



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ST. BONIFACE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dear Friends of the Société historique de Saint-Boniface,

Since 1902, the Société historique de Saint-Boniface (SHSB) has been collecting artefacts, archives, books and data bases that document the French and Métis presence in Manitoba: impossible to deny this presence and its ongoing evolution! Our first strategic plan developed in 2014 identified as one of four priorities the diversification of our financial resources.

Your Generosity in Action

Over the years, revenues from our endowment fund have supported the processing of archives collections and the online publication of their descriptions. As a result, access to those archives has been greatly facilitated. Further, archives-based projects, such as the *Témoins de la Grande Guerre* exhibition currently displayed in the Salon Empire, promote our archives collections and show how the past shapes who we are. Such projects include the many pages of information on our website, for example the complete archives of the Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph, fully digitalized and accessible online.

Safekeeping Our Collective Past

In our vaults, French-language presence is documented and itemized, village by village, organization by organization, year after year. The achievements of well-established Manitoban

institutions are not forgotten, as our archives keep them alive. Such is the case for female religious congregations that have shouldered so many responsibilities in educational, health, social and pastoral services.

Our Objectives

In this spirit, the SHSB launched an ambitious campaign in 2016, appealing to its community, members, volunteers, donors, and to female religious congregations who are currently active in Manitoba or were in the past. We approached the congregations about their plans for their archives and to propose the idea of a collective investment in the preservation, management and promotion of religious archives.

To the congregations that responded to our appeal by donating their archives to the Centre du patrimoine and to those that generously made financial pledges to be fulfilled by the end of 2020, we are extremely grateful.

Thanks to the Sisters and your significant support, the Centre du patrimoine Endowment Fund will reach \$1M in 2020. This exceptional progress strengthens our confidence that we will reach our ambitious goal: \$2M in 2021!

Special thanks to our campaign chair, Mr. Normand Boisvert, a history buff who played a key role in the success of our 2016–2017 campaign. Thanks also to our volunteers who lend a helping hand at the Centre du patrimoine and who sit on our many committees. You are instrumental in our collective advancement!

Sincere regards,

Michel Lagacé

**For more on what is happening at the Centre du patrimoine,
check out our website at www.shsb.mb.ca
or attend our annual meeting to be held at the Centre du patrimoine on
June 27, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.**

And don't forget to visit us on Facebook!

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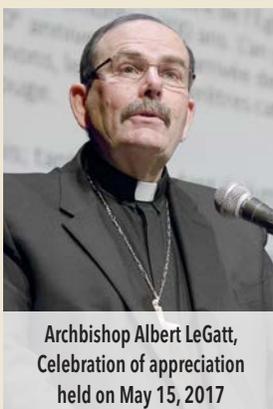
Sr. Marie-Clotilde (Mélanie Cossin) with a group of students in front of the Haywood Church
Sisters of the Saviour



Weaving with a spinning wheel
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Saint Hyacinthe

ARCHIVES OF FEMALE RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

To delve into the archives of female religious congregations is to affirm their invaluable legacy to Manitoba society. They serve to perpetuate their work and remind towns and villages of the breadth of their contributions. To quote His Excellency Albert LeGatt, Archbishop of Saint-Boniface: *“For many years and still today, these Sisters have entirely been women of this country and of the Church. Their history is our history, whether they worked in education or in health, with people in need or to foster the Christian faith and spirituality of the Franco-Manitoban soul: a precious heritage.”*



Archbishop Albert LeGatt,
Celebration of appreciation
held on May 15, 2017

Archbishop Albert LeGatt, May 15, 2017

EXEMPLARY DONATIONS

Five congregations are financially supporting the Centre du patrimoine’s religious archives initiative. Thanks to the Missionary Oblate Sisters of St. Boniface, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Saint Hyacinthe, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the Sisters of the Saviour and to Francofonds, the investment, including matching funds, will reach \$650,000 in December 2020. Together, the congregations have cofounded the Religious Archives Sub Fund at Francofonds. Further, the immediate investment in human and financial resources will allow projects to get under way this fall. Thanks for your outstanding generosity and foresight!

As a result of our continuing efforts to ensure the preservation of the archives of female religious congregations, we can confirm that many of them have decided to deposit or donate their archives or copies of their archives to the Centre du patrimoine, in whole or in part:

Missionary Oblate Sisters of St. Boniface

Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions

Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Saint Hyacinthe

Sisters of Misericordia

Sisters of the Saviour

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

Grey Nuns of Montreal

Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk

Sisters of the Cross

Did you know that...



Hundred-year anniversary of the congregation, Mother House, Saint-Boniface, 2004

In 2010, the Missionary Oblate Sisters of St. Boniface transferred the Aulneau Renewal Centre to the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba? That the Centre continues to provide resources for children, youth and adults to promote healthy relationships and personal renewal?



Sainte Rose Community, 1953
Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions



Laboratory and chemistry class, Académie Saint-Joseph, Saint-Boniface, circa 1952
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary



“Over the years, our congregations have all ensured that our archives are complete, well organized, and easy to access. For this reason, we understood the importance of investing in material and human resources in order to preserve, manage and promote religious archives in Manitoba.”

