ourselves to follow in his footsteps very soon. Our Divine Master wishes us to be among His close followers, carrying a long and beautiful cross; I hope our courage will not fail.

Our spiritual father (2) has not changed in our regard; he is good and more prudent than ever. He loves us in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Our projects have indeed gone forward. Soon we shall have to leave our dear Beloeil. I saw the Bishop and had a fairly long interview; he wishes the foundation at Longueuil and so does the Superior General (3), the Bishop of Marseille. Accordingly, you must come here tomorrow unless you are prevented by the frightening storm that is raging. In case you cannot possibly come, begin a novena to Mary Immaculate. Say six decades of the rosary, the Memorare with your arms in the form of the cross, a little prayer to St. Joseph, a Pater and Ave in honor of St. Anthony of Padua. Make every effort possible to come tomorrow, I beg you. If the Good God does not will that you come, do not be disturbed nor angry. Be resigned. See Father Durocher's protegee who wishes to come to Longueuil. (I do not remember her name.) Tell her to make the novena I suggested and to prepare to come to Longueuil. Father Durocher will write to tell her the exact time to come. Above all she should prepare herself by prayer and interior recollection. Have her make her novena in union with us and have the intention of asking what we are asking for.

The pastor (4) sends his kindest greetings to your brother and his wife. He would like to have shared their joy, but God did not will it since he is ill. Extend to him and his wife my greetings, and above all tell them to pray for us. Say as little as possible about the reasons that hasten your return here. Soon you will write them to your brother. Tell him for me to continue his protection of our dear Hortense (5). If we leave I count on him. With all my heart I wish for their happiness and I am already sure of it.

Farewell, my dear, until tomorrow.

I am with you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Melanie Eulalie Durocher

To Father T. Durocher, Pastor at Beloeil

Longueuil, January, 1844

My very dear Brother,

I learned with sorrow that you are still ill. Our whole community is interested in your return to health and commends this intention to Our Lord. For my part, I wish you courage although I am sure you do not lack it.

Our little community still goes on its way although many things are being said about it. It is God's work, and accordingly we hope God will bless it. I am counting on your goodness for the various expenses that the state of our chapel calls for. We have Mass there every day. There is still owing to us something from the sale of our flowers and at present this money would be very useful. I would like you to withdraw the nine or ten shillings owed me by Miss Lafontaine. Following our agreement, I have given in your name six shillings, three pence for Father Flavien. If we could have this money, we would be able to meet our needs. Miss Dufresne and I have not yet completed our trousseau. Each of us needs ten yards of linen which will cost two shillings a yard. I am telling you about this since you were very willing to assume the expense. Finally, did I not fear to try your patience, I would ask you again to get us the Mass cards and a missal stand.

I hope Papa has recovered from his cold. I think he is waiting for you before coming to Longueuil. Marguerite's (1) trip did her good and I acted in regard to her according to your directives. She is not thinking of leaving you and she promised me to be more obedient.

All our Sisters humbly send you and dear Papa their respectful greetings. To both of you I offer mine and join with them my most sincere love as I sign myself

Your very obedient sister,

M. Eulalie

To Sister Saint Cecile, Religious of the Congregation of Notre Dame

Longueuil, March 11, 1844

My dear Sister,

I thank you for the kindness that makes you solicitous for me. It is true that to speak to me as you do, you have only to listen to what your sisterly heart tells you. Now we have something more than the language of nature; we are sisters by a double title. You have experienced what one feels in a family on the occasion of a birth, an ever increasing joy, the joy that I myself am now experiencing. I am a bit upset because of your having written to me first. However, I hope you will excuse my silence. The deep solitude of the novitiate will give you the reason for it.

I am clothed with the holy habit of a religious and I have been given the name of Marie Rose; may I be a rose of pleasing perfume to Jesus Christ. You

must assist me by your prayers to fulfill the obligations imposed by this mysterious name.

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I count on the help of your prayers. Walking on the same pathway, let us help each other to surmount the difficulties that arise. With this in mind, I shall always be,

Very lovingly yours,

Sister Marie Rose

To Miss

Longueuil, July 23, 1844

Miss ,

Permit me to ask for the return of the work you had the goodness to take charge of at the time of your departure from Longueuil, last autumn, along with the fringe you were to have had dyed. Even if the work has not been done, I should like to have all returned as soon as possible.

I believe you are still working courageously at your sanctification by the practice of obedience and self-renunciation. By these means you will advance in virtue.

Please accept my kind greetings and those of the Sisters. Please extend them to the reverend Sisters at the mission and to your kind acquaintances. Please give us a little remembrance in your good prayers.

With esteem, I am

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Saint Cecile, Religious of the Congregation of Notre Dame

Longueuil, December, 1844

Dear Sister,

At the time I was planning to invite you to my religious profession the painful news of your illness reached me and filled me with sadness. You know what a great satisfaction it would have been for me to have seen you here. You have already had the great happiness of doing what I am about to do. As I take this my great step, your very presence would, as it were, have been like a helping hand. God had other plans. While at the foot of the altar I shall consecrate myself to Our Lord, you will be on a bed of pain offering Him the sacrifice of your sufferings. Please let me share in your merits in order to

fill the void caused by my imperfections, and to make up for all my faults please unite your sacrifice with mine. I am counting on your prayers and those of your Reverend Mother and Sisters to whom I beg you to present my respects.

In a sweet hope for your complete cure, I beg you to accept my most loving greetings as I remain

Your very loving sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Reverend Father Flavien Durocher, an Oblate missionary novice at Saguenay

Longueuil, December, 1844

My dear Brother,

Allow me to distract you a bit and tell you of the happiness of my religious profession. It was on the feast of the Immaculate Conception that this good, kind Mother willed to accomplish the desires I had so long cherished. I shall not speak to you about the ceremony because I do not think that is what will interest you most. God has been infinitely good to me and full of mercy. I do not fear telling you this because you know my unworthiness and the numberless crimes this Divine Savior has pardoned me. O, dear brother, in your painful work where you have so many sacrifices to make in order to save souls so dear to Jesus Christ, help me to become, I do not say worthy, but rather, less unworthy of the happiness that is mine. I cannot think of it without feeling moved with the desire to work most ardently at my sanctification. The responsibility that weighs on me is great. I feel it more and more each day, but may I complain?

God has led me. I live in peace with my Sisters in the midst of my numerous occupations.

Beg Mary, our tender Mother, to obtain for me above all the grace of being a good religious so that I may follow the pathway God has marked out for me and lead along it all those for whom I am responsible. We should be only too happy if some day we were found worthy to go and share your difficulties.

Please express our deep respect to Reverend Father Honorat and assure him we are still filled with gratitude for the great trouble he took in our behalf. If God hears our prayers, He will scatter rich blessings on all your undertakings. I am not forgetting to hear Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion once a week for the intentions we agreed upon. I have heard from the family. All are well. It seems Father Eusebe at his mission has many spiritual consolations; this makes up for what he lacks in the material order. I should like to address this letter to you as a religious (1). I am deprived of this consolation. I wish you the happiness I am enjoying.

In the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I remain,

Your very loving sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Reverend Father Allard, O.M.I., Chaplain

Longueuil, December 13, 1844

Reverend Father,

Knowing your kindness, I am daring to ask if you could give me a little time today to discuss some present difficulties that I dare not take care of without your advice.

Believe me to be with all possible gratitude,

Your very obedient daughter,

Sister Marie Rose

To Reverend Father Guigues,
Superior of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate at Longueuil

Longueuil, December 28, 1844

Very Reverend Father,

Pardon me if in behalf of our dear pupils I ask you as a favor to visit our chapel. I am sure they will be very grateful. Please tell us the hour that will disturb you least and believe me to be,

Reverend Father,

With respect and gratitude,

Your very humble and obedient
servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Reverend Father Allard, O.M.I., Chaplain

Longueuil, December 31, 1844

Very Reverend Father,

If I am not mistaken, in certain religious communities visits are made on the last day of the year. Would it be fitting that we call on you, on the Reverend Pastor, and Mr. Cere?

If in the course of the afternoon you could come for a little while, you would do me a favor.

Pardon me for disturbing you so often. I thought I would see you this morning about various things I have been asked about and for which I haven't the answers

Please accept our sincerest thanks to your whole community and be assured we are very grateful to you for all your kindnesses towards us.

Permit us to offer you our deepest respect.

Your very obedient and humble
daughter,

Sister Marie Rose

To the Superior of the Sisters at Marseille

The beginning of the year 1845

My very honored Mother,

Please permit me to express our most sincere thanks for the things you had the kindness to send us. For some months we have been united as a community and we had at first wished and even hoped for foundresses from your institute, but Divine Providence did not grant us this happiness. Nevertheless, we dare to believe that the prayers we addressed to Our Lord for this intention have not been without fruit since at last He has deigned to make us sharers in a part of the happiness we desired with so great ardor as our treasure and our life and which is the way that is to lead us to the heavenly Jerusalem if we are faithful in following it.

I beg you to be assured of the most profound respect with which I have the honor to be,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Miss . . .

Longueuil, January 22, 1845

Miss . . . ,

We were still waiting for one of your usual letters, and this is what kept us from writing. However, your requests reached us indirectly.

Your constancy in asking for admission to our Congregation obliges us to encourage you in your good desires. It will be necessary for you yourself to write in French and in English so that we will be able to judge your ability.

Be very devoted to the Blessed Virgin since you wish to belong to her by consecrating yourself to God in our Congregation.

With esteem, believe me, Miss,

Your very humble servant,
Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To His Lordship Bishop Ignace Bourget

Longueuil, February 10, 1845

Your Lordship,

The Sisters of our community offer you their deepest respect and beg Your Lordship to give them your blessing.

On the twenty-third of January the Council decided. Please be so good as to let us know how and at what time the ceremony will take place.

The Way of the Cross was erected in our chapel by Bishop Gaulin without his having drawn up a report.

We hope you will be willing to give us a few moments in order to point out the course to be followed.

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Mr.

Longueuil, May 24, 1845

Sir,

We think we should let you know that Miss Josephite (1) has been ill for a few days. Although she is not in danger, we thought you would be better satisfied if we informed you. She shows great pleasure in seeing the members of her family, particularly her mother.

Please accept my greetings, Sir, and I am with esteem,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To His Lordship Bishop Ignace Bourget

Longueuil, November 12, 1845

Your Lordship,

We hasten to send Your Lordship the deliberations of the community council in regard to the projected gift of the house. We accept it on the conditions expressed in the deliberation and do so with added confidence since you yourself deigned to suggest them to us.

The latest conditions laid down by the parish and of which we have informed you do not seem acceptable to us, even the first which gives us no right to any

compensation for the additions and improvements were we to leave the establishment. We would lay ourselves open to too great a sacrifice since our dowries which we would have spent for the improvements would not be returned to us.

We presume that this article, the basis of the contract, not being accepted, the contract will not be made; and for a long time it will not be possible to bring the parishioners to more advantageous conditions; but we do not think we should flinch before this difficulty.

When we think of the offer you so kindly made to establish us in Montreal, even close to your episcopal palace, we are filled with deep gratitude. Your Lordship, we trust, will allow us to tell you very humbly the difficulties we are meeting. We must not conceal from you that remaining in Longueuil, notwithstanding the opposition that meets us here, has for us a very special attraction. The graces we have received here and the visible blessings God has deigned to grant to the educational work we direct are for us powerful ties that we could break only with most acute pain. Moreover, the difficulties we meet in regard to our expansion are only material ones and will disappear because of the zeal that inspires our worthy pastor. As soon as we let him know of the offers you had made, he immediately determined to carry through the act of donation for the house he was keeping for us and to build on this land which from now on will be ours. We acknowledge that it pains us not to accept what he gives with so much generosity because in so doing we sadden his heart.

Besides the above reasons there are others that we deem to be of greater importance. Before taking any step that would, as it were, draw us away from the cradle of our little congregation, we have to gauge our strength and our possibilities of success in the new place that is offered us; and we confess simply that we do not believe ourselves capable of succeeding in the city of Montreal as we would succeed in Longueuil. We are but partially trained in learning as well as in the religious life. We guard against any illusions about the success we have had in our boarding school. We know to whom we must above all attribute it and we know the solicitude that has been shown us. It would be very painful for us to give up the system of education and progress in study, the advantages of which we are experiencing, in order to follow others, no matter how skillful the new teachers might be.

These reasons along with others that can be easily appraised make us wish and ask as a favor that for the present we may be permitted to continue our work at Longueuil.

We beg you to pardon the liberty with which we express the general opinion of all the Sisters and we entreat you to believe in our most perfect obedience. We are honored to be, Your Lordship,

Your very respectful daughters,

The Sisters of the Holy Names of
Jesus and Mary

To Father T. Durocher, Pastor at Beloeil

Autumn of 1845

Very dear Brother,

Please let me know your wishes regarding the room and board you wish to pay for two of your postulants. We wondered if you wish to give this money to the community so that it might apply it to two subjects of its choice or if it is intended for two postulants whom you yourself have in mind. This is not a useless distinction, for if the application of it rests with us, we shall use it conditionally. Should they not persevere, the two young ladies who would have benefited by this favor will have to pay their room and board as though there had been no question of this help. We do not know if this is what you intended. Please let me know. . . . If Papa wishes to take care of this he would do us a great favor. Could he get us also some potter's clay to make moulds, some sarsaparilla, some mint, and some catnip? If our stockings and the wool that Josephite was so good as to take care of are ready, please be so kind as to send them.

Our boarding school is getting larger day by day. At present we have sixty-three boarders, among them Miss Octavia Letourneux.

