



Paroisse Sainte-Anne de Varennes
Sanctuaire Sainte-Marguerite-d'Youville
30 rue de la Fabrique, Varennes (Québec) J3X 1R1



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SAINT MARGUERITE D'YOUVILLE SANCTUARY

2022-2023 - The Influence of Marguerite

On the 350th anniversary of the founding of the City of Varennes, we highlight the influence of Saint Marguerite d'Youville, who was born here in 1701.

In July 2022, the installation of six benches decorated by Varennes mosaic artist Mireille Lévesque was planned. She was inspired by the six religious communities born of Marguerite's charism. In addition, the gardens of the Sanctuary have been redesigned.

To accompany this installation, a temporary exhibit entitled *Marguerite and her Influence*, presented in the Saint Marguerite d'Youville Sanctuary, recalls the highlights of the six communities that assisted the needy. It was inspired by the remarkable work of Saint Marguerite, founder of the Community of the Sisters of Charity, recognized as the mother of social services in Montreal.

Marguerite experienced poverty after her father's death, Christophe Dufrost de la Jemmerais, when she was in her seventh year. Her marriage proved to be disappointing. After her widowhood, she raised her two sons alone and helped the needy. The Saint Marguerite d'Youville Sanctuary tells the story of this woman of action who directed the Montreal General Hospital from 1747 to 1771.

Visitors to a building with colourful stained-glass windows are invited to follow Marguerite's footsteps through artifacts and archival documents. They are taken through the trials of her life, including widowhood, poverty and the fires that marked her journey. They can see the unwavering faith in God and His Divine Providence that animated her life.

This permanent exhibit is complemented by the projection of a film that lasts 17 or 34 minutes, depending on the choice of the visitors. The temporary exhibit *Marguerite and her Influence* will be on display until May 2024.

A few steps from the Sanctuary, the public can also pay their respects at her tomb, set up in the Basilica of Saint Anne.

The Sanctuary is open to visitors from June 5 to October 2, 2022. Groups are welcome at any time with a reservation. The exhibit is in French and English, and the film is available in French, English and Spanish. The guided tour can be done in French or English.



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