Journey in the Company of Witnesses of Faith

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Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel
# VILLE-MARIE, LAND OF CALLING

*Journey in the Company of Witnesses of Faith*

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## Pre-Visit Activities

Prepare for your journey to the Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum and Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel by completing the following group and individual activities.

## Post-Visit Activities

After completing the tour of the Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum and Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel, review and reflect on your experience through these post-visit activities.

## Catechist’s Guide

This section provides catechists with further instructions, as well as answer keys to the pre- and post-activities included in this pedagogical guide.

## Additional Resources

Want to know more? Use our resource guide to discover more about Marguerite Bourgeoys and other important Witnesses of Faith.

## Contact Information

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PART A: Identification

In order to better understand the life of Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, answer the following questions:

1. Situated in Old Montreal, this chapel is the oldest site of pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The chapel was founded by Marguerite Bourgeoys in 1655, and it was nicknamed the ‘Sailor’s Chapel’. What is the official name of this chapel?

2. What was the main method of transportation in the 17th century used to travel from France to New France? Circle the correct answer.

3. In Marguerite Bourgeoys’ time, what was Montreal called?
PART B: Matching Game

Upon her arrival to Montreal, Marguerite Bourgeoys realized four important accomplishments. Using the following images, match the number that corresponds to the letter:

a. First School of Montreal
b. Congregation of Notre Dame
c. Mountain Mission
d. Caring for the Filles-du-Roy at the Maison Saint-Gabriel
PART C: Discovering Marguerite’s Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Marguerite Bourgeoys listened closely to God’s calling to her. She confirmed this calling by saying ‘yes’ to God, accepting Him into her heart, and allowing Him to guide her actions in the service of others. As a result, Marguerite discovered that she had been given special talents and gifts of the Holy Spirit that would help her accomplish her goals.

Through prayer, Marguerite entered into a conversation with God. She listened closely and said ‘yes’ to His calling.

Look closely at the images on page 4. You have already identified Marguerite’s accomplishments; now, use the following word-bank to identify which gift of the Holy Spirit Marguerite used in the service of others. Write the answer on the line provided under each image.

MULTI-LINGUAL  SEAMSTRESS
WELCOMING

TEACHER  ACTIVE

COUNSEL  REVERENCE

UNDERSTANDING

COURAGE & FORTITUDE
PART D: Discovering your own talents

Write a letter to Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys. Describe your talents and how you can use them in the service of others. Upon your visit to the Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum and Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel, you will offer your letter to Marguerite.

Use the letter head on page 7 to write your letter.
PART A : Answering God’s Calling

Marguerite Bourgeoys arrived in Montreal in 1653. She left her homeland, France, and began a new chapter in her life in Montreal, which was called Ville-Marie at the time.

1. Describe what motivated Marguerite to leave France for Ville-Marie?

2. True or False? To be sure that the choice to come to Ville-Marie was a good one for herself and for others, Marguerite...

   - keeps to herself. She doesn’t want to be influenced by others.
   - discusses her plans with people she trusts.
   - takes the time to pray to God.
   - accepts Mr. de Maisonneuve’s offer to come to Ville-Marie right away.
PART B: Using God’s Gifts & Talents for the Service of Others

1. Fill in the blank:
   
   a. Jeanne Le Ber discovered her talent for __________________ while studying with the Ursulines sisters in Quebec.

   b. Jeanne Le Ber was a recluse. She loved people so much that she spent the majority of her life praying for them. People believed so much in her prayers that they nicknamed her the ___________ _____ _____ -__________.

   c. Among other things, Jeanne Le Ber used her talent to make liturgical clothing. The image below shows an example of Jeanne’s embroidery. The symbol depicted represents the ______________ ______________.

2. 
   
   a. What was Gilbert Barbier’s talent?

   ____________________________

   b. How did he use his talent to help in the development of Ville-Marie?

   ____________________________
PART C: The True Portrait of Marguerite Bourgeoys

Hello! My name is Pierre Le Ber. Surely you remember me! I painted the only true portrait of Marguerite Bourgeoys in 1700, when she was 80 years old. I used my talent to help create a portrait that would serve to help us remember this Witness of Faith for generations.

Analyse the following images. Which portrait did Pierre Le Ber paint? Place a check-mark in the correct box.

[Image of three portraits of Marguerite Bourgeoys]
Hello! Remember me? My name is Marie-Thérèse Gannensagouas. I was a student in Marguerite Bourgeoys’ school. I was so inspired by her that I decided to follow my own calling to serve God as a Witness of Faith and spread His great love to all my family and friends.

Read the following cartoon and use the word bank at the bottom of the page to fill in the missing sections.
PART E: The Holy Spirit Gives Direction in Our Lives

1 Why was Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve called to found Ville-Marie? Circle the right answer.

A He wanted to expand French territory.
B He was bored of living in France.
C To act as a role-model of faith and a witness for God’s love.
D To develop the fur trade with the aboriginal peoples.