You see we have plenty of work. Confidently, we are awaiting God's help and that of the Blessed Virgin, our good Mother.

Please remember us at the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Accept our greetings and extend them to dear Papa.

Gratefully, I am your loving sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Mr.

Longueuil, December 22, 1845

Dear Sir,

We thought we should give a few days of vacation to our boarding school pupils at Christmas and we are permitting them to spend the Christmas holidays with their parents. These holidays will begin on December 24 and end on January 2, 1846. Those who do not return on the date specified must have important reasons for their late return.

I have the honor of being,

Your humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Reverend Mother Gamelin, Superior of the Sisters of Providence

Longueuil, February, 1846

Reverend Mother,

I have the pleasure of announcing that the ceremony of religious profession of Sister M. Ursule will take place on the twenty-fourth. Dare I hope to see you present along with the Sisters Gadbois and Davignon?

This mark of kindness will add greatly to the joy and happiness of our community and will strengthen the bonds of charity that unite it to yours.

In the meantime, I beg you to accept the greetings of our Sisters and in particular those of her who is, with respect,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Father T. Durocher, Pastor at Beloeil

Longueuil, February, 1846

Very dear Brother,

Permit me to turn to you in a matter of pressing interest which our position does not allow us to handle ourselves and which you, better than anyone, can bring to a happy conclusion. First of all, we want to tell you our wishes. If you could come to Longueuil as soon as possible, we should be very grateful.

We should like to consult Mr. Antoine Provost about our building plans at Longueuil. If it is possible, have him accompany you at your next visit. Please accept my thanks for all the lovely things you have sent us and believe me,

Your very loving sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To the same

Longueuil, May, 1846

My dear Brother,

At the time of your last visit to Longueuil you gave us the impression you could get a man to work for us. At that time we did not think we would need him in just a few days, but now he is absolutely necessary. This is how we would employ him: he would help the masons and on rainy days he would be kept busy inside cutting wood.

We will give him his meals and find a place for him to sleep; all other things will be at his expense. As for his wages, we will be able to go as high as eight piastres, if he is not a slow worker. If you find someone who accepts these conditions, he may come immediately.

Through Mr. Dufresne I hear the Fathers at St. Hyacinth are going to get some books from France very soon. We haven't what we need for our prizes. If they would be willing to part with some, about thirty, we would be very grateful. Our gratitude would be even greater if you could yourself take care of this expense.

Would you be good enough to ask Mr. Malo for 200 dozen eggs. We will pay ten sous a dozen for them and we could take them now. Many, many requests-- please excuse us.

Please extend to our good Papa my greetings and those of the Sisters.

Our young boarders will make their first Communion on the twenty-first, the feast of the Ascension. I recommend them to your prayers along with her who will be forever,

Your loving sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Mrs. Simon Valois

Longueuil, May, 1846

Dear Madam,

The first Communion of our young boarders is set for the twenty-first of this month, the solemnity of the feast of the Ascension. It is a consolation for us to tell you Miss Philomene (1) is one of the group. We invite you to this family feast. We are sorry our little chapel is so small and that we are prevented from issuing a larger number of invitations.

Please accept the expression of the devotedness with which I have the honor to be,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To the Reverend Father P. A. Telmon, O.M.I.

Longueuil, June 24, 1846

Reverend Father,

Although we are not acquainted with the young Irish lady whom you ask us to receive as an auxiliary Sister, on your recommendation we agree to allow her

to make trial of the religious life. We are sending you a list of the articles of the trousseau she must bring with her and a list of what she will have to supply later if she perseveres. We ask you to inform her of our wishes.

As for Miss , it would be difficult to receive her because of her age.

I take this occasion, Reverend Father, to repeat the expression of my respect and gratitude towards you. I have never forgotten the counsels and encouragement you gave me, particularly in regard to my vocation, and I beg Our Lord to recompense you a hundredfold for the good that you did for my soul.

With this in mind, permit me to sign myself

Your very devoted servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Father T. Durocher, Pastor at Beloeil

Longueuil, July, 1846

My dear Brother,

It is a pleasure for us to accept your gracious offer to visit your convent. We count on leaving Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning, eight in number, if you send enough carriages and if we would not be causing too much trouble. Would it be possible for us to be lodged in the house you are preparing for us? If not, could we have a room at the rectory so as to be completely separated from strangers who are usually there during the vacation?

We will be able to come to an agreement about the new foundation; we could not have a more favorable occasion.

In the meantime, please accept the expression of our gratitude and believe me as always,

Your very loving sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Father T. Durocher, Pastor at Beloeil

Longueuil, August, 1846

My dear Brother,

The interest you show in our community causes me to hope you will take part in our beautiful feast which we will celebrate at the close of our retreat, the fifteenth of this month, the feast of the Assumption.

Several of the aspirants whom you are sponsoring will take the holy habit that day. The Bishop, who wishes to see you about the mission at Beloeil, will be here. Furthermore, you will witness the most important action within my power to perform, my profession of perpetual vows.

Dear brother, please pray for us during this retreat so that God may fill us with the spirit of our holy state.

Accept my gratitude and love, which will be in my heart forever, and extend these same sentiments to good Papa who, I hope, will also give us the benefit of his prayers.

Sister Marie Rose

Letters on the occasion of the death of Miss Marie Paule Pare, a protegee of Mother Marie Rose who taught at Longueuil:

Longueuil, September 14 or 15, 1846

Dear Sir,

It is a sorrow for me to tell you Miss Pare has died. She constantly edified the whole community by her patience and sweetness in suffering. We sorrow for her because we loved her, but we have the sweet consolation of knowing she has passed to a better life, for her death was that of the just.

So as not to frighten the young ladies of our boarding school we were not able to bury her with pomp. However, Masses have been said for the repose of her soul and the community continues to pray for her quick deliverance from Purgatory.

With deep respect, I have the honor of being,

Very sincerely yours,

Sister Marie Rose

To Mrs. de Rouville

Dear Madam,

The interest you always showed in Miss Pare makes it a sad duty for me to tell you the painful news of her death. She died fortified with all the rites of the Church after having edified us by her patience and gentleness in suffering. We have the sweet hope that she has passed to a better life. We have said little about her death so as not to frighten our boarding school pupils. However, Masses have been said for the repose of her soul. We hope you will join your prayers to those of our community so as to hasten her deliverance from Purgatory.

Hermine is well and happy.

I have the honor to be, etc.

Sister Marie Rose

To Mrs. Pare

Dear Madam,

I have the sorrow of telling you that your beloved daughter, Miss Marie, died after a long and painful illness. For a long time she had sighed for this moment. She kept the use of her mind to the very last and thereby was able to acquire many merits. She edified us constantly by her patience and sweetness in suffering, and received all the helps of our holy religion. We sorrow for her because we loved her as one of our own, but we are consoled because her death was the death of the just.

We hope these details will soften the sorrow that your mother's heart will feel.

We beg you to believe the very sincere affection we have for your family and the devotedness with which I am, etc.

Sister Marie Rose

A letter sent to Bishop de Mazenod of Marseille, Superior General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, through the favor of Bishop Bourget, who left for Europe the 29th of September, 1846.

Longueuil, September 22, 1846

Your Lordship,

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary established at Longueuil, humbly prostrate at your feet, do not know how to express their gratitude for the precious souvenir you deigned to send them. Until now, a feeling of respect and still more of unworthiness has prevented our offering you our compliments. Since you have anticipated our wishes, we can no longer keep hidden in our hearts our feelings of respect and gratitude towards you.

We must say, Your Lordship, that apart from the protection of our venerated Pontiff, it is to you we are indebted for the favors we enjoy, and we are also indebted to the Reverend Father you chose to direct us. We learned with joy that we had been the objects of your care and interest from the beginning (1) and that you had deigned to approve this work directed by your children on the banks of the St. Lawrence. It is true that in thinking of the blessings God has lavished on our community and of the abundant fruit with which He has crowned our efforts in the work of zeal we are undertaking, we cannot but admire the Lord's use of very weak instruments to further His designs. We are less surprised when we recall that we have had powerful protectors at the throne of God.

At present our community counts nine professed, fourteen novices, and eight postulants. We should like to imitate the virtues of the Sisters who have given us their name, those virtues of which they have given a most beautiful example in your episcopal city. What can our weak efforts do? At least our community under your patronage and helped by your powerful prayers will neglect nothing in order to become worthy of the name it bears.

We beg you again, Your Lordship, to accept these few lines as testimony of our deep respect and pledge of our gratitude. Please bless those who, prostrate at your feet, have the honor of being, Your Lordship,

Your very humble servants,

Sister Marie Rose

To the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary at Marseille

Longueuil, October 1, 1846

Very honored Sisters and Mothers,

We do not wish to let Reverend Father Leonard leave without letting you know we are under the patronage of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Since we have the same rule and wear the same habit, which we received in order to become your imitators in the education you carry on with such great edification, we consider it a duty to offer you our greetings and express our affection although we do not know you personally. Furthermore, we wish to tell you of our desire to be united with you in all your prayers, work, and labor under the patronage of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. We shall limit ourselves to these few lines for the present, while waiting for your kind reply. In other letters, if you agree to accept this spiritual union, we shall give you more details of our manner of life.

Receive, dear Sisters and Mothers in Our Lord, the loving and respectful sentiments of

Your very humble servants,

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

To Father T. Durocher, Pastor at Beloeil

Longueuil, October, 1846

My dear Brother,

I have just seen the Superior, Reverend Father Guigues, who tells me you will send for the Sisters only on Monday, the second of November. We were thinking of having a few Sisters accompany them, but we have decided to go and see them later. Accordingly, there will be only three Sisters. I commend them to you; they are only novices (1) and need to be encouraged because they feel their inefficiency. You will be their father and support.

Their belongings will be ready Friday evening. I think it will take two carriages to transport them.

Reverend Father Guigues saw Bishop Blanchet, who will gladly go to Beloeil if you write to him; but he will not undertake to give the sermon. Perhaps

Father Superior will not be there. He received some news which, perhaps, will call him elsewhere.

In the carriages which come to get the Sisters, please send two small barrels of apples, one for table, the other for cooking.

Please accept the expression of our respect and know I am united with you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Sister Marie Rose

To Reverend Father Telmon, O.M.I.

About the ninth of October, 1846

Very honored Father,

Regretfully we see Miss M. C. leave us. This time she is not leaving us because of frivolity but because of her health. She was ill when she came to us and her illness is increasing and it will be impossible for her to get well living in a community.

Permit me to offer you my very humble respects and to tell you my feelings of gratitude, which will remain forever written in my heart. May the Lord reward you for all the good you have done for me and shed upon you all the graces that make saintly religious.

Be so kind, please, as to extend my respectful greetings to Reverend Fathers Baudrand and Dandurand and also to the Gray Sisters.

I hope you will remember me before the Lord along with our whole community and believe me still

Your very humble daughter in Jesus Christ,
Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Theresa of Jesus, Superior, and the Sisters at Beloeil

Convent of Longueuil, November 29, 1846

My very dear Sisters,

You cannot doubt that I shared the sadness you experienced in leaving us. I am still saddened because I no longer have your good example and your loving counsels. Your generous hearts tell me it is indeed consoling for religious to know how to sacrifice all to procure the greater glory of God, Who spared nothing for our happiness. I say to myself often: Our dear Sisters are happy that our Divine Master has chosen them, He loves them, they are His privileged daughters. Courage, then, good Sisters! Do not picture yourselves parted from us, for that is not true; you are but a few steps away.

I learned with pleasure you had been well received and that you had treated all graciously. I thank Divine Providence for this.

Let Sister M. Anne continue to sing the praises of the Lord. She has her place in the house as well as in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. All our Sisters are well and continue to speak of you. They will write you after the boarders' retreat. The boarders now number eighty.

Sister Veronica of the Crucifix will spend a few days with you at the end of the month so as to have a meeting with Reverend Father Superior.

Our good Father found you too well, if I dare speak thus. He is still filled with love for us. My health is better; have no anxiety on this count. Pray for my poor soul, which is much more to be pitied.

I am sending you the model you must follow when you have requests to make.

According to your request, Father Brassard will have the house insured next week.

I remain united to you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your loving Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To the Sisters at Beloeil

Longueuil, December 3, 1846

My very dear Sisters,

It is a great happiness for me to tell you that tomorrow in our little chapel the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be established.

I am happy to see the community consecrated to the honoring of this Divine Heart. The four of you may receive Holy Communion with the intention of being received along with us.

Your loving Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Miss

Longueuil, 1846

Dear Miss ,

I received your letter in which you tell us of your attraction for the religious life. Miss M. had already given us a good report of your piety and

I learned with pleasure you had been well received and that you had treated all graciously. I thank Divine Providence for this.

Let Sister M. Anne continue to sing the praises of the Lord. She has her place in the house as well as in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. All our Sisters are well and continue to speak of you. They will write you after the boarders' retreat. The boarders now number eighty.

Sister Veronica of the Crucifix will spend a few days with you at the end of the month so as to have a meeting with Reverend Father Superior.

Our good Father found you too well, if I dare speak thus. He is still filled with love for us. My health is better; have no anxiety on this count. Pray for my poor soul, which is much more to be pitied.

I am sending you the model you must follow when you have requests to make.

According to your request, Father Brassard will have the house insured next week.

I remain united to you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your loving Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To the Sisters at Beloeil

Longueuil, December 3, 1846

My very dear Sisters,

It is a great happiness for me to tell you that tomorrow in our little chapel the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be established.

I am happy to see the community consecrated to the honoring of this Divine Heart. The four of you may receive Holy Communion with the intention of being received along with us.

