



# City of Cambridge

61.

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 5, 1990

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

- WHEREAS: The Sisters of Charity of Montreal, also known as the Grey Nuns, were founded in 1737 by Sister Marguerite d'Youville; and
- WHEREAS: Marguerite was a person who suffered, loved, lost, was hurt, misunderstood, succeeded, failed and succeeded again in her many charity endeavors through her life building homes for the aged and hospitals for the afflicted; and
- WHEREAS: Today the Sisters of Charity of Montreal maintain numerous facilities in Canada, the United States and South America, serving the poor for over 250 years; and
- WHEREAS: The Sisters work with disturbed youths, battered women and children, persons with AIDS and persons with alcoholic and drug addiction problems; and
- WHEREAS: On December 9, 1990 Sister Marguerite d'Youville will be canonized by Pope John Paul II in a ceremony to be held in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome at the conclusion of which she will be forever known as Saint Marguerite d'Youville; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest appreciation to the Sisters of Charity of Montreal who operate the Youville Hospital in Cambridge and so many other institutions for the aged and infirm for their tireless dedication to the sick and to people who are physically or mentally impaired; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Council congratulates the Sisters upon the canonization of their founder and that the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Sisters of Charity on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council November 5, 1990.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

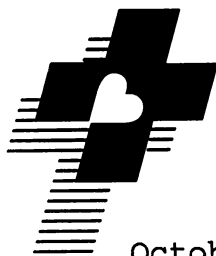
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph E. Connarton".

Joseph E. Connarton  
City Clerk



Youville Hospital  
& Rehabilitation Center

October 30, 1990

Development Committee

Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.  
Honorary Chairman

Edward J. Sullivan  
Chairman

T. Richard Quigley  
President/CEO

Mr. Joe Connarton  
City Clerk, Cambridge City Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

Thank you for your willingness to help Youville Hospital through the recognition of the canonization of Blessed Marguerite d'Youville in Rome on December 9, 1990.

Youville Hospital is owned by the Grey Nuns of Montreal. This order of nuns was founded in Montreal by Marguerite d'Youville over 250 years ago and is today a group of over 1,000 women who have dedicated their lives to her Mission which is to serve the truly needy.

The canonization, which will give her the name Saint Marguerite d'Youville, comes as a result of many years of work on behalf of the Grey Nuns, culminating earlier this year in the recognition by Pope John Paul II of a miracle attributed to her.

It is our plan to have a special event here at the Hospital during the week of December 9th and hope that you might be able to arrange a city council resolution to commemorate this very special day.

A brief synopsis on the canonization is enclosed for your review. Please do not hesitate to call if you need additional information.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Timothy G. Scott  
Vice President, Development

TGS/p

cc: Edward J. Sullivan, Chairman

1575  
Cambridge  
Street

Cambridge,  
Massachusetts  
02138-4398

617 876-4344  
ext. 350

Member Hospital  
Covenant Health  
Systems  
Sisters of Charity  
of Montreal,  
"Grey Nuns"



Youville Hospital  
& Rehabilitation Center

Timothy G. Scott, CFRE  
Vice President, Planning & Development

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02138-4398

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PRESS RELEASE  
For Release at Will  
(Photo Available)

#### FIRST CANADIAN BORN WOMAN TO BE CANONIZED

Blessed Marguerite d'Youville, who founded the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, "Grey Nuns" in 1737, will be made the first Canadian-born Saint by Pope John Paul II in a ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica on December 9, 1990. Canonization is the highest honor bestowed by the Roman Catholic Church.

At her beatification on May 3, 1959 (the step before canonization where the title of "Blessed" is conferred), Pope John XXIII called Marguerite d'Youville "The Mother of Universal Charity" saying of her, "Full of compassion and charity, Marguerite d'Youville came to the aid of all who suffered."

MORE

One of the final steps towards canonization was the acceptance by the Cardinals at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome that the miracle attributed to the intercession of Marguerite d'Youville was "beyond an ordinary cure."

This determining miracle was the recovery of Lise Normand, a 29 year-old Canadian woman stricken with acute myeloblastic leukemia in 1978. According to the attending physician at Ottawa General Hospital, she was not treatable after her second relapse of leukemia. When she was near death, friends and family began to pray to Marguerite d'Youville, acting on the suggestion of an aunt who is a Grey Nun of Ottawa. The family continued their vigil until Normand completely recovered a few weeks later.

In order for this case to be accepted as a miracle, a jury was established in the diocese of Ottawa, and canon lawyers, physicians and seven family members came to individually testify. During the lengthy process physicians and medical specialists had to study all aspects of the case and attest that the healing was beyond an ordinary cure. They also felt there should be a waiting period of eight - 10 years to

attest to the permanence of the cure. In 1987 the Canadian specialists recognized the miracle and then sent a dossier filled with information on the case--witness testimony as well as medical records --to Rome for review by Vatican physicians. This was completed in March, 1990.

In speaking of the foundress of her order, Sr. Dorothy Cooper, provincial superior of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, said: "Marguerite was first of all a woman of flesh and blood. She was a person who suffered, loved, lost, was hurt, misunderstood, succeeded, failed, succeeded again.

"She built and rebuilt homes for the aged and hospitals. Her hands made lace to sell so that she could care for the poor, and her hands carried bricks to enclose her lands. She helped drain swamps, bury the dead and bathe frail bodies. She truly had a special love for the poor."

MORE

Today, the Sisters of Charity of Montreal are most numerous in Canada, from New Brunswick to Alberta and in the most remote areas of the Northwest Territories. In the United States they sponsor Covenant Health Systems in Lexington, Massachusetts and its member institutions: St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio; St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua, New Hampshire; Youville Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Mary Immaculate Health/Care Services in Lawrence, Massachusetts. In South America they have missions in Brazil and Colombia.

Marguerite d'Youville and her Sisters have found ways of serving the poor for over 250 years. They administer hospitals, nursing homes, homes for the aged, half-way houses for women and centers for the physically and mentally disabled. They are involved in health and social services and family and newborn services. They work with disturbed youngsters, battered women and children, persons with AIDS and those with problems of alcohol and drug addiction.

MORE

The mission of Marguerite d'Youville is continued today by the Congregations she founded--The Sisters of Charity of Montreal, "Grey Nuns, (1737) and their sister-communities: the Sisters of Charity of St. Hyacinthe, (1840), the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa (1845), the Sisters of Charity of Quebec (1849), the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart (1921) and the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (1926).

"Marguerite d'Youville is a gift we give to the world," adds Sr. Cooper. "It is a world in which drug and alcohol addiction is epidemic, where babies are born addicted to crack...are born with AIDS; a world where the homeless grow in numbers daily, where crime statistics are ever-increasing.

"It is a world thirsting for spirituality, looking for direction. At her canonization, Marguerite d'Youville's life filled with unconditional love towards all will be held up as an example for all to see. Her vision of universal love and trust in God will be a light that will reach many dark corners of this earth, where people look for inspiration and will find it."



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City Council NOV. 5 1990

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Joseph E. Conerton City Clerk



Order # 61 5-1045

Councillor Sullivan resolutions on  
Sister Marguerite d'Youville.

In City Council,

November 5, 1990

*Order adopted*