

Jan. 12, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, co-foundress of Montreal

Gerelyn Hollingsworth | Jan. 12, 2010 NCR Today

Today is the feast of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, 1620-1700, observed by Catholics and by the Anglican Church of Canada.

"She is rightly considered co-foundress of Montreal, with the nurse, Jeanne Mance, and the master designer, Monsieur de Maisonneuve." She "initiated a school system and a network of social services which gradually extended through the whole country, and which led people to refer to Marguerite as 'Mother of the Colony.'"

-- from the Vatican [biography of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys](#) [1]

[Marguerite Bourgeoys](#), [2] who founded the [Congrégation de Notre-Dame](#), [3] lived to be eighty, and she crossed the Atlantic seven times.

[Marguerite Bourgeoys and Montreal, 1640-1665](#), [4] was published by [McGill-Queen's University Press](#) [5] in 1997. The author, Sr. Patricia Simpson, CND, "goes behind the mist of myth and hagiography surrounding Marguerite Bourgeoys to reveal her true character. . . . placing her life within the larger historical context of the time and highlighting the role of women in society and the church."

Click [here](#) [6] to see a picture of Marguerite Bourgeoys, and to see what X-rays revealed under the 19th-century painting.

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[1] <http://tiny.cc/ZSUKu>

[2] <http://www.cnd-m.com/english/mb.htm>

[3] <http://www.cnd-m.com/english/cndtoday-NNN.htm>

[4] <http://tiny.cc/aIHEr>

[5] <http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=898>

[6] <http://www.cnd-m.com/english/mb10.htm>