

Marielle was born September 21 1937 in Curran, Ontario. Her father, Vital Séguin, owned a large farm. Her mother, Marie Anne Cadieux, was a loving and generous mother of 12 children. There were five girls and seven boys. Marielle was the seventh child. Everyone had a happy childhood within this devoted Christian family. *Every evening, said Marielle, Mom would gather us around a beautiful picture of the Holy Family to recite the rosary, the litanies, and the acts of faith, hope, and charity. We would then peacefully head to bed. Our parish was far from our home, but nothing could stop us from Sunday attendance. Little, we would go with the horse and buggy. Older, we walked the two hours to get there.*

Our home was opened to all. The poor came for goods. The neighbourhood women came to learn how to sew. We also welcomed our paternal or maternal aunts and cousins. Marielle grew up in this giving and religious environment.

At six, she attended the country school. One day Missionary Sisters of Africa came to show movies. She was taken aback by these sisters in white. She told herself this is how she wished to be a religious, in white. Teenager she had the same experience with the FMM during a vocational presentation. After reading their foundress' biography, Marielle wrote, *I no longer have any doubts.*

*I will be a missionary adorer.* She spoke to her parents about her decision. They thought she was too young. They asked her to spend a year at the FMM high school in Rigaud. She entered the Institute in Québec on September 15 1955.

Throughout her religious formation, she discovered and learnt to live Mary of the Passion's charism. *I was very happy, she said, but when I had adaptation difficulties, I took my rosary and I asked the Blessed Mother to help me. I would then go to the chapel to adore Jesus. I often signed up for the night adoration. Convinced of my call, I celebrated my perpetual vows March 19 1961.*

After three years working in the *Recreation Youth Centre* in Quebec City, she was delighted to receive her obedience for an overseas mission. In December 1963, Sister Marielle said good-bye to her family and the sisters of the community during a lavish sending ceremony in the chapel of Grande-Allée. She set off with six other sisters on the *S.S. Independence*.

Her mission was India, one of the most populated countries in the world. A place where people spoke Hindi and English. 82% of the population was Hindu. She went via Rome where she spent three months visiting the sites at the heart of our Institute. She arrived in her mission full of enthusiasm and

ready to give it her all. In Bombay, she was in charge of a boarding house. In Delhi, she worked in an orphanage and did wonders with the orphans. Her superiors discovered her talents for teaching and music. In Bangalore, she got her Montessori training. In Pune, she obtained her *Grade 8 Piano and Musical Theory* certification. She worked 10 years in India. She was mostly a music teacher. Many of her students went on to university in this field.

In 1972, she returned to Canada. She was delighted to see her family with its new members. She also took a well-deserved holiday. Mission was never very far from Marielle's mind. After a renewal year at *St-Pierre Centre* and obtaining her *Grade 13 Music* certification, she worked with youth. In Le Goulet, Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, and Ottawa, she formed *Jeunesse en harmonie* groups. Sister Marielle had a gift to help children discover their music and singing talents. She taught them to give recitals and animate Sunday masses. *I take every opportunity, she said, to get them to know and love Jesus and his mother.* In Montreal with great success, she gave music lessons that allowed her students to pass the top-level exams at *Vincent d'Indy School*.

Sister Marielle had another passion. She had a very special devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus. She desired for all to know her through the rosary. Marielle did not fail in

this mission. In her retirement, she started to make string and chain rosaries that she sent to several countries. *The rosary for me is the most powerful weapon*, she said. *We can see the strength of Mary's power.*

In 2016 at the age of 76, she was admitted into the infirmary to receive medical care for her severe diabetes and crippling arthrosis. In June 2021, she moved with the sisters of the provincial infirmary to *Carrefour Providence* where she was very grateful for the high quality care. Her health declined more and more. Her main activities were reading and prayer. She got the strength to face each day. Three weeks before her passing, her family came to visit her. Nobody could foresee that this would be the last farewell.

Marielle caught Covid with all its complications. It destroyed her remaining health. She was admitted into the Emergency Department of Sacred Heart Hospital. Despite all the intensive care, the medical staff realized that nothing else could be done. Sister Marielle acknowledged this diagnosis in faith and gently prepared herself to meet her Lord. In the presence of her religious sisters and her brother, Michel, she received the last rites. She was aware that this unique moment was preparing her eternal birth. The following day, she passed peacefully in the Lord. Go in peace Marielle.



Photos taken in her workshop for a 2013 *Without Borders* article that she wrote on her rosary-making ministry.



***Sister Marielle Séguin  
(Marie Louise de Savoie)***

***Franciscan Missionary of Mary***

***Born in Curran, ON  
on September 21 1937.***

***Entered the Institute  
in Quebec City, QC  
on September 15 1955.***

***Died in Montreal, QC  
on April 23 2022***

***in her 85<sup>th</sup> year,  
the 67<sup>th</sup> of her religious life.***

***May she rest in the peace of Christ!***