

Laurette was born September 5 1935 in Saint-Louis de Gonzague. Her father, Albert, and her mother, Antoinette Brault, had five boys and three girls. While working hard on their modest farm, they gave their children two precious gifts: a deep faith and strong family ties that kept them united throughout their lives.

At five, Laurette attended the local one-room schoolhouse. *When I think of my childhood, she said, The only thing that comes to mind is that happy people don't have much to tell.* This tells us much about the joy in her family. She followed her 5 cousins to Rigaud's Juvénat for high school. *This event, stated Laurette, guided my choice of missionary vocation.*

Laurette undertook the steps to start her religious life. Her parents gave their consent in a letter addressed to the Superior General. *Most Reverend Mother, they wrote, We consent that our daughter, Laurette, enter your community. We have no objections as we understand the beauty of a religious vocation. We are certain that she will be happy and that she will persevere to the end.* It was signed : Mr. and Mrs. Albert Parent. On March 16 1954, Laurette entered the Institute in the convent of Grande-Allée, Quebec City. As she left the house, her mother emotionally told her, *You know God lends us our children and today, he is coming to get you...*

As a novice, she expressed her spiritual readiness in the following words. *Following Sister Assunta, I wish to complete my little deeds with love. I would like Jesus to become my friend, my soulmate. I do not have many words, but I speak to him with my heart.* It is thus that she went forth on her humble spiritual path. In 1959, she celebrated her perpetual profession where she gave herself to Jesus forever.

For the first years, she worked in our printing shop in Quebec City until its closure in the 70s. Then, she completed studies in nurse's aid. After graduation in 1973, she worked for 22 years at Hôtel Dieu Hospital in Quebec City. Years of incredible devotion for her patients. She was always ready to take on the work and give such moving testimony among the senior staff.

She got her strength from living her religious life fraternally with her sisters in their mission of evangelization. Her community was on St-Olivier street, such a mission in one of Quebec City's poor neighbourhood. In 1987, she became local superior of our convent on 18th avenue, Limoilou. She kept working at Hôtel Dieu. *She was fair and always ready to listen to each of us.* stated one of the sisters, *She always welcomed our pastor and the parishioners with the warmth of a loving presence among God's people.*

In 1995, she was asked to stop working at Hôtel Dieu Hospital to work 3 days per week at our infirmary in Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré with our sisters suffering from Alzheimer. She took on this new mission with enthusiasm. She wrote, *No more rush and tensions. Here, I take the time to live at the sisters' pace. It is all about kindness and compassion.*

In 1999, she had the great joy of going on a pilgrimage to Rome in the footsteps of Mother Foundress and to Assisi in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare. It was a gift she treasured and that rekindled her dynamism for her new mission.

When the infirmary moved from Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré to Montreal, Laurette went to work as a podiatrist and became a volunteer with the *street nurse*, Gilles Kègle who has been called a second Mother Theresa. For ten years, she lived a unique experience of going to homes of people in need, alone, sick or handicapped. For the most part, they were abandoned by their families. These friendly visits were for Laurette a way of alleviating suffering. She administered treatments, cleaned their surroundings, did their groceries, and prepared meals. In the face of such misery, she wrote this message of hope published in Meeting Space: *We must marvel at life, keep hoping, and recognize the seeds of the Kingdom in the little things. This encourages us to continue*

our humble work as discrete as yeast in the dough or a grain of mustard in order to discover the deep transformations brought about by Christ in people.

On December 12 2015, she had a surprise visit from the Lord, a stroke that left her half paralyzed. With determination, she regained her physical capacities. she was able to go back to work and overcome daily her limitations with courage. Then at the end of December 2019, another major stroke! The doctors feared for her life. Laurette wants to live! She overcame so many obstacles. She learnt to talk again and move about in a wheelchair. In June 2012, she moved to Carrefour Providence infirmary where she was such an example of courage and resilience. Every evening, she prayed Vespers and shared the Word of God with a small group of declining sisters. It was something to see how she kindly and patiently helped them to find their page or got them to understand the Word of God as she spoke from her heart.

She had strong ties with her family. This brought her such joy. She followed the various family events and she wept when one of them passed away.

On the evening of December 31 2022, came the moment for Laurette to prepare for the ultimate departure. In pain, she was rushed to Sacred-Heart Hospital and the next night,

she met the One she had loved and to whom she had given her life. Go, Laurette, in the peace of the Lord.



A palm Easter crown given to her
by Mother Flore.



***Sister Laurette Parent
(Marie Camille-Assunta)***

Franciscan Missionary of Mary

***Born in Saint-Louis de Gonzague, QC
on September 5 1935.***

***Entered the Institute
in Quebec City, QC
on March 16 1954.***

***Died in Montreal, QC
on January 2 2023***

***in her 88th year,
the 67th of her religious life.***

May she rest in the peace of Christ!