2 Fill in the blanks:

a. Who was Jeanne Mance’s god-daughter? __________________

b. In addition to being the co-founder of Montreal, Jeanne Mance was additionally guided by the Holy Spirit to found a _________________, to be used in the service of the colonists of Ville-Marie.

3 Jeanne Le Ber’s parents, Jacques Le Ber and Jeanne Le Moyne, taught her how to trust in the Holy Spirit and listen to God’s calling.

Your family plays an important role in your development as a Christian. They are your personal witnesses of faith.

Take the time to thank them in your own special way for all they have done for you.
PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

PART A: Identification

1. Circle the ship. The Atlantic Ocean divides France and New France; sea voyage was unavoidable.
2. Situated in Old Montreal, the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel (Our Lady of Good Help) was founded in 1655 by Marguerite Bourgeoys.
3. In Marguerite’s time, Montreal was called Ville-Marie (City of Mary).

PART B: Matching Game

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. D

PART C: Discovering Marguerite’s Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. Courage and Fortitude
   Marguerite Bourgeoys needed courage and fortitude in order to found North America’s first non-cloistered religious order. To this day, the Congregation of Notre-Dame works closely with the public to teach, provide help wherever there is need, and offer hospitality.

2. Reverence
   Marguerite Bourgeoys consistently maintained and encouraged others to respect all Aboriginal peoples. Her goal was to share the Good News and to love everyone as brothers and sisters in Christ.

3. Understanding
   As Ville-Marie’s first teacher, Marguerite Bourgeoys was responsible for the instruction of the children of the colony. She used the gift of understanding to transmit knowledge to boys and girls of all ages, backgrounds, and social classes.

4. Counsel
   Marguerite Bourgeoys was known as the ‘Mother of the Colony’ by the Filles du Roy, who were under her protection. She used her gift of counsel to guide the young women of Ville-Marie with compassion, understanding, and love.

PART D: Discovering your own Talents

Students will write a letter to Marguerite Bourgeoys using the letter-head provided. Encourage them to write about their talents. Help guide them through individual or group discussion in their description of how they can put their talents to the service of God and of others.

At the end of their tour of the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel and Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum, they will have the opportunity to offer their letters to Marguerite Bourgeoys. Remind students that their letters will remain confidential.
POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

PART A: Answering God’s Calling

1. Marguerite Bourgeoys meets Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve, co-founder of Ville-Marie, in France in 1653. He asks her to travel back to New France with him and become a teacher for the children of the colony. Marguerite is inspired by the Virgin Mary, takes the time to reflect, and answers God’s calling by saying ‘yes’ to Him and accepting Him in her heart. She agrees to come to Ville-Marie and consecrates her life to the service of God and of others.

2. True or False? To be sure that the choice to come to Ville-Marie was a good one for herself and for others, Marguerite...
   ... keeps to herself. She doesn’t want to be influenced by others. False
   ... discusses her plans with people she trusts. True
   ... takes the time to pray to God. True
   ... accepts Mr. de Maisonneuve’s offer to come to Ville-Marie right away. False

PART B: Using God’s Gifts & Talents for the Service of Others

1. Fill in the blank.
   a. Jeanne Le Ber discovered her talent for sewing while studying with the Ursulines sisters in Quebec.

   b. Jeanne Le Ber was a recluse. She loved people so much that she spent the majority of her life praying for them. People believed so much in her prayers that they nicknamed her the Angel of Ville-Marie.

   c. Among other things, Jeanne Le Ber used her talent to make liturgical clothing. The image below shows an example of Jeanne’s embroidery. The symbol depicted represents the Holy Spirit.

PART C: The True Portrait of Marguerite Bourgeoys

The true portrait of Marguerite Bourgeoys, painted by Pierre Le Ber in 1700:

© Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel | Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum
PART D: Marie-Thérèse Gannensagouas and the Mountain Mission

PART E: The Holy Spirit Gives Direction in Our Lives

1. **C** - To act as a role-model of faith and a witness for God’s love.
2. **a.** Jeanne Le Ber
   **b.** hospital (Hôtel Dieu)
3. Encourage discussion and parental participation through this simple exercise.
RESOURCES

Books


Follow the life-story of Marguerite Bourgeoys, a woman of courage and compassion who lived in 17th-century Montreal, through this beautifully illustrated comic book. Readers of all ages will certainly come to appreciate the outstanding achievements of this pioneer woman.


This book retraces Marguerite Bourgeois’ journeys from their historic roots in Troyes, France, Marguerite’s native city, through the adventures, challenges, joys and setbacks of the first days of the Canada she so much loved.


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Internet Sites

Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel | Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum
www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com

Croire et Vouloir, 350 years of education by Marguerite Bourgeois and the Congregation of Notre-Dame
www.archivesvirtuelles-cnd.org

Old Montreal; Centuries of History
http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/histoire/eng/introa.htm

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions or Comments?

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