Your loving Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Miss

Longueuil, 1846

Dear Miss ,

I received your letter in which you tell us of your attraction for the religious life. Miss M. had already given us a good report of your piety and

conduct. However, since your health is not robust, it is difficult for me to give you a definitive answer. I think it will be good for you to make the trip to Longueuil when the season permits. We gain by becoming acquainted and we succeed better with our plans.

Ask Our Lord to make known to you more and more His plans for you and receive the assurance of my esteem.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Mr. . . .

Longueuil, 1846

Dear Sir,

I have the consolation of telling you that Miss . . . will be permitted to take the religious habit very soon. It is not customary to issue invitations for this ceremony. We reserve them for her religious profession if she has the happiness of persevering. We ask you to supply as soon as possible her trousseau. A note concerning it is enclosed.

I have the honor to be, etc.

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Father P. O. Allaire (1)

Longueuil, January, 1847

My dear nephew,

Since you expressed the wish of being present at some of our religious ceremonies, I thought I should not let that of February 2 pass without inviting you.

That day five novices will make profession. Your presence will enhance the feast and the prayers you will send to Heaven for our dear Sisters will fill them with confidence on this solemn day.

It would be a pleasure for us to have a visit from your Superior whenever he wishes to come. I have the firm hope he is offering some of his prayers for our dear community.

Please extend to him my humble respects and believe me forever united to you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Ursule at Beloeil

Longueuil, January, 1847

My dear Sister,

I thought children offered New Year's wishes to their Mother. I suppose your occupations did not allow you time to write, and I consider it a duty to grant your wish for a letter.

I desire nothing so much as to see you filled at all times with the spirit of our holy state: submissive to your Superiors, loving to follow their tastes, their counsels; wise and prudent; living in retirement away from all contact with the world, even with your family; extremely discreet and reserved, above all with the priests who will visit you; very polite and very deferential to the parish priest; full of zeal and gentleness towards the children God has given you to direct; finally, very observant of our holy rules.

I have taken care of part of the business given me by your mother, and I shall take care of the rest later. Tell Sister M. Agathe I am not forgetting her; I hope she will not get too weary and that she will accomplish her duties with exactitude.

Our Sisters join me sending love to all three of you.

Your very loving Sister,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Mr. Olivier Berthelet, in Montreal

Longueuil, January, 1847

Dear Sir,

Knowing the interest you have always had in our school, we wish to invite you to the examinations which are to take place in our boarding school on the twenty-fifth of January. We are sure that your presence will contribute greatly to furthering emulation among the pupils.

Our pupils will be happy to show you their drawings, embroidery, and sewing. The examinations are to begin around nine o'clock in the morning for the youngest and will continue into the afternoon.

In the meantime, please accept the expression of our gratitude. I have the honor of being,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To the Sisters at Beloeil

Longueuil, February 6, 1847

My dearly loved Sisters,

I was very well satisfied with the report Sister Veronica of the Crucifix gave me about your pupils and the success you have had both in your classes and in the handcrafts. It was a pleasure to see the work your pupils sent. Our boarders were astonished at their activity.

Courage, then, dear Sisters. You see God is blessing you. May such happy beginnings continue. Know that He Who protects you will not abandon you if you are faithful to your religious obligations.

The soul of the religious finds its life in the spiritual exercises. Therefore, never forget to speak to God in prayer. It is just that every day you take a half an hour to speak with the Divine Spouse of your souls. See what our holy rules tell you on this subject.

Holy Communion is likewise necessary for you. It is by feeding on Him Who came to cure us of our infirmities and strengthen us in the way of virtue that you will find life. All three of you go to Holy Communion. Appoint an older resident pupil for supervision.

As for Holy Mass, above all on Sunday, you must the night before prepare everything that is necessary and close your door. Be convinced you can do this.

I understand well that not being accustomed to guiding yourselves, you are sometimes insecure. You must act and do so with zeal. Do not fail to name someone for the supervision of the day pupils.

Every day you must take time to prepare your class work, from 7:30 to 8:30 in the evening. A quarter of an hour will suffice for your instruction if you see in advance what you will have to say.

I think your spiritual reading may last a quarter of an hour. At 6:30 Sister Marie Ursule, having made it for the boarders, need not make it a second time. Do not forget that having been raised to the dignity of spouses of Christ you must have respect one for the other. Sister Theresa of Jesus, being the Superior, has a right not only to your respect but also to your submission.

You should not expose yourselves to having lessons in cleanliness taught you. It is easy to keep all in order since your house is finished.

The Superior must remember she is obliged to give good example in everything. In all that touches her health she must obey Sister M. Ursule and must not forget to wear her flannels.

Let Sister M. Ursule recall again that having to teach the children to be polite, she must give them good example. Above all let her be deferential to the pastor, willingly granting his requests for the boarders, for example, having them speak French at recreation.

The noon recreation must be in French and the others in English.

Do not forget me in your prayers.

Your very devoted Mother,

Sister Marie Rose

To Father T. Durocher

Longueuil, February, 1847

My dear Brother,

You know that one is never satisfied with what one has. Our new chapel is so devoid of pious objects, above all of pictures, that one does not know where to fix one's eyes.

We have the picture of the Blessed Virgin on one side and on the other that of St. Joseph. I thought the Sacred Heart you have in your little sacristy chapel would be very nice in the center. It would be all the more fitting since we belong to the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart. If you cannot give it to us, I hope you will be able to lend it to us at least until we can get another one. I think Mr. Gadbois (1) will go to Montreal soon for the clothing ceremony of Miss Albine (2). If you wish to have him bring it, we would be very grateful; and our prayers being more fervent would contribute more to your happiness and ours.

Please extend best wishes to Papa, to Mr. Allaire, and receive for yourself my respectful greetings and believe me always united with you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your loving,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Theresa of Jesus, Superior at Belceil

Longueuil, March 18, 1847

My dear Sister,

Sister M. Claire will be your companion until Sister M. Ursule returns. You will be obliged to look after her in everything because she is a child. She will need this supervision particularly when she goes out with the boarding school pupils. If it were possible it would be good for you or Sister M. Anne to accompany her sometimes. You will take her to visit the pastor and her father as soon as possible. It is not necessary for her to go to her sister's except in case of serious illness. She is to see her relatives in parlor very rarely. I think Reverend Father Superior (3) told you she would do Sister M. Ursule's

work, that is to say, she will have charge of the boarders. You will be careful to keep her informed about things, have her change nothing that has been done up to the present, and let her be very much on her guard not to be over-free with the children.

As for her health, she may try getting up at four-thirty; if that tires her, you may have her rise at five o'clock.

You will see to it that she has time to write to me, but she is not to write to others, except to our Father (1) or to Reverend Father Superior. If Sister M. Ursule could get here tomorrow at noon, she could see the doctor who will be here around that time.

Farewell, dear Sister; have courage, God will not abandon you. The whole community sends all of you most loving greetings.

Accept from your Mother the expression of her most sincere love.

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister M. Claire at Beloeil

Longueuil, April 27, 1847

Dear Sister,

I have just received your letter, which pleased me. I understand very well indeed that the period of your absence from us seems a bit long. However, I do not know how long you will remain there; but in the meantime, do your duty well. Do not forget to make your meditation every day and prepare yourself to derive great profit from the time that will be given you later. In the meantime, I should like to know how you make your meditation, the time you give to it and to your other spiritual exercises. How do you teach catechism, and what amount of time have you to prepare it? How do you enjoy your time with the children? How do you get them to work? Please answer these various questions.

With much love, I am in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Your devoted and affectionate,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Theresa of Jesus, Superior at Beloeil

Longueuil, May 10, 1847

Dear Sister,

Reverend Father Superior thought it fitting to send you Sister M. Anne to relieve dear Sister M. Agathe. I hope the latter will not be ill long. See to

it that she is well taken care of and get her all the helps it is fitting to get for a religious. I think she is very resigned to the holy will of God, Who tries those He loves. It is through suffering our good Master purifies us and He wishes to unite us to Himself as His spouses. When you had me ask for Sister Veronica, I could not send her to you since you did not mention the day set for your examinations. At the first opportunity Sister Veronica will visit you.

I received with pleasure Miss Bernard's request. I shall answer her soon. Encourage her very much. Let her offer her month of Mary to obtain the grace of understanding her vocation more deeply.

We would have been happy to know how Sister M. Claire teaches her classes, if she is succeeding with the children, if she makes her meditation every day, if she asks her permissions, how she teaches catechism, if she prepares it, and how much time she has for the preparation.

I shall stop here for today. Our Father (1) is writing you and I think what he tells you will be far more worthwhile than what I could say to you.

All the Sisters are well, greet you cordially, and pray for all of you.

I am forever united to you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your very devoted Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Claire at Beloeil

Longueuil, May 16, 1847

My dear Sister,

I think you will be courageous when you learn your Superiors have judged fit to leave you on mission. Ask God to give you the talents requisite for your new position. Where you are, it is true, you will not have many things you would have here; but if you are fervent and submissive God will help you. Love to have your Superior correct you and be very obedient to her. Dear Sister, be courageous, God is the Master of all. If you are faithful to Him, He will be your consolation.

Pray for me, a very miserable sinner.

Your very devoted Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Theresa of Jesus, Superior at Beloeil

Longueuil, May 28, 1847

My dear Sister,

May Jesus and Mary reign forever in your heart.

I saw Reverend Father Superior and told him about your various requests.

1. He permits your Children of Mary to be present at the meeting of the older young ladies, provided the meeting is in the convent and the Sisters are present.
2. The children who wish to make meditation may do so but only for half an hour. You will have them leave a quarter of an hour before you.
3. The Children of Mary may say the prayers of their congregation in the chapel.

I think you will be happy to learn that the Bishop returned yesterday at ten o'clock. He brought us a beautiful letter from our dear Mothers in France. They very willingly accept the idea of the union of prayer that we asked in our letter sent by Father Leonard. . . . It would be impossible to tell you the feelings I experienced on hearing that letter read. I am very ashamed of my cowardice and lack of zeal for the divine Spouse of our souls. Would that I could fly into the midst of those holy religious so as to share in their thirst for the sufferings and love of Jesus Christ!

If on the one hand we have cause to rejoice, on the other we are going to be very sorrowful because we may lose Reverend Father Superior (1). I urge you to join your prayers with ours so that God may have mercy on us. He may be moved by our prayers. All our Sisters are well and send you love. I join them and beg you to believe me always united with you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your very devoted Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

The reply to the Sisters at Marseille. Their letter was brought by Bishop Bourget, who returned to Canada May 27, 1847.

Very honored Mother and very dear Sisters,

May the love and grace of God unite us forever to the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary!

How can we describe the emotions we experienced on receiving a letter so filled with kindness and love and written by your own hand? We were far from thinking this unique favor would be ours for we are still so young, counting hardly three years of existence. Ours was a feeling of great love as we read the lines you wrote for our consolation. Our joy was indeed very great when we read that you were willing to affiliate our community with yours and that from now on you will consider us your sisters and that we will share in your merits and prayers. It seemed to us a gift from Heaven as well as from you since you are letting us share the heavenly treasure you have acquired.

Now we may indeed call you by the two names of Mothers and Sisters; they are the only ones we wish to call you by in future. On our part, filled with lively gratitude and a feeling of unworthiness, we wish to have you share in any good our community may accomplish. All the advantage is on our side, for what can we give you since we have scarcely begun?

For a long time we had wished to form a part of your community. Providence not having permitted this, we are now very happy to be allowed to share your spiritual goods; and the distance separating us will never weaken the union that has just been effected. We wish to seal this contract with the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and our attachment to you will last as long as the love that unites us to these Sacred Names.

We must give you a few details about our community; and it will be a pleasure to hear from you either by mail or by the missionaries who come rather frequently.

The Sisters of the council and the entire community join me in sending you love. In union of prayer in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Sister Marie Rose

To the Sisters at Beloeil

Longueuil Convent, June, 1847

May Jesus and His holy Mother reign in you!

My very dear Sisters,

I received your letters, which always give me pleasure. Indeed, how could I ever forget the dear children separated from their Mother, from the center of the community, and who so generously sacrifice themselves for the glory of God?

Here is a thought I came upon during the month of the Sacred Heart and which I hope will be a consolation to you as it has been to me. These are the beautiful words: "There is no one so poor as not to have somewhere a dwelling place. Even the birds have their nests and the foxes their holes; can it be that it is only the Christian who, a beggar and wanderer, has no home in the world? Where will he find a refuge where he may stay, where must he go to find a dwelling place that will shelter him from the storms and hurts of time? He will find it in the Heart of Jesus."

Truly, where could one be better off than in the Heart of Jesus, our Divine Master? "Let us," says St. Bonaventure, "have a holy envy of the lance that opened this holy and sacred refuge; if once we are able to enter therein, let us never go out from it."

I invite you to go there with me, for it is there I wish to remain and where, if you wish it so, we shall never be separated from one another. What urges me above all to invite you there is that since the feast of the Sacred Heart, which we celebrated with great solemnity, we were made to realize how Our Lord has seemed pleased to shower great and numerous graces on our community. He has wished to have His Heart dwell here to urge us the more to give ourselves to Him, for where a confraternity is established, people come from all parts to

be enrolled. As for us, let us believe the Heart of Jesus wishes us constantly to be in this holy refuge from whose riches we can draw, no matter where we may be.

Yours very devotedly,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Mr. H. . . .

Longueuil, 1847

Dear Sir,

Mrs. H. . . . told us of your plan to give Sister M. P. . . . a dowry similar to that of her sister (1). This new sacrifice you are making has filled the heart of your cherished daughter with feelings of great gratitude. The community appreciates it very much. We ask you to arrange this donation in the formal way we are accustomed to use in similar circumstances, that is to say, by a notarized document. As for the payments, you may make any arrangements you will find satisfactory.