Sr. Cécile Fortier,
Spokeswoman of the cofounders
of the Religious Archives Sub Fund



The leaders of the congregations that cofounded the Religious Archives Sub Fund.
Standing from left to right: Sisters Cécile Fortier, Claudette Robert, Denise Kuyp.
Sitting from left to right: Sisters Lorraine Saint-Hilaire, Florence Vuignier

OUR PROJECTS

Thanks to a donation this year, we applied for funding in a shared expenses programme: a great way to maximize the gift's impact. We intend to digitalize the photos of the Sisters of the Saviour and to create a Web module to disseminate the deeds of the female religious congregations. Thanks to the Religious Archives Sub Fund, the Centre

is already planning for many years ahead: processing archives, creating Web-based tools, modules on the various religious communities, exhibitions and digitalization of documents. Considering that 25 to 30% of our archives are religious in nature, there will be no lack of activity!

Did you know that...



Foyer Notre-Dame in 2017

In 1948 the Sisters of the Saviour bought the former rectory of the Chanoine Fathers in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, opened and managed for 20 years a home for the elderly, what is now the Foyer Notre-Dame? Ahead of their times, they made sure not to separate couples!



Founders, Lorette and Marieval, August, 1901. Sitting from left to right: Sr. Marie du-Bon-Secours (Odina Richard); Sr. du St. Nom-de-Marie (Herminde Langevin); Sr. Louis-de-Gonzague (Élise Blanchette); Sr. St-Léon (Alida Robichaud). Standing from left to right: Sr. St-Augustin (Clara Boisvert); Sr. Marie-du-Rosaire (Marie-Louise Girouard); Sr. Ste-Anastasie (Rose-Alma Bélisle); Sr. St-Jean Baptiste (Marie-Luce Cormier)

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Saint Hyacinthe gave their Lorette convent to the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine which set up its divisional offices there in 1996? That they were present in Manitoba for 106 years? That they participated in the establishment of the Catholic School of Evangelization in Saint-Malo?



Sr. Anna Aulie with Kenyan Sisters, November 30, 2011

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions arrived from France to teach in Grande Clairière in 1898? That they work in some 20 countries and that the Canadian sisters dedicate themselves to the poor in Peru, where they promote empowerment of women through education?

All these congregations offered their students a well-rounded education including basic academic courses, but also music, singing, sewing, weaving, drama and public speaking, based on their knowledge and talents?

WHY DONATE TO THE CENTRE DU PATRIMOINE ENDOWMENT FUND HELD BY FRANCOFONDS?

While the Centre du patrimoine annually receives new archives collections, its complement of four full-time staff and its annual operational grants have not increased in the last 20 years.



CAMPAIGN RESULTS

You supported our campaign in great numbers – 50% more donors in 2017! In addition, the general public more than doubled its contributions in a year, from close to \$15,000 to close to \$34,000. Thank you!

ACHIEVEMENTS: CENTRE DU PATRIMOINE FUND AND RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES SUB FUND

| TOWARDS \$2M | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Number of donors | 100 | 151 |
| Donations from the general public and major donations to the sub fund | \$14,642 | \$184,721 |
| Francofonds: matching funds in December from the Fonds de la francophonie du Manitoba ⁽¹⁾ and for charitable organizations | \$7,112 | \$44,937 |
| Balance of Endowment Fund March 31 | \$358,520 | \$588,882 |

⁽¹⁾Created with the financial support of the province of Manitoba 

WHAT OUR AMBITIOUS GOAL OF \$2M FOR 2021 COULD MEAN...

At 4%, the Fund would generate \$80,000 annually, enough to hire a full-time person as well as part-time help, and to assist with the costs of new exhibitions.

Did you know that...



Sr. Lesley Sacouman, foundress of Holy Names House of Peace, celebrating birthdays with the residents, Winnipeg, circa 2015

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary support Holy Names of Peace, a shelter for immigrant and refugee women in need or in transition? And also Artbeat Studio that promotes mental health through artistic expression?

Make your history come alive  **donate!** 

If you want to help us reach our goal of \$2M, please make your donation online at www.francofonds.org or send it by mail to: **Francofonds, 205 Provencher Boulevard, Room 101, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 0G4**

Name: _____ E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code : _____

I want to donate: \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other: \$_____ to the:

Centre du patrimoine Endowment Fund sous-fonds Archives religieuses.

I would like more information about donations by preauthorized withdrawals.

Payment: Cheque made out to *Francofonds – Centre du patrimoine Fund or Religious Archives Sub Fund*

Visa MasterCard Credit card number: _____ Expiry date: _____

Signature: _____

In recognition of your generosity, Francofonds publishes the names of its donors. If you prefer that your donation remain anonymous, please check:

If you prefer that Francofonds not share your address, phone number and e-mail with the Société historique de Saint-Boniface, please check:

Income tax receipt for donations above \$20 or upon request

Charitable Registration Number: 11,893 0502 RR0001

FRANCOFONDS 
LA FONDATION COMMUNAUTAIRE DU MANITOBA FRANÇAIS