

Day 230 – Thursday, November 5

As our American neighbours duke it out for the leadership of the country. Let us celebrate our Canadian heritage. Beginnings with St. Marguerite d'Youville

Facts

[Feast day](#): October 16

[Patron](#): of widows, difficult marriages, death of young children

Birth: October 15, 1701

Death: December 23, 1771

Beatified: 1959 by Pope John XXIII

Canonized: December 9, 1990, Vatican Basilica, by Pope John Paul II

Saint Marguerite d'Youville was a French Canadian widow who founded the Order of Sisters of Charity of Montreal, commonly known as the Grey Nuns of Montreal. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II of the Roman Catholic Church in 1990, the first native-born Canadian to be declared a saint.

Foundress of the Sisters of Charity, the [Grey Nuns](#) of Canada. St. Marguerite D'Youville was born at Varennes, Quebec, on October 15, Marie Marguerite Dufrost de La Jemmerais. She studied under the Ursulines, married Francois D'Youville in 1722, and became a [widow](#) in 1730. She worked to support herself and her three children, devoted much of her [time](#) to the Confraternity of the Holy [Family](#) in charitable activities.

In 1737, with three companions, she founded the [Grey Nuns](#) when they took their initial vows; a formal declaration took place in 1745. Two years later she was appointed Directress of the General Hospital in Montreal, which was taken over by the Grey Nuns, and had the rule of the Grey Nuns, with Marguerite as Superior, confirmed by [Bishop](#) of Pontbriand of Quebec in 1755.

She died in Montreal on December 23, and since her death, the [Grey Nuns](#) have established schools, hospitals, and orphanages throughout Canada, the United States, Africa, and South America, and are especially known for their work among the Eskimos. She was [beatified](#) by Pope [John XXIII](#) in 1959 and canonized in 1990 by Pope [John](#) Paul II.

“Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, champagne in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming “WOO HOO what a ride!” (Hunter S. Thompson)

Sincerely,
Fr. Jim Kaptein