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Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Mr. Calixte Durocher (2)

Longueuil, 1847

My dear Brother,

I have been expecting you since January, but in vain. Today, more than ever, I should like to see you. In speaking one with another one always finds a way to arrange things. So, come at the beginning of next week. Do not delay. Even if you have no money to give us, the pleasure of seeing you and hearing about your concerns will be a comfort to me. If Melanie (3) can come with you, it will mean added joy.

Please accept my loving wishes and believe me united with you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Sister Marie Rose

This letter was probably addressed to Reverend Father Leonard, O.M.I., who went to France the first of October, 1846, to recruit subjects for the Oblates in Canada. He returned July 20, 1848.

Longueuil, 1847

Very honored Father,

We received with great pleasure and gratitude the various things you so kindly sent us. They reached us in perfect condition.

Through Reverend Father Lagier it was good to hear you are enjoying perfect health and that the salubrious climate of your dear fatherland has helped much to make you still stronger. We bless the Lord for the wonderful victories you have won for the glory of God and the interests of your Society, and we are praying He will crown your mission with ever more abundant fruits and protect you in your difficult work.

We cannot describe our emotions when we received a letter from our very dear Sisters in France. What happiness was ours in reading it! They are cordially sharing with us all their spiritual goods and they promise to consider us always their sisters. We owe this unique favor to you, Reverend Father. Alas, in return we have only feeble prayers to offer you, but they are sincere. We received with great joy the pleasing souvenirs you sent us from the Reverend Sisters of the Visitation. We are sending you a letter for them. Have the kindness, please, to read it, and have it delivered to them if you consider it fitting. With all our hearts we are waiting for the day when we shall see you again. The thought of the immense space separating us, the dangerous ocean you will have to cross to return to Canada makes our blood run cold with fear. However, we shall offer continual prayers to the Protectrice of seafarers, convinced that under her aegis you will return safely to Longueuil.

Our community is still increasing. Undoubtedly you will be pleased to see several of our dear pupils who entered last August; among them is Miss Dupuy (the niece of Father Marcoux, the parish priest at Sault) in whom you were particularly interested. There are many more things we could tell you, but we fear the length of this letter may weary you.

All the Sisters join me in sending their affectionate greetings. Please remember the promise you made before leaving, that you would pray for us in all the holy places of pilgrimage you would have the good fortune to visit.

I remain, Reverend Father, with deep respect,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To His Lordship Bishop J.C. Prince of Martyropolis,
Coadjutor of His Lordship of Montreal

Longueuil, September, 1847

Your Lordship,

We have found it impossible to make all the fitting preparations for the consecration of the altar in our chapel the eighth of September. I wish to

inform Your Lordship of this and I beg you at the same time to bless her who has the honor of being with the deepest respect,

Your very sincere daughter,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Mr. Jean Baptiste Hertel Rene de Rouville

Longueuil, September, 1847

Dear Sir,

On the fourteenth of this month the Bishop of Martyropolis will consecrate the altar in our chapel and also bless a bell for the use of the convent. Mrs. de Rouville is very happy to act as one of the bell's sponsors. We should like you to know how honored we would be if you could be present. We hope to see you for this ceremony because you promised to visit Miss Hermine. I need not tell you the pleasure she would have were you present. She continues to enjoy good health and is always in good spirits. However, for her happiness to be complete something is missing. I seem to read in her heart the longing she has to see you and to give expression to the great love she bears you, a love that has not grown less in her new life. You know she was always a consolation to you. We hope distance that cannot separate souls will in no way diminish her love for you. We are happy to cherish this thought, convinced that all is as it should be.

Please accept the respectful greetings of all our Sisters and particularly the gratitude of

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Mr. de la Broquerie

Longueuil, September, 1847

Dear Sir,

The projected work on our chapel is almost finished. The Coadjutor Bishop will consecrate the altar the fourteenth of this month. We could not have a more timely occasion for the blessing of the bell. Please accept our choice of you to be one of its sponsors. Mrs. de Rouville will be the other. As soon as I receive your answer, everything for the ceremony will be arranged. If your answer conforms to our wishes, as we indeed hope, you will oblige her who with gratitude remains

Your very humble servant,
Mother Marie Rose, Superior

To Reverend Father Telmon, O.M.I.

Longueuil, October, 1847

Reverend Father,

Please accept our gratitude for your letter and in particular for the details about your health.

We agree to all that you told us about Miss N. . . . However, before accepting her, the community would like her to spend some time in our boarding school. In this way she will be able to find out if our congregation appeals to her. I think this is a procedure that will avoid any later dissatisfaction. If she is truly called, this period of study among our boarding pupils will not be prejudicial to her plans. If, on the other hand, she does not continue to believe she has a vocation, it will not be said she was sent away from a convent since she will not have entered. After this test we shall see if we are to admit her to the novitiate. With this idea in mind I am sending you a prospectus so that she may examine the conditions

Sister Marie Rose

To Reverend Father Guigues, O.M.I., at St. Colombar

Longueuil, November, 1847

Very honored Father,

Permit those who still consider themselves your children to kneel before you and beg your blessing.

Although we are sure that you know our feelings toward you, we should not like to fail in gratitude by not letting you hear from us now that you are far away. Yes, very honored Father, now that you have gone away, we no longer enjoy the more than fatherly care and kindness you showed us.

If on the day you left we seemed so weak, it is because we realized the support we were losing. Still so young, so unsteady, we could not keep back our tears. We hope to find pardon for our weakness in your charitable heart. We can still wish for your quick return and with all our hearts we long for the day that will bring you back to us.

The beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception is drawing near. Two months will have passed and we are told you will return only at Christmas. How long this waiting will seem!

Our Father was so kind as to keep us down to date about your situation. Please accept our thanks for your kind remembrance.

I cannot tell you how happy our Sisters were to hear about your manner of life. They would all have taken off to help you if obedience had not willed otherwise.

Please pardon these poorly formed sentences. Be assured of the very deep respect and most sincere confidence of all your daughters and in particular of her who will always be

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Mr. Calixte Durocher

Longueuil, 1847

My dear Brother,

Several circumstances oblige us to alter the arrangements made about the oats. You will see Papa, who will tell you the reasons for our actions. Instead of 445 quarts of oats we will take only 222, and about 53 quarts of peas.

I hope your trip to Longueuil did not tire you too much and that the water and the picture of Our Lady of la Salette will improve your health and obtain for you the courage to labor for your advancement in virtue which brings about man's true happiness here below. To suffer and to struggle against one's passions-- what greater glory is there in this land of exile! Heaven, our true fatherland, will be our reward if we are faithful.

Please greet dear Melanie for me and believe me,

Your very devoted sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Father J. Marcoux, Pastor at St. Regis

Longueuil, 1847

Dear Father,

The interest and affection you have always shown toward your niece lead me to believe you will be happy to have news of her. For some days, chest pains and a cough have obliged her to remain in the infirmary. Although she is quite weak, the doctor does not see any danger.

Accordingly, I beg you to remember Miss Marcoux before Our Lord, along with our community, which, I hope, will not be deprived of its subjects.

Please accept, Reverend Father, the expression of my respect and consideration.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Father J. O. Archambault, Pastor at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, October, 1847

Dear Father,

This time you will not complain about my long delay in answering you. You complained that we did not answer you quickly enough and now we in turn are going to find that you did not act quickly enough.

The foundation at St. Lin will not take place this year. Therefore, St. Timothy's will have to move up to first place. If your convent will be ready, you may have two Sisters at the beginning of January, 1848. I must let you know, though, that neither of them will be capable of teaching English. Father Superior told me you would not require it the first year.

I think it will be necessary for you to make the trip to Longueuil so that we may come to an understanding about everything connected with our accepting this new foundation. Our motherhouse, burdened with the expenses for new buildings, cannot assume any expenditures for the new foundations.

You see, Reverend Father, I do not forget you. To the title of relative (1) you join a still more precious one in my eyes, that of a priest filled with ardor, who, I am convinced, will uphold the interests of our community with the same zeal and success as he upholds the interests of his parish. Accordingly, I have not hesitated to give you the preference you deserve.

Father Superior was kind enough to acquaint me with the plan of the house, and I am eager to have you carry it out.

Please remember our community at the holy sacrifice of the Mass and be assured of my gratitude.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To His Lordship Bishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal

Longueuil, December 13, 1847

Your Lordship,

It is impossible for me to express in a letter what I would like to lay before you.

The Reverend Pastor has refused to have a meeting with us. He simply wrote he was leaving on a trip, notifying us at the same time that we were to pay 300 francs as interest due the fifteenth of this month. To carry out your wishes we should like to confer with him about several material items that must be taken care of at once.

Your Lordship recommended that I speak about the ember days so that you could arrange for an extraordinary confessor.

We beg you to let us know the day we can go to Montreal to receive your advice.

In the meantime, I beg you to believe me, with deepest respect,

Your humble and obedient daughter,

Sister Marie Rose

(The Bishop sent back the above letter with these lines written at the bottom:)

"Reverend Mother, I shall be able to see you Saturday at twelve-thirty. In the meantime, pray fervently for us, and in your trial be full of confidence.
December 13, 1847 + Ig. Bishop of Montreal"

To His Lordship Bishop Bourget

Longueuil, December 17, 1847

Your Lordship,

I was hoping to consult you about our business; but since the crossings are so bad (1), I shall have to do the business by letter.

We asked for an interview with the Pastor to discuss the furnishings in the house. It was refused. I beg you to grant us permission to act without his advice for day to day business until such time as he will be willing to listen to us. The Superior of the Sisters of the Congregation has written about vacation for the boarders. We did not wish to answer her without having told you our views and having had your opinion.

We still think the vacation for New Year's should be omitted. We had no trouble about this last year. The parents did not raise sufficient problems to make us regret our action. Furthermore, we were simply following your suggestions. This year we believe there are just as good reasons as before. There may be some parents ill disposed in our regard. This time, several persons may take their children out of the school. Moreover, probably the crossings will be unusable for sleighs and many families have had advance notice that the children will not leave. These are the explanations I wished to place before you.

. . . The quarterly examinations are drawing near. Last year the parents were present to compensate the children for not having had vacation. This year we are in such a painful situation, we should like to know your plans so as to be prepared to meet the contingency if Your Lordship approves our following last year's plan.

. . . As for myself, I can only bemoan my miseries and those I cause others by my imprudence and little virtue. In the absence of the Pastor, I saw Father Chiniquy, who asked for an interview to discuss matters touching the Pastor, the

reverend Oblate Fathers, and ourselves. He told me about the meeting he had had with Your Lordship. I do not know what will be the result of all this, but I hope God will have mercy on us. I find our situation very painful. It appears the majority of the parishioners are very worked up. Each day we beg God to draw glory from our distress, to give light to our Superiors, and to us patience and submission.

Do you think I should ask again for an interview with the Pastor? It seems to me it would be useless. I should have preferred to have talked about this with you, but God did not so will. Pardon these poorly formed sentences which come from a suffering heart to go to him whom I revere as my Superior and in whom I place my confidence.

While awaiting your answer, please bless her who considers herself happy to be,

Your very humble and obedient daughter,

Sister Marie Rose

To Mother Saint Madeleine, Superior of the Congregation of Notre Dame

Longueuil, December, 1847

Very honored Mother,

Last year with the approval of Bishop Bourget, we omitted the New Year's holidays in our boarding school. We were so satisfied with the measure that we had decided to make no change. However, we wished to consult His Lordship before answering your kind letter. He writes us that he considers it fitting to give three days of vacation to our children. We respectfully accept his wish, hoping God will thereby be glorified.

Please excuse my delay in answering, caused by the difficulties of the crossings. All our Sisters join me in sending greetings to the Sisters of your community and wish to be remembered in your prayers.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Mr. Isidore Hurteau

Longueuil, December 23, 1847

Dear Sir,

The Pastor of Longueuil has just told us that you as a representative of the School Commission will honor us by examining our classes and we hasten to assure you of our satisfaction. We should like to have you know that we do not

have classes after Thursday evening of each week and that on Christmas Eve the children are very busy preparing for the feast of Christmas. We should be very grateful if you would defer your visit until Wednesday, the twenty-ninth. A monthly examination is being prepared for that date and you will be better able to judge the strength and progress of our pupils.

By so doing you will oblige her who is honored in being,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister Theresa of Jesus, Superior at Beloeil

Longueuil, December 23, 1847

My dear Sister,

May the divine Infant Jesus bless you and give you the courage and strength to keep your resolutions! As you will have surmised, we found ways of paying our little debt without disturbing you. I preferred to keep what you offered for another time when we might be in greater need. In the month of January, around the tenth, we have 1000 francs to pay, 1540 towards the end of January. It is indeed right that we feel a little what holy poverty is. We never understand it so well as when we feel its effects. We need only go to the crib to be encouraged as we consider the destitution of our divine Master. I have not seen the Bishop since your trip to Longueuil. The crossings have been too difficult. Our situation is the same. Let us pray, suffer, and have confidence.

Sister M. Antoine is pretty well now. I am thinking of sending her to you for a little while so that she will be completely cured. We are awaiting the arrival of Reverend Father Superior (1) next Wednesday. This will delay my trip to your convent a few days. I am having our baker take you an Infant Jesus and am lending it to you for the Christmas season. This will encourage you and please the children. We hope the children are praying for us. Our pupils will have three days of vacation at New Year's. The Bishop wished this. I am writing to Sisters M. Apollonie and M. Anne; Sister M. Anastasie's turn will come later; in the meantime, may she find consolation at the feet of the Infant Jesus.

