

LIVING WITH CHRIST THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 27: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) - green
Monday 28: St. Irenaeus, bishop, martyr - red
Tuesday 29: Saints Peter and Paul, apostles - red
Wednesday 30: Ferial - green
Thursday, July 1: Ferial - green
Friday 2: Ferial - green
Saturday 3: St. Thomas, apostle - red
Sunday 4: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) - green

Our Saintly and Historical Heritage



1. Monseigneur de Laval and Marie de l'Incarnation

*If I had angel's wings,
I would leave for Quebec!*
Robert Charlebois

During Sunday summers it might be interesting to visit historical places and learn about our ancestors in the faith who have been beatified and canonized. In the following ten articles, we invite you to visit sites where the relics of twenty of these famous people are venerated.

Robert Charlebois' song names the destination of our first summer excursion. In Quebec City, we find the tombs of many of our ancestors who were models of faith and commitment. In this article, we remember a man and a woman who had much in common since they both had long and creative lives and inspired many in the nascent French colony.

Blessed Monseigneur de Laval was the first Bishop of Quebec. His tomb is an extraordinary work of art. The bronze and glass depict the phases of his life and the boundaries of the first diocese established north of Mexico. A new chapel was added on to the original Basilica-Cathedral to house this magnificent tomb. It is so well integrated that we are surprised to learn that the addition was built only in 1995. There is an interesting and symbolic feature of this beautiful architecture: the chapel faces the famous *Rue du Trésor* where countless tourists congregate in the Old City.

From 1623 to 1708, François-Xavier de Montmorency Laval was not only a missionary, but a visionary, a skilled and efficient administrator, and spiritual priest. He was of noble birth and yet he gave his life to the nascent Church of 2500 people. He was a brilliant planner and organizer whose legacy ensured the establishment and proper functioning of dozens of dioceses.

Our stay in Quebec also invites us to learn about Blessed Marie de l'Incarnation, who was born Marie Guyart in Tours, France. This Ursuline Sister lived from 1599 to 1672 and came to Quebec City at the age of forty. Even today, people who visit the downtown area where she worked are reminded of her legacy. The highest tower in the city is named after her and houses the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports [*Édifrice Marie-Guyart*]. This is a wonderful homage to her commitment to education as she established the first school for young girls from both the French and First Nations communities.

Marie de l'Incarnation's legacy encourages us to examine our assumptions about women in our own era. This brilliant organizer also led a profoundly intellectual life. There is a great deal of ongoing research on her life and work at the University. We can visit her tomb at the Ursuline Convent in the Old City.

Alain Faucher, priest

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli