

Yvette was born in Côte St-Paul, Montréal on July 25 1941. Her father, Louis Énard, and her mother, Ida Maillé, were a happy couple. They welcomed their first child with great joy. It was a little girl and they named her Yvette. Unfortunately, her mother passed away a couple of days later of birth complications. Before dying, she entrusted her precious child to Edna Énard, the sister of her husband, who took her in and raised her as her 7th and last child. Yvette grew up in a loving family sharing in all their daily events. *I am very fond of those whom I call my brothers and sisters. With them, I learnt to pray, to give myself to others, to sing, and to dance. I did however always deeply feel in my heart my mother's death. I never got the chance to know her.*

Yvette attended the school run by the sisters in Côte St-Paul. During the summers, she worked at the Simmons Bedding factory to earn some money for the family. She loved this experience and decided to quit school at 16 to work there full time. Yvette attended the local parish. She was a serious, disciplined, and deeply spiritual young woman. She helped in all the church activities. She prepared recreational evenings of song and dance. She also had a deep longing to become a religious. One day when she was 20, she spoke to her pastor, Mgr. Pigeon, about this dream. Knowing her deep spirituality, he encouraged her to go to the FMM. Greatly appreciated and loved by the parishioners, she received a very festive send-off with a financial gift for the convent.

The next day, she left her family who would always consider her their little sister. On September 12 1961, she entered the novitiate in Quebec City.

Her formation was a precious time for her. After having reflected and deepened her calling, she sealed her life with her perpetual vows on March 22 1970.

She was sent to Rigaud to complete her high school. She went on to earn her Teaching Pre-school certificate. She completed a doctrinal year and went on to teach at Centre des Petits in Ottawa. All while she worked, she studied English, piano, and computer programs such as WordPerfect.

Sister Yvette always longed to work in parishes. After dialoguing with her superiors, she enrolled for a year at Saint Paul's University in Ottawa where she earned a Diploma in Family Pastoral Studies. Thus began a 30-year pastoral animation ministry in the parishes of Jacola (outside of Val d'Or), of Campbell's Bay and Fort Coulonge (impoverished villages in Pontiac County).

She did wonderful work in these villages with her empathy, attentiveness, and ability to listen. She was especially there for the smallest and had the ability to multitask. She was the parish secretary and organist, while overseeing sacrament preparation, facilitating Scripture sharing, and teaching life preparation classes. In all her ministry,

she had an holistic approach that moved the hearts of parents, young adults, teenagers, and children alike. She transmitted words of wisdom to rekindle their faith.

Sister Yvette loved living in community. Deeply spiritual, she built fraternal and trusting relationships with her sisters. She had a great devotion to the Eucharist. When she shared her prayers, we really thought she had indeed encountered her Beloved Jesus. During our recreational gatherings, she taught us to dance and gave delightful performances.

On October 1 2000, she had the joy of attending the canonization of our seven sisters martyred in China. This trip to Rome was quite an experience for her. *What a joy to live such a unique moment in the life of the Institute. I cannot thank God enough. I had the joy of living Internationality and meeting FMM from all over the world. I now realize the wealth of our diversity in unity.*

Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice! This verse of Psalm 130 rocked her to the core of her heart and revealed unconsciously the pain of losing her mother at birth. In 2003 at the age of 62, she underwent the first of a series of eye operations that left her shaken. Every year brought on new sufferings and she always hoped for a miracle. Unfortunately, from year to year, things got worst and she finally completely lost her sight.

In 2012, she was admitted to the infirmary. In the night of her days, she welcomed her sisters with gratitude as they prayed, shared the Word of God, and helped her get around. They were a presence simply there to console her. She listened to audiobooks and to recordings of her favorite hymns.

On June 9 2021, she moved to Carrefour Providence with the sisters of the infirmary. She adjusted well to her new surroundings. She had long conversations with her grandniece, Joanne, and took long walks in the corridors with a sister. More often than not, she stayed in her room in silence with her God. Always cared for and loved, she started to show signs of fatigue. Complications from dysphagia rendered her incapable of eating and drinking. In her last days, there were no complaints from her lips. There only was a smile to greet us all. She remained calm, serene, and silent as she prepared to meet her Savior.

Surrounded by her sisters, she went quietly to meet the One she had given all her life. Yvette, go in the peace of the Lord.



Holy card with the *Memorare of St Bernard* found in her songbook. Sr. Yvette loved to recite this prayer.

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to thy protection, implored thy help,
and sought thy intercession, was left unaided.*

*Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother, to thee I come,
before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful.*

*O Mother of the Word Incarnate!
despise not my petitions, but, in thy mercy,
hear and answer me.
Amen.*

(OC125554)



***Sister Yvette Émard
(Marie Ida du St-Esprit)***

Franciscan Missionary of Mary

***Born in Montreal, QC
on July 25 1941.***

***Entered the Institute in Quebec City, QC
on September 12 1961.***

***Died in Montreal, QC
on September 22 2021***

***in her 81st year,
the 60th of her religious life.***

May she rest in the peace of Christ!