I send you my love, and with you I remain at the feet of Jesus and Mary.

Your very devoted Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To the Sisters of the Visitation in France

Autumn, 1847

Very honored Mother,

We have neither the honor of knowing you nor of being known by you, but we are aware of your kindness because of the various things Father Raymond

brought us. Please accept our very deep gratitude for this gift. When Reverend Father Leonard told us about this precious package, in our great joy we wondered how we could have the great happiness of knowing that in a monastery in France there were those who were interested in us and we wondered what we had done to merit this interest. It was not hard to see that we owed this interest to the charity which animates religious women in France as well as the missionaries France sends us in such large numbers. We also recalled that you are the daughters of St. Francis de Sales, who bequeathed to you his gentleness and charity. Recalling this and our unworthiness, we blessed the Lord. We hope you will think of us again, above all in your prayers.

Since you have shown such a touching interest in us, gratitude seems to justify my telling you a little bit about our situation.

Doubtless Reverend Father Leonard will have told you how our Congregation was founded. It has been in existence scarcely four years and we have the happiness of seeing a family made up of ten professed Sisters, nine novices, and ten postulants. We make vows for five years and then forever. Since we were founded God has not spared us our portion of trials. In the midst of these trials God has been pleased to bless our work and to fill our boarding school with more than eighty fervent young ladies. I must also say we have enjoyed the most assiduous care from the reverend Oblate Fathers to whose guidance we were confided by the Bishop of Montreal. We hope to enjoy the fruits of their charity for a long time. Fairly often we are financially embarrassed. Up until a few months ago we had no fitting place for a chapel and even now our chapel, which is our only consolation, is not completed and lacks many things. However, if we are faithful to our vocation, we hope to have from God's bounty what we need.

Your prayers, Reverend Mother, and those of your community will do much to further God's designs for us and to draw down upon us His rich blessings. I hope you will excuse the length of this letter.

Please accept our gratitude and particularly that of her who remains

Yours very sincerely

To Father L. M. Brassard, Pastor at Longueuil

Longueuil, December 30, 1847

Reverend Father,

The Community of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary with pleasure see the day on which they may extend their greetings to you. Allow us to tell you, Reverend Father, that we appreciate all your kindness. The gratitude it deserves is written deep in our hearts and nothing will be able to efface it. It gives us joy to place the expression of it before you.

As for our dealings one with the other we have only one thing to say and always the same thing, namely, that we are following all regulations made by the Bishop. Please allow us to ask for a place in your prayers and be assured of the sincerity with which I am, with deepest respect,

Your very humble servant,
Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To His Lordship Bishop Bourget of Montreal

Longueuil, December 31, 1847

Your Lordship,

We beg you to allow all our Sisters to gather at your feet to offer you their good wishes and receive your blessing for the New Year. Our hearts urge us to tell you our feelings on this day, and gratitude makes it a duty to do so. If God deigns to answer our poor prayers, He will grant us the happiness of having you with us for a long time and He will prosper all the good works which, inspired by God, you have undertaken for the good of your diocese. May we cooperate with your kindness by our docility and thereby give joy to the heart of the tenderest of fathers.

Moved by these feelings, we beg you to accept the greetings of the whole community and in particular the sincerest wishes of her who is honored in being,

Your very humble daughter and servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Mrs. C. . . .

Longueuil, 1847

Dear Madam,

These last few days we were expecting you and because of this I put off sending you news about Miss Anatolie's health. Despite the care we have given her and the outings arranged for her, we regret to say that her health is not improving. We think it would be better for her to be with you and we count on seeing you at Longueuil as soon as possible.

With kindest wishes, I am,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Miss

Longueuil, 1847

Dear Miss ,

I did not wish to send you an answer before taking counsel with the Superior of the house and our Sisters. You were not surprised then last Saturday that I decided to give you an answer later.

Believing in the sincerity of your wishes, since you came in person to Longueuil to make your request, and taking into consideration your reasons for leaving the Gray Sisters, namely, that your various occupations there did not agree with your health, the council has consented to receive you as a postulant.

.....

In the meanwhile, since the step you are considering must be inspired by God, I urge you to pray to Our Lord. Rather, let us pray together that He Himself will deign to aid and guide you.

With sincere affection, I am,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To His Lordship Bishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal

Longueuil, January 12, 1848

Your Lordship,

In sending you now the regulations for the boarding school pupils, I ask you to pardon me for not having sent them sooner. I recognize my guilt.

I beg Your Lordship to grant the request I made concerning the arrangements with the Reverend Fathers, the Pastor, and ourselves by giving me the note touching the matters of which you spoke to me in their presence.

You know, Your Lordship, that it will be almost impossible for the Pastor's moral wounds to heal quickly. Having to confer with him, I need to be very certain of my ground so as not to irritate him further.

O, how difficult it is to get along well with persons who do not understand religious life! It is above all in these painful moments that we appreciate our happiness in being directed by priests who are religious. We can never thank you enough for this favor. May we always have it! It seems to me that I could gladly endure the lack of material things. When there are those who tell us we are too pious and when they seek by furtive means to deprive us of the persons who have our best interests at heart, I am grieved and distressed. If we have merited such severe punishment, I do not know how we can ever repair the harm we have brought on ourselves. No, I am mistaken. You are our Father, Your Lordship, and I have a deep conviction that you will have mercy on your children who are always happy to obey you.

Recognizing in your person the goodness of God and filled with confidence, allow me at your feet to beg your blessing for my Sisters and myself, so that God will give us the courage to suffer all and that He may give me prudence. I beg you to believe me with deepest respect,

Your very humble, obedient daughter and servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister Theresa of Jesus, Superior at Beloeil

Longueuil, February 23, 1848

Dear Sister,

The cold weather has prevented my sending you sooner Sister Francis de Sales. This dear Sister seems unable to get well. I am writing Doctor Allard, asking him to see her and to give her all the care he will judge necessary for her recovery. I hope your charity will second the doctor's care and that she will be able to come back to our community in eight or ten days. If there is anything needed for her and you haven't it, ask me for it, sending the message by the gentleman who is taking her to you. If you do not need the services of Sister M. Anastasie and if she needs a rest, send her back in the carriage. If Sister M. Anne has too much to do, having a sick person whose care will add to her work, hire a girl and I shall reimburse you for her wages. There is a possibility that our Father (1) will go to see you this week. That is why I am asking Sister M. Apollonie to put off her trip to Longueuil. When I send for Sister Francis de Sales, she can come with her.

Pray for your Mother, who feels more than ever the need of your prayers. Remember that I shall never forget the one who shares with me the religious sentiments we were taught and which will always assure our happiness.

In Jesus and Mary,

Yours very devotedly,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Anne at Beloeil

Longueuil, February 28, 1848

My dear Sister,

What a pleasure it is to see Sisters filled with the spirit of their holy vocation! These Sisters for their Divine Spouse gladly sacrifice their tastes and comfort along with the happiness of remaining close to their Mother in order to advance the glory of our God, so filled are they with love and tenderness for our dear community in particular and for all communities in general. Do not forget to thank Our Lord for so many blessings. I was with you in spirit on the anniversary of your profession. Ask for self-renunciation and you will find that in having renounced all you will find all. By dying to self we find God for Whom we are to live and die.

Our Sisters do not forget you even at recreation; they have you share it with them. All three send you love along with her who loves you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your Sister and Mother,

Sister Marie Rose

To Miss Eulalie Durocher (1), Saint Ours, P. Q.

Longueuil, February, 1848

My dear Eulalie,

I heard your health, instead of improving, continues to get worse. Could it be that you wish to join your sister, our dear Eleanor? If such is God's Will, dear child, I think you will accept it with joy. In this world each day we all risk losing the grace of God; and nothing is more painful than not being able to say, "I shall spend this day without offending God." True happiness is in Heaven. Although you have chosen the religious life, if you make your vows in Paradise you will be all the more happy. I envy your happiness, my dear. Suffer patiently, and if you recover we will receive you with pleasure. If God wills otherwise, may your submission and confidence be perfect.

Greet your good mother and your little brothers for me. It would please me to hear from you.

Your loving aunt,

Sister Marie Rose

To Father Eusebe Durocher, O.M.I.

Longueuil, February, 1848

My dear Brother,

Perhaps you do not know our little niece Eulalie is critically ill. Like our dear Eleanor, she has tuberculosis. I envy her happiness, I assure you. She will go on her way to Heaven without having offended God. She is very happy. Truly she is stealing Heaven. Dear brother, we, what are we doing on earth? Let us at least be good religious and profit by the trials God sends us so as to blot out our many sins.

Please pray for Eulalie and for her who will always remain

Your very devoted sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Father L. M. Brassard

Longueuil, March 28, 1848

Reverend Father,

We are very grateful for the use of your piano which you have let us have for several years. Your request for its return is very just. We are resigned

in this matter as in others. We recall that when the last piano was purchased we asked you to choose whichever one you might wish. What we said then we now repeat. You may take whichever one will suit you best, and you may have it to-day if you wish. We still have three tables that do not belong to us and I shall have them taken to you as soon as possible. We do not know whether we have other things in the house belonging to you. If you recall any other items, please let me know.

Please accept our gratitude for all your kindnesses.

I remain,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

A letter composed by Mother Marie Rose for a postulant who wished to receive the holy habit.

Longueuil, March, 1848

Dear Papa,

I know from experience that your children's happiness is also your happiness. Therefore, I must tell you the joy that is mine as I see approaching the day when I shall be clothed in the religious habit. Dear Papa, you will make this little sacrifice generously and surely you will not stand in the way of my happiness by refusing to give your permission. Please believe that although I may not go to see you and embrace you, I still love and cherish you. I hope Melina's visit will make up for the absence of your Hermine and that you will allow me to take the step my heart yearns for so ardently.

A message from you will complete my happiness and this new kindness will increase the affection of her who with love will always be,

Your very devoted daughter,

Hermine de Rouville

To Father T. Durocher, Pastor at Beloeil

Longueuil, April 3, 1848

My dear Brother,

I was a little surprised that you had been told I was ill. It is true and it happens so often that it is difficult to believe the contrary. However, these reports are false. I am just a little tired. The trials God has sent us give me strength. You will be interested to know our problems with Father Brassard

are finished. We still have to pay him over 1200 pounds and we shall do this by yearly payments of 150 pounds along with interest. As you see, the poor Sisters will need the help of Divine Providence if they are not to become bankrupt.

I am very grateful for the offer of your carriage. Could I see a way to pay for it I should accept it with pleasure. As you must realize, the contracting of new debts presents difficulties.

I want to tell you about a thought I had when settling our business with Father Brassard. He used to be very devoted to us; what was his was ours. We counted on his protection; he promised it. But he is human; and everything in this world changes. Suppose now the pastor of Beloeil would act in the same way. Do not be angry with me because of this idea. If you think it wise to keep an account of what you give and what you lend, I would be more satisfied. If the proposition is distasteful to you, do not blame me. In this I am guided by prudence. I have a deep conviction that you will continue to protect us.

Sister Theresa of Jesus spoke to me about some changes to be made in the Beloeil convent. She wishes to put the chapel upstairs where the recreation room is now and to enlarge the procure and the refectory according to the plans we discussed this winter at the time of my trip to Beloeil. If you think these changes would be advisable and there are sufficient funds, I would have no objections.

Father Durocher is well. He wrote me today and I saw him on the feast of St. Joseph.

Please accept my respectful greetings and my great thanks for the things you have given us and for the sugar Sister M. de Sales brought me. I am very grateful to you for the care you gave this dear Sister. I wrote to the Doctor to thank him, too.

In the Divine Presence remember her who will always be,

Your very devoted sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Theresa of Jesus, Superior at Beloeil

Longueuil, April 3, 1848

My dear Sister,

Your letter giving expression to your feelings of resignation edifies and consoles me. Had I entered religion to lead a pleasant and comfortable life, I should indeed have been deceived. I find what I expected; and truly what could she expect who has merited hell and wishes Heaven, not only wishes it but hopes for it? The Cross! My God, no matter how heavy it may seem, on account of my sins it is too light.

Our transactions with the Pastor are finished. We still have to pay him over 1200 pounds in installments of 150 pounds a year with interest. I hope God

will help us and that we will be able to pay this debt. We also gave him back his piano that he asked for.

Aware of our difficulties, I wrote to my brother, Pastor at Beloeil, to come to an understanding with you about the loans he gave and asked him to give you in writing a memorandum of what he is giving outright and of what he expects to have repaid. I do not think he will find it a bad idea.

Sister Francis de Sales tells me you are asking permission to make the changes you spoke to me about this winter, that is, to enlarge the procure and to move the chapel upstairs. I should like you to see if the Pastor wishes this. If it is agreeable to him and if you can make these improvements without going into debt, I give you permission.

I have not forgotten my promise, and I still hope to be able to carry it out. Live in peace and do not worry about our problems. They are in God's hands and it is He Who has guided us. If we place no obstacles in His way, He will be able to get us out of our predicament.

Tell Sister M. Apollonie not to be troubled about my health. I only had a slight illness. Let her be troubled rather about the state of my soul. Moreover, I am on earth to suffer; it is my lot; I must be satisfied with it, as indeed I am.

Our dear Sister Francis de Sales is much better and gets stronger from day to day. She is very grateful for the loving care you took of her.

I send you my love and I beg you to pray for her who will always be united with you in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Sister Marie Rose

Mrs. . . .

Longueuil, May, 1848

Dear Madam,

The affection I have for Miss Wood, who has always been very dear to you, prompts me to write you in her behalf. She has already told you of her request and I second it and wish to add my testimony of her good conduct.

During the eight months she has been with us as a postulant, we have come to know her and we can say she has been very courageous during this first period of her novitiate. She has given evidence of her good dispositions and we have every reason to believe that her piety and virtue will never forsake her, above all when she will have made the sacred contract which is the one thing for which she longs.

Permit me to congratulate you too for having made her present situation possible. She is filled with gratitude for your favors, for she thinks that after God, it is to you she owes her religious vocation since it was through your

instrumentality she came into the Church. You have been a mother to her and the remembrance of you will never leave her heart. She will be an angel on earth who will pray constantly for you. That is all she can do in recognition of all your kindnesses

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Bishop Bourget, Bishop of Montreal

Longueuil, June 15, 1848

Your Lordship,

Sister M. M. . . . doubtless will speak to you about the boarding school pupils. Her observations are very often just. If only she could limit herself to making them to us without questioning the children and letting them see things. When she does this, teachers are discouraged and the pupils' confidence in them is lessened.

We have Miss Wood to present to you. The council has permitted her to receive the holy habit if you judge it fitting. This ceremony and that of profession are arranged for the second or third of July if these days will be convenient for you.

Father Quevillon, pastor at St. Elizabeth's, is offering us a mission in his parish, but the conditions do not seem favorable.

If it is agreeable to you, Your Lordship, I think it is about time to see about which Sisters will go to the missions of St. Timothy and St. Lin. . . .

Permit me, prostrate at your feet, to repeat the request I have already made to be relieved of the heavy cross of being the Superior. The numerous faults I am guilty of and my unfitness make me hope you will not reject my plea. You will have mercy on a poor creature who needs to sigh and weep with bitterness of soul.

Please bless my dear Sisters and her who notwithstanding her miseries is

Your very humble, obedient daughter and servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Anne at Beloeil

Longueuil, July 12, 1848

My dear Sister,

Would that it had been possible to answer your letters sooner. When God puts obstacles in the way, we must be submissive. Here we are at the end of the school year and you will soon have the happiness of arriving joyous and glad to

tell your Sisters how happy you have been to make sacrifices generously in order to procure the glory of Our Lord, Who made such greater ones for each of us. Be assured, Sister, that we, too, have striven. Our charity, silence, and exact observance of our holy rules will prove to you we do not wish to be outstripped. Accordingly, dear Sister, you will give us some of your zeal and in exchange we shall try by our good example to assist you in recollection and in the renewal of the spirit of your holy vocation.

I leave you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Yours very devotedly and lovingly,

Sister Marie Rose

To Bishop Bourget of Montreal

Longueuil, July 24, 1848

Your Lordship,

You very kindly promised that Father Allard would preside at our examinations the twenty-seventh of this month. Allow me to express my gratitude.

Perhaps it would be well to tell you the Pastor of Longueuil told the parishioners he would be away all week. Father Chiniquy told us he could not attend the examinations.

Please accept the expression of my complete obedience.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Bishop Bourget of Montreal

Longueuil, August 5, 1848

Your Lordship,

Prostrate at your feet, I beg your blessing for my Sisters and myself. If it is agreeable to you, would you please send the document announcing the episcopal visitation of our community. Our retreat will start the seventh and end on the fifteenth.

Please accept the expression of my respect and submission.

Your very humble and obedient daughter,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

(Bishop Bourget returned the letter with the following answer:)

Reverend Mother,

Tuesday morning I shall go to Longueuil. I shall see the Sisters as I am accustomed to do in the other communities. If it is necessary I shall draw up a document to regulate everything. Tomorrow the novena to prepare for the Assumption begins. Unite yourselves with all the fervent souls who will be making it and know that Mary will come to your assistance.

Montreal, August 5, 1848

+ Ignace, Bishop of Montreal

To His Lordship Bishop E. Guigues of Bytown

Longueuil, August, 1848

Your Lordship,

We could not let Father Allard (1) leave without asking him to tell you the feelings our Sisters and I have for him.

We prayed for you at the time when you were being united to the Church of Bytown by eternal bonds. We congratulate your flock because of the kind Shepherd given it. It is now harvesting most abundant blessings, as it were the first fruits of your episcopacy. It is true this event deprives us of your guidance, but your spirit will live among us in the persons of the Reverend Fathers to whom, because of your intervention, we are still confided.

Besides the above advantage we owe to your affection, we hope to be able at all times to ask your counsel, to have a large share in your prayers, and never to lose the place you gave us in your heart.

The whole community offers you its humble respects and gratitude and at your feet begs you to give it your blessing.

Your very grateful daughter,

Sister Marie Rose

To Bishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal

Longueuil, August 20, 1848

Your Lordship,

We finished our retreat on the sixteenth. Reverend Father Superior (2) wishes to continue the exercises to their end. It rests with us now to profit from your fatherly advice as well as from that of the Fathers. As for myself,

I hope with God's grace to work more zealously for my own sanctification as well as for the advancement of those whom God has confided to me. I count on the fervent prayers you will send to Heaven to accomplish this. My principal resolution is to act only after I have acknowledged my weakness and invoked the Holy Spirit.

We are busy with the appointments, with the missions and the various charges to be assigned in the house

Are we to keep the number of pupils at seventy as Your Lordship proposed? We have never exceeded that number. It does not seem there will be many this year.

The feast of the Pastor of Longueuil is on the twenty-fifth, feast of St. Louis. We should like to know your wishes in regard to it. Are we to act as in preceding years, calling on him, inviting him to come and say Mass in the convent, and offering him a gift we will have prepared in the course of the year?

Your Lordship, please bless her who at your feet begs this favor.

Please accept the expression of our gratitude and respect.

Your very humble and obedient daughter,

Sister Marie Rose

To some young people desirous of entering the novitiate (1)

Longueuil, August 31, 1848

Dear young ladies,

We have received your letters and we are interested in your desire to enter our Congregation.

If as I believe your call comes from God and conditions are satisfactory, you may be admitted.

I ask you to place yourselves under the protection of Jesus and Mary, since they have inspired you with the noble desire of consecrating yourselves to them forever.

Please accept the expression of my feelings of esteem and affection.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister Marie Anne at Beloeil

Longueuil, September 9, 1848

My dear Sister,

In reply to your letter, I recommend that you read every day two verses of

the twelfth chapter of the second book of the Imitation of Christ. Meditate well on what is there expressed. You will find that it is only by self-denial and bearing one's cross courageously that we reach Heaven.

You have many opportunities of practicing this self-denial; do not let them be lost. They are beautiful pearls given you by God for the adornment of your crown. There will be empty spaces if you let them get away from you. Obedience points out the straight path. Be courageous, dear Sister, life passes quickly, and we will have all eternity in which to rejoice. The less joy we taste in this life, the greater will be our happiness in the next.

Every day I ask Our Lord to reward your sacrifices by giving you great courage. May He grant you the grace to live in great charity with your Sisters and in close union with Him.

As always,

Your loving Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Ignace at Beloeil

Longueuil, September 21, 1848

My dear Sister,

I hope the angel given you to weep in your place has continued his loving charge. I entreat you to let him do it. You must think about what I have so often said to you: you are no longer a child. You have taken up the Cross of Our Divine Savior; do not drag it. Carry it courageously; see the holy Will of God in everything. Our Lord has promised Heaven to those who do violence to themselves to earn it.

Be assured, dear Sister, that I do not forget you in the presence of Our Lord. May He give you the strength to drink a small portion of His bitter chalice. I send my love to you and to all our dear Sisters and I remain,

Your very devoted Sister and Mother,

Sister Marie Rose

To Father Pierre Dufresne (1), Professor at the Seminary, St. Hyacinth

Longueuil, September, 1848

Reverend Father,

On your recommendation we will receive with pleasure Miss C. The enclosed prospectus will give you all the information you wish.

We are always very touched by the interest you take in our community. We must thank God for having given us protectors who, being friends of God, will surely draw down upon us His blessings. With all ardor we beg God to shower on their undertakings the graces which will ensure their success.

We hope the illness which has stricken so many of your pupils will not last and that soon they will be able to resume their studies. Several of our Sisters were very tired for a few days, but now they are all very well.

Please extend to the Reverend Superior and to the directors of the school our respects and best wishes for the well-being of your school. With feelings of deep gratitude, I remain,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

P. S. We have heard from Sister M. Claire. She is very well. As for Sister M. Agnes, lest her conscience might become involved, she is planning to write you soon.

To Sister Marie Patrick at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, October 11, 1848

My dear Sister,

It is a pleasure to learn you are reasonable. Blessed be God for this! Keep on working to do to death that naughty Irish girl that sometimes shows in you. She gets angry and irritable, but with God's help she will die and Sister M. Patrick will live wholly for Him Whom she has chosen for her Spouse. Be as faithful as possible to your religious exercises. When it is impossible for you to make them, give them up for God.

Try to deal gently with Sister M. Apollonie's sensitive temperament by encouraging her to bear the anxiety she experiences. Share her sorrows and be tactful about her in regard to Sister M. Madeleine. Assist the latter as much as you can with the manual labor. Acting thus, you will be loved by all. When you come back to Longueuil you will find three additional Sisters: Sister Francis of Assisi, Sister M. Eulalie, and Sister Mary of the Cross.

See to it that Sister M. Stanislas does not get ahead of you. She already has eleven pupils (1). I heard from them and they are all well and full of courage. Let us try through motives pleasing to Our Lord to excel one another. I have also heard from the Sisters at Beloeil; they are all well.

We had the pleasure of seeing Bishop Guigues, who inquired about you. Our good Father does not forget you. Pray for all of us and particularly for Father Durocher and for her who will always be,

Your very devoted Sister and Mother,

Sister Marie Rose

P. S. Sister M. Madeleine will take you some very precious medals. Do not forget to ask her for them.

To Sister Marie Ignace at Beloeil

Longueuil, November 12, 1848
at nine o'clock in the evening

My dear Sister,

Right now you are in a state of anxiety, thinking your first letter did not reach me. You are troubled by the fear of having your secrets made known. Be consoled, my dear Sister; both letters reached me. If sincerely and courageously you keep on fighting your enemy, he will flee and leave you in peace. Do not spare yourself. One must not give up the struggle until the victory is won. In this fight your generosity inspires hope of a cure. You show so much good will that God, Who is never outdone in generosity, will hear your prayer. Then you will overcome everything. I repeat, do not give up. You will have much consolation when you remember that others are worth so much more than you; then you will have a hard time entertaining thoughts to the contrary. Never let the children see your tears. Let them always find you calm and you will win their hearts.

If you think that telling your difficulties to the confessor would help, open your heart to him; do this in the confessional.

As your meditation, consider your heart so filled with miseries that there would be enough of them to load a hundred carts. See so much pride in your heart that Our Lord can scarcely find there a place to stand. Nevertheless, this good Savior does not reject you. Quite the contrary; He urges you, begs you to live only for Him as you promised by your vow of chastity.

I send you my love, dear Sister. I hope you will fly in the way of perfection. Greet our dear Sisters for me. I am,

Your very devoted Sister and Mother,

Sister Marie Rose

To Reverend Father Telmon, O.M.I.

Longueuil, November, 1848

Very honored Father,

On the twentieth of November we received with inexpressible pleasure your kind letter of the fifteenth.

If the few days you spent with us made up for our previous indifference, we are indeed happy.

The poverty of your little chapel touches our hearts and urges us to try to do something for you. The things you asked for will soon be ready and we hope they will reach you without costing too much. When you receive them, please let us know if you wish more of them. The lack of zeal on the part of your people in regard to divine worship comes, doubtless, from their never having been made to understand its beauty. We shall ask Our Lord to preserve your health so that you may make our holy religion known and loved.

I can understand easily how Reverend Father Gaudet must suffer in not being able to help you more (1). Please give our kind greetings to this splendid Father. We recall the good example of his virtue, and our boarding school pupils remember him with pleasure.

There is no change in our dealings with the Pastor. The trials which God wills to have us undergo are not ended. We are told, however, that he has great esteem for the community. Had I left the world to embrace religious life so as to live in tranquillity and peace, I would have been disappointed in my expectations. You know, Reverend Father, this was not my objective. The only thing I regret and bemoan is my failure to show my Sisters the example of virtue they have a right to expect of me.

Your letter helped me. You could not doubt that, because there is nothing so consoling when one is being tried as to know that those to whom one has laid bare one's soul are sympathetic.

Our community will survive by the grace of God and the help of fervent prayer on the part of those who are devoted to us. We always count on yours, Reverend Father. All the Sisters recall with pleasure the moments you spent with us.

I remain, very honored Father,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Reverend Z. Moreau, Bishop's Residence, Montreal

Longueuil, 1848

The Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary at Longueuil was founded in 1843. The education of girls is the purpose of the Institute. At present there are twenty-five professed Sisters, twelve novices, ten postulants, fifty-six boarders, and about the same number of day pupils.

This first foundation has made three other foundations. The first was established in the parish of Beloeil, the second in the parish of St. Timothy. Each of these foundations has fifty-six resident pupils and as many day pupils. The third foundation is at St. Lin and has sixty pupils.

Reverend Father,

I am happy to send you the list you requested for Quebec and I ask you to

excuse my delay in answering caused by so much business.

Please accept my most respectful greetings.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister M. Stanislas at St. Lin

Longueuil, 1848

My dear Sister,

It was a pleasure to receive your two letters. I should have liked to answer them sooner. You tell me in the first the distress you experience because of Sister M. Ursule's corrections. You must accept all in good part, without being disturbed. You must humble yourself because of your faults, pay more attention to your duties, accept with gratitude the corrections you have merited, and do better in the future. Pray to Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin. They will not abandon you.

In your last letter you ask to have charge of the day pupils. In regard to this, wait for the visit of one of our Sisters which will take place soon.

Take advantage of the good dispositions God gives you now and be faithful to them.

I leave you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Very devotedly yours,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister M. Ursule, Superior at St. Lin

Longueuil, 1848

My dear Sister,

. Do not be absurd and you will be able to carry on, but not without suffering. God has told us it is necessary to suffer if we are to reach Heaven.

If your defects could make you sick enough to oblige you to get rid of them, you would be very happy.

Very soon you will probably have a Sister Visitatrice. Try to profit by this occasion. Sister M. Stanislas will wait for this visit to find out if she is to teach the day pupils.

My dear Sister, be courageous. You are not at the end of your course. If we work well in this life, we will have all eternity in which to rest.

All the Sisters are fairly well and do not forget you. I am the one who, more than ever, only serve the purpose of exercising the charity of others. I have a great desire to go and see you. Doubtless, God sees that I would do you no good. I send my love to you and to all the Sisters.

I am, very united with you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Anne

Longueuil, December 12, 1848

My dear Sister,

The beautiful feast of Christmas we are going to celebrate gives me an opportunity to ask you to consider deeply Jesus Who is to be born and Who submits to those humiliations so repugnant to self-love and which are so much alive in us. Let us go to the crib to be cured, to have our pride silenced and our cowardice confounded. Let us go there to learn from God become a child to be submissive and to realize what we are. God is born, surrounded by animals, while we have difficulty in bearing with our Sisters, who love us and wish our happiness. We dare to consider ourselves important, preferring ourselves to others. Ah! Stupid pride, I hate you and I flee from you. The least of all the Sisters, I want to be happy in being so considered. These are the thoughts you must have deep in your heart and they will be your consolation.

I send you my love. Pray for her who will always be happy to help you in the practice of virtue and who believes it her duty to share your difficulties.

Yours very devotedly,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Madeleine, Superior at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, December 16, 1848

My dear Sister,

The good news brought us by Miss D. C. gives us a double measure of pleasure since we are assured of an opportunity to send you an answer. We saw the Pastor of St. Lin, who came to get a third Sister. He is very interested in his convent. Sister M. Claire has gone to be with the two others. Sister M. Ursule is no more expeditious there than here. They have twenty-eight boarders and forty-two day pupils.

Sister Veronica went to visit the Beloeil mission. The change of teachers has contributed greatly towards lessening the number of resident pupils. Sister Francis de Sales is still diffident about dealing with strangers. The boarding school here has forty-three boarders, twelve half-boarders, and fifty day pupils. Our classes go along fairly well. English seems to be gaining ground.

We had the Bishop's visit the ninth of this month. He encouraged our children to speak English and above all encouraged the teachers to do the same.

His Lordship regulated several things, above all those having to do with the bursar's office and the missions:

1. The Sisters on the missions will do no business with the Montreal merchants. For their needs they will speak to the Superior, who will judge whether it is fitting or not that purchases be made.
2. A Sister will be named to be the treasurer for the missions and to carry on the business of the Sisters on mission.
3. Each mission will send to the treasury of the community the money they can place aside so that the above-mentioned Sister may be able to make the necessary purchases.
4. The Superiors of the mission houses are to consult the Superior General for all business dealings, no matter how unimportant. Above all this shall be done when there is question of any contract with the school commissioners or other persons.

In regard to fasting, you are dispensed as well as the teachers. If Sister M. Julienne is not too tired and you think she is able to fast, you will decide. If this matter will cause you any embarrassment, send them to their confessor.

All the Sisters are well and send you affectionate greetings.

Your very devoted Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Reverend Mother Saint Madeleine, Superior
of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame

Longueuil, December 27, 1848

Very esteemed Mother,

The year that is about to end finds our hearts full of gratitude. Accordingly, it is with happiness that our Sisters and I take this favorable occasion to renew our expression of affection in your regard. The memory of your kindnesses and particularly the interest you have shown this year in all that touches our community have but tightened the bonds of love which have always united us to your Sisters. With deep affection we send our loving wishes for your cherished congregation and we beg Our Lord to shower His richest blessings on all who belong to it.

Please accept our expression of deepest gratitude. I remain, very esteemed Mother,

Yours very sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister Marie Ignace at Beloeil

Longueuil, December 28, 1848

My dear Sister,

I received your New Year's letter with pleasure. Although you were not in our midst, you were in our thoughts. Consequently, you were not forgotten. I wish you the spirit of sacrifice which will make you happy wherever obedience will send you. That is the spirit which must animate the humble daughters of Jesus and Mary. Believe me, dear Sister, it is only by this sign that we shall be recognized.

I am expecting you Saturday, when we shall celebrate the great feast of the Name of Jesus, that Name so dear to us. This will be the greatest pleasure you can give to her who is always united with you in Jesus and Mary.

Your very devoted Sister and Mother,

Sister Marie Rose

To Mr. and Mrs. Berthelet

Longueuil, December 31, 1848

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Berthelet,

At the beginning of this new year allow us to offer you our greetings and the expression of the gratitude we owe you.

If Heaven answers our wishes, you will live a long while for the happiness of those around you, for the profit of society, which justly values your talents and virtues. Your name will forever be held in benediction in our community, which has shared in your beneficence.

Accept our gratitude and our respectful greetings.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister Marie Madeleine, Superior at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, January 9, 1849

My dear Sister,

The trip to St. Timothy's, planned for such a long time, is finally going to take place. We hope the fine roads will make communication easier and give us the pleasure of seeing you.

Doubtless, you have suffered much because of having no chapel. This sacrifice, along with many others, will not go unrewarded. I do not wish you courage, for I know you have it. I assure you I have often shared your difficulties.

I am waiting for letters from our Sisters so that I may write to them. In the meantime, I wish them courage and zeal in order to correspond worthily to our holy vocation.

For New Year's remembrance please give them the enclosed pictures; and if it will please you, share with them this cornucopia of sugared nuts, but take your share.

We have eight in the infirmary with heavy colds.

I hope the Holy Name of Jesus will cure all. Could you celebrate the feast in our chapel, you would be warmer.

I am, my dear Sister, very sincerely yours for all time,

Your very devoted Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Claire at St. Lin

Longueuil, January 9, 1849

My dear Sister,

Your letter pleased me very much. I should like to hear from you more frequently and have more details about your interior life. Although you are far from me, your salvation and your advancement in virtue always interest me greatly. In writing me, have no fears. Your faults do not surprise me and your frankness in speaking of them will help you to correct them.

I understand easily that you have sacrifices to make but it is time to begin making them if we do not want to arrive in eternity with empty hands.

By what Sister M. Ursule tells me, I see you are able to perform your exercises of piety and to keep silence. This pleases me, and it will procure for all of you a way to preserve your religious spirit and your interior life. This will give you the means of doing all the good possible to the children confided to you by God.

Do not fail to ask for your permissions every day at the specified time. May an obedient spirit guide you in everything. When we obey, we are always secure. If the one commanding is wrong, that is her responsibility; we are to submit. Pray to the Infant Jesus to give you this beautiful virtue of which He is such a perfect example. Love to contemplate this Infant God. Tiny as He is, He speaks to us admirably well.

My dear Sister, love this Divine Infant, follow and imitate Him.

I leave you in the peace of Our Lord and under the protection of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Your very devoted Sister and Mother,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Stanislas at St. Lin

Longueuil, January 12, 1849

My dear Sister,

Your letter that I received with pleasure calls for answer. Believe me, dear Sister, you have a large share in the prayers I address to Our Lord for the advancement of each one in virtue.

May Heaven bless you and give you the zeal and courage so essential for you in order to fulfill the end of our holy vocation.

Your devoted and loving Sister and Mother,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Claire at St. Lin

Longueuil, January 12, 1849

My dear Sister,

I can only say a few words to you. Always try to overcome your faults; be submissive and obedient. Like to have Sister M. Stanislas tell you your defects and follow her advice. I hope to see you soon. Do not go out without telling your Sisters. If you won't be angry, I shall allow you to criticize Sister M. Stanislas for having deserted you in order to come and see us.

Do not forget you are to obey Sister M. Ursule.

Yours very devotedly,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Ignace at Beloeil

Longueuil, January 12, 1849

My dear Sister,

I read with pleasure your letter filled with good dispositions. My Sisters shared it with me. Be assured, my dear Sister, you are not forgotten. I thank you for your good wishes. I pray God to bless the good dispositions He is giving you and to fill you with esteem and deference for your Sisters. May He grant you the zeal and love a Sister consecrated to God must have to train children in virtue and learning.

May the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, which we celebrate next Sunday, be your consolation and move you to walk courageously in the royal road of the holy Cross.

All the Sisters join me in wishing you a happy New Year.

Your very devoted Sister and Mother,

Sister Marie Rose

To our dear Sisters Francis de Sales, Marie Ignace, and Marie Anne at Beloeil

Longueuil, March 6, 1849

My very dear Sisters,

I am sending you Sister Veronica of the Crucifix as Sister Visitatrice and I am giving her for this purpose all the authority expressed in the Rule. She will see the Sisters for direction, hold the chapter of faults, and make necessary regulations for the classes. On her return I hope she will be able to give me wonderful evidence of your good dispositions because of the eagerness with which you will have tried to make her work easy.

I send you my love and remain very sincerely,

Yours devotedly,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister Marie Madeleine, Superior at Saint Timothy's

Longueuil, March 15, 1849

My dear Sister,

I have just received your letter. At present we are unable to send you Sister Marie Scholastica. We shall try to examine Miss Russell. Delle Lecours

has returned from St. John's. Perhaps she could go to you. You would have to furnish a piano because she would not take hers.

The community is still afflicted with illness. Good Sister Alphonse has been critically ill. Only the last couple of days have we thought her out of danger. If God saves her for us, we shall owe her cure to St. Joseph.

We are having a big feast-day celebration the nineteenth. Unite yourselves with us during this blessed month.

I send you and the Sisters my love and beg you to believe me,

Your very devoted Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Bishop Bourget

Longueuil, March 19, 1849

Your Lordship,

Please allow me to tell you the favors we received during the month of March through the intercession of St. Joseph.

On learning of the serious illness you had, our anxiety, Your Lordship, was very great. Our feeble prayers joined to those of so many fervent souls touched the heart of God. Rather, this good Father knows that such young children still have need of the care and support of your arms. We learned with joy that you were convalescing and we bless God and St. Joseph for having saved you for the happiness of your flock.

The cure of our dear Sister M. Alphonse is also attributed to this illustrious saint.

Our boarding school shared in the favors obtained for us by St. Joseph. Our teacher Sister M. Elizabeth seems more courageous, the children's studies more serious, and more emphasis is being placed on religious instruction and prayers.

News of the temporal favors God has given us should be shared with you. The first of the month we named St. Joseph head treasurer of the community, confiding to him all the possessions of the house and placing in his hands six francs, asking him to obtain for us six thousand. This great saint went beyond our requests. We were able to pay on our debts over 300 pounds including the sum of 209 pounds we owed the Pastor for this year. A dowry of 147 pounds came to our rescue. The dowry Mr. de Rouville gave his dear daughter, a donation of 500 pounds payable in six months, almost clears our debt to the Pastor.

We could not see with indifference the gracious way the Pastor received us, the kind counsel he gave us, and above all his presence among us for the beautiful feast of St. Joseph.

This feast was indeed very consoling. Our hearts were filled with joy and we gladly consecrated ourselves to this great saint.

This letter is already too long; nevertheless, I shall still add a few words about our missions.

The news from Beloeil is indeed consoling. Sister Francis de Sales seems to satisfy the Pastor and she wins the confidence of the people. The classes are getting along fairly well.

I have heard nothing from St. Timothy's for a month.

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Our teachers and resident pupils hope Your Lordship will visit their classes soon. If it will be agreeable to Your Lordship, we shall go to Montreal soon to discuss with you the year-end examinations and a few expenditures we shall have to make for our house.

Please accept the expression of our respectful feelings in your regard. Deign to bless all of us and in particular her who is, Your Lordship,

Your very humble and very obedient daughter
and servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister M. Ursule, Superior at St. Lin

Longueuil, March 22, 1849

My dear Sister,

I received your letter of March 18 with the box but too late to send it back. However, Sister Theresa of Jesus gave your messenger a thousand small hosts and one hundred large ones.

You must remember that we have often been told in our instructions on religious life that all our sufferings come from our faults. According to this principle, which I think is true, you must humiliate yourself in the measure of your suffering, recognize your faults, and correct them . . . Often recall that God loves to reign in simple, upright hearts. I find nothing calling for a reply in your last two letters. I am happy because of the good news you give about the Sisters and I hope they will continue to do good.

Kindly give Sister M. Stanislas and Sister M. Claire a little time to talk to each other; being monitress one of the other, they need it.

In regard to the account you owe the community, you have already been told, if I am not mistaken, that you must pay it as soon as possible. I never believed it necessary to send to you a bill, above all since my Assistant (1) settled the matter with you according to the directive mentioned above.

The Bishop judges it fitting for you to follow the regulation given by my Sister Assistant. If the Pastor (1) finds it desirable for you to have a flour bin and kneading trough, you may have them made.

We see no disadvantages in having Sister M. Claire take the third section of arithmetic; however, she must do so only if the Pastor considers it fitting. As for the examinations, you must consult him and act according to his wishes.

The time best suited for you will be the first or second of August. If this is not convenient, you will let us know about it. I am sending you the book of dialogues along with your permit.

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Claire at St. Lin

Longueuil, March, 1849

My dear Sister,

I hope you have been better since I received your last letter. If you had a good spirit you would still be happy in spite of your serious faults, since God lets you see them and gives you a horror of them.

Indeed, you must be very humiliated to see yourself so attached to your own will, which can only lead you to a miserable end if you do not overcome it. Discouragement comes from the devil as does the revolt of the will. A humble person sees her faults, is sorry for them, strives with energy, but is never discouraged.

You may write to Sister Assistant as you would write to any other Sister. Be very careful to watch over the children confided to you. Pray much to Our Lord that He may set your spirit right.

I am united with you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Very-devotedly yours,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister Marie Madeleine, Superior at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, March, 1849

My dear Sister,

I delayed answering your letter in order to see Miss Rousselle and to find out if she is in a position to give good principles in music. She is here, and in two weeks a definitive answer can be given you. In any case, she will go back to St. Timothy's only when the first boats go. Her parents do not seem to care about furnishing a piano. The rental of a piano will cost you at least twenty

francs, ten shillings a month, if not more.

I am writing to the Pastor to find out if he thinks the music venture will be successful.

Sisters M. Scholastica, M. Euphrasie, and M. Joseph pronounced their vows and we received three new postulants. They themselves will tell you what a beautiful day it was. The material you ask about is five shillings.

Please accept my affectionate greetings and those of the Sisters. Share them, please, with your Sisters.

Sister M. Alphonse is on the road to recovery.

I am your very devoted Sister,

Sister Mary Rose

To Reverend Father J. O. Archambault, Pastor at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, March, 1849

Reverend Father and dear Cousin,

Since our Sisters went to St. Timothy's I have not had the pleasure of seeing you. However, I have not given up my wish to see you and I hope to be able to go to St. Timothy's during the summer.

I think this foundation continues to cause you much anxiety. I would like to know if our Sisters fulfill your wishes by their zeal and the attentive care they must give the children confided to them. They wish to teach music, but I wish to make no decision about this until I know your views on the subject. They have no piano. To rent one would cost at least twenty francs, ten shillings a month and they would pay the teacher at least seven to ten shillings. Would they have enough pupils to take care of these expenses? I am relying on your kindness for an answer to these questions. If your reply is affirmative, when the boats start again we could send the musician and the piano.

Please accept, Reverend Father, the gratitude of our community and the respectful greetings of

Yours very devotedly,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister M. Apollonie at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, May 5, 1849

My dear Sister,

I received your letter. The good news you give me about your spiritual life

makes up for the sorrow I feel about the difficulties you are having with your class. In spite of the obstacles, and there will always be obstacles, strengthened by God's help and that of His holy Mother, you will improve. The more you suffer with patience, calm, and resignation, the more God will love and bless you.

Remember you became a religious in order to suffer. You said to yourself: I have committed many sins; I have merited hell; what shall I do? Do penance; there is nothing else to do. By becoming a religious I shall suffer, but what does it matter? I want to save my soul. This is the penance to be undergone. Courage, then. Let us reach Heaven by the Cross. Yes, suffer all, undergo all silently, cause suffering to no one. This is what God asks of us.

As for your Communions, you must do what your confessor says

I do not know when Sister Assistant will go to see you. In the meantime, do all you can to have your pupils make progress.

We began the month of Mary with joy and we expect great graces from this loving Mother. Each one of us is choosing a virtue to be acquired and each day we have something practical to do to acquire it. She who works hardest will be the most loved by Mary. We shall have some act that will be offered every day for all of you.

All the Sisters are well and send you greetings. Pray for my conversion.

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Madeleine, Superior at St. Timothy's

May 6, 1849

My dear Sister,

Mr. Rousselle told me that on the fifth he will come for his daughter. He will take her to you on Monday, the seventh. I asked him about the arrangements. He told me he would pay his daughter's board if she did not have a sufficient number of music pupils to cover it and that she will use her own piano gratis until vacation. You will receive from him some white aprons and a few other small things for your little Irish girl.

We are all fairly well. I am sorry not to be strong enough to go and see you. I send my love to you and to all our Sisters.

I am united to you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your very devoted Sister,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Francis de Sales, Superior at Beloeil

Longueuil, May, 1849

My dear Sister,

It seems to me I haven't had any letter from you for a long time. Consequently, I will break the silence. The last news I had about you was satisfactory. Bless God, Who tries and consoles as it pleases Him and always for the good of His children.

Mary, whom we are honoring in a special way during this month consecrated to her, will not fail to assist you powerfully in the work God has confided to us. Let us pray to this wonderful Mother with all the fervor possible and let us try to imitate her virtues, above all her great charity and her admirable humility.

Have your boarders pray for us and for the peace of the Church. Cultivate in the hearts of these docile children the beautiful virtues of purity and modesty which should be the distinguishing prerogatives of Christian girls.

Our Sisters are well and send much love. Tell Sister M. Ignace and Sister M. Anne that I consider them very good and very devoted to their duties. Have them ask the Blessed Virgin often for zeal and humility.

Farewell, my dear Sisters. Remember before Our Lord her who is closely united to you in God through Mary.

Very lovingly yours,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Patrick at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, May, 1849

My dear Sister,

In reply to your letter, I beg you during this month of blessings to reflect on the obligation you assumed in making a vow of obedience. In the presence of God consider seriously what you would have to answer for were you to die right now.

My dear Sister, I beg you to look at our divine Master Who prayed for His executioners and gave the last drop of His blood for them. He is our model. He must be imitated.

Every day I offer you to Our Lord, asking Him to bless you and render fruitful the sorrows and the sacrifices you undergo for His love.

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Dr. Brousseau (1)

Longueuil, 1849

Dear Sir,

Sister M. Scholastica, being indisposed, has expressed a wish to have you visit her to ascertain the nature of the illness from which she has been suffering for three days. Considering that you know her temperament and also how much this trip to Longueuil will please the de Rouville family, we have granted her wish. However, I take the liberty of telling you that if the visit is to help her, you should come at once, at the very latest, tomorrow.

Please offer Mrs. Brousseau my very sincere affection.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To the Honorable Judge Quesnel

Longueuil, 1849

Dear Sir,

Please pardon the liberty we take in sending you the bill for Miss Quesnel. The kind welcome you gave the Pastor of Longueuil for similar business and the assurance Doctor Quesnel gave us in regard to your concern for this young lady urge us today to repeat the same request. Your niece is very well. Her conduct and her good will continue to earn the love of her teachers.

With great respect, I am,

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister Marie Patrick at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, July 17, 1849

My dear Sister,

I received with genuine pleasure your little letter and I am happy to be able to answer it.

In just a short time you will again be among your Sisters, who are very eager to see you.

I hope we will be able by our good example, our charity, and exact observance of rule to compensate you for the sacrifices you had to make during the year.

Prepare yourself to draw profit from this period of recollection so as to be strengthened in your vocation.

Be assured I share your sufferings and wish to comfort your poor heart.

If God does not will otherwise, you will have some Sisters for your examinations.

Farewell, dear Sister, I leave you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Sister Marie Rose

To Mr. Larocque

Longueuil, July, 1849

Dear Sir,

We are very grateful for the gift we received from you. These maps are particularly precious because they are so essential. They will provide added encouragement for our Sisters and their pupils.

The School Commissioner must have misplaced somewhere the pictures you had intended for us.

Our awarding of prizes will take place on July thirtieth, and we hope you will be present. You will not refuse us this satisfaction.

In the meantime, let me again express our gratitude.

Your very humble servant,

Sister Marie Rose, Superior

To Sister Marie Madeleine, Superior at St. Timothy's

Longueuil, July, 1849

My dear Sister,

I received your requests. Father Durocher must have given you the answers.

We did not wish to settle anything about the pupils' uniforms before finding out what might be the wish of the Sister Superiors and the Pastors. In regard to your examinations, we should like them to be held on the thirty-first. The Sisters who will be present will bring you the medals and certificates of merit.

As to the manner of awarding the prizes, at Beloeil and St. Lin they do what is done at Longueuil, except there are no crowns. If Father Archambault wishes

to give the prizes the way he suggested, I see no reason why it should not be done.

Sister Marie Rose

To Bishop Ignace Bourget

Longueuil, July, 1849

Your Lordship,

I should have written Your Lordship sooner had we not been expecting you from day to day at Longueuil.

Allow me, in all simplicity, to beg for the visit you promised us. At this time I think it is necessary. This added mark of your kindness, joined with so many others, will increase the gratitude we owe you for so many things. May Heaven reward you for the trouble you undergo in our behalf. May Heaven bless your labors and print deep in our hearts the fatherly advice you give us.

Your Lordship, at your feet the most unworthy of your daughters claims your blessing. With deepest respect, I am

Your very obedient daughter,

Sister Marie Rose

To Bishop Ignace Bourget

Longueuil, August, 1849

Your Lordship,

I think I should be failing in my duty if I did not let you know about the condition of my health. Eight days ago the Doctor stopped all treatments and I am convalescing. However, the cough is still with me but I hope that gaining strength I shall be able to endure it. As for my spiritual life, I still experience the revolts of nature and I have been so cowardly as to fail sometimes. Above all, at recreation I corrected one of my Sisters with great hastiness of temper.

I feel very much the deprivation of the adorable sacrament of the Eucharist. I endure this with calmness and resignation. For little sacrifices I make, our loving Master seems to compensate by granting me deeper union with Him and His divine Mother.

Allow me, Your Lordship, at your feet, to beg for some charge (1) so as to assist, if you consider it fitting, our poor overworked Sisters. I feel indeed I do not merit this favor, but it seems to me that God did not create me to live

in such great tranquillity and without a cross. I desire the cross God, through your instrumentality, wishes to give me.

Please accept, Your Lordship, the expression of the respectful gratitude that the most unworthy of your daughters offers you and condescend to give me your blessing.

Your very humble daughter and servant,

Sister Marie Rose

To Sister Marie Scholastica at St. Lin

Longueuil, August, 1849

My dear Sister,

I only have time to recommend to you reserve with the persons with whom you will have to deal, without failing either in the courtesy or the esteem you must have for everyone. Be kind to the Pastor. Let Sister M. of the Visitation be everywhere your guardian angel. My dear Sister, I trust you to Mary our good Mother. Do not forget to ask her to guide you in everything.

Show respect to Sister M. Eusebe. Help her in the kitchen and with the housework. Do the same for Sister M. of the Visitation. I should like her to be with you as much as possible. Have her do the cooking and everything connected with it.

I hope you will be courageous and that you will not grow weary. Our Divine Lord is there just as He is here. Every day I shall pray for all of you. I send you my love.

Yours very devotedly,

Sister Marie Rose

FOOTNOTES

Page 1

1. Reverend Father Eusebe Durocher, O.M.I.
2. Reverend Father Telmon, O.M.I.
3. Bishop de Mazenod, founder of the Oblates.
4. Father Theophile Durocher, pastor at Beloeil.
5. Hortense Dufresne (the first Sister Marie Claire).

Page 2

1. The servant of Father Durocher at Beloeil.

Page 4

1. He is only a novice.

Page 7

1. A pupil at Longueuil.

Page 11

1. Later, Mrs. Paul Lussier.

Page 14

1. A letter of Bishop de Mazenod to Bishop Bourget, August 10, 1843.

Page 15

1. They are professed Sisters, but novices in missionary life.

Page 18

1. The son of Genevieve Durocher; a nephew of Mother Marie Rose.

Page 21

1. The father of Sister M. Ursule.
2. She became Sister Marie de bon Secours with the Sisters of Providence.
3. Reverend Father Guigues, O.M.I.

Page 22

1. Reverend Father Allard, O.M.I., chaplain.

Page 23

1. Reverend Father Allard, O.M.I., chaplain.

Page 24

1. Reverend Father Guigues was to be named first Bishop of Bytown, now Ottawa.

Page 26

1. A religious of the Gray Sisters of Ottawa.
2. Mr. Calixte Durocher, in accordance with his Father's arrangement, was to pay a semi-annual income to his sister, Mother Marie Rose.
3. Melanie Archambault, his wife.

Page 31

1. The Pastor of St. Timothy's was a first cousin of Mother Marie Rose. The two mothers were sisters.

Page 32

1. The Saint Lawrence River was not sufficiently frozen to cross by sled and too frozen to cross by boat. At that time there was no bridge between Longueuil and Montreal.

Page 34

1. Reverend Father Guigues, O.M.I.

Page 38

1. Reverend Father Allard, O.M.I.

Page 39

1. Daughter of Edward, brother of Mother Marie Rose. He had died on February 20, 1842. In 1848 Eulalie was 15 years old. Later, in 1854, she entered our novitiate. She was obliged to leave while she was still a postulant. Finally she married Mr. Saint Germain.

Page 45

1. Reverend Father Allard, O.M.I.
2. Reverend Father Allard had just been named Superior of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Canada. He replaced Reverend Father Guigues, named Bishop of Bytown, now Ottawa.

Page 46

1. Probably the Misses Bruneau of St. Denis on the Richelieu.

Page 47

1. The brother of Mother Marie Agnes and Sister Marie Claire.

Page 48

1. At the St. Lin convent, recently opened.

Page 50

1. Due to his insufficient knowledge of English.

Page 59

1. Sister Veronica of the Crucifix.

Page 60

1. Reverend Father G. Chabot.

Page 64

1. Brother-in-law of Sister M. Scholastica.

Page 66

1. Bishop Bourget, having heard Mother Marie Rose was unable to receive the Sisters for direction because of her ill health, ordered this dear Mother to rest.

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TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

The French terms for linear and dry measure as used in 1843 - 1849 have been given approximate values. Some of the words are obsolete.

In most instances the monetary terms have been expressed in lump sums and not in specific values.