

# Rosalie-Cadron-Jetté Centre Newsletter



December 2019, Volume 23, Number 3

**Mercy:  
Sacred Values  
for the Building  
of Humanity**

## OUR VALUES, A PRECIOUS LEGACY!

*Sylvie Aubin, Lise Bouchard,  
and Martine Fradet*

At the time of our birth every human being is basically good and has a particular characteristic that makes him/her unique. We come into this world inhabited by values that long to flourish and bring beauty, good and kindness to the world. The relationships we will live as children, the example of our parents and our numerous life-experiences will allow us to discover these values and develop them in a way that they will be securely anchored and become solid as rock. Even if we grow up in difficult surroundings, these values remain the innate good we seek and it is through this deep desire that God will allow us to access them.

Our values are more than simple social conventions because they lead us to become who we are meant to be in our deepest selves. They are embodied through concrete action, the gift of self and personal investment. They bear fruit, contribute to building up humanity and allow us to be born unto ourselves.

### Rosalie

Rosalie was a loving mother whose values of charity, hospitality, compassion, non-judgment, mutual aid, etc., were the very essence of her relationships.

Over time, her deep convictions were transformed into gospel values and then into heroic virtues. Her life's journey, even if it wasn't always easy, allowed her to be born unto herself, to be born to someone Greater and to finally become the embodiment of these values. Those who

walked alongside her saw the face of the Merciful God made visible.

Her family and parish environment were places of learning that shaped her. Even as a child she was imbued with faith, charity and love for her parents. Her parents were fervent Christians who lived the gospel values on a daily basis by welcoming those in need, opening their door to *beggars* and even providing for the needs of the poorest in their region.

Rosalie soon learned the depth of personal investment required to care for her family, her entourage, the strangers, the little ones. She also experienced the joy and the deep level of satisfaction they bring. She saw how her parents dedicated themselves to the well-being of the family in both the domestic and agricultural tasks, observed her mother in her role as a midwife and in her commitment to helping others. From an early age Rosalie was involved in all of these tasks. Many testimonials describe her as being hardworking and charitable. In this way we see how values are carriers of otherness. They broaden our horizons by calling us out of ourselves in order to move out to others.

Rosalie developed the ability of caring for others. In addition, she had the good fortune of marrying a man who shared her same values. Together, at the example of Rosalie's parents, they loved their children and continued to help those in need. Their kindness and charity extended beyond their immediate surroundings, for it is said that the priest of the neighbouring village often recommended the needy to go to Rosalie and Jean-Marie's home for assistance.

Rosalie devoted her entire life to helping others. Her values were the beacon that guided her and made her life as solid as a rock. These values were her source of courage and audacity, they are what made her become more and more a woman of Mercy. Rosalie was a very loving person who

considered her children, her grandchildren and her single mothers as her treasures.

Her values are her greatest legacy. And that is why today, more than 170 years later, these values are just as alive, imbued with humanity and participative in the Reign of God as they were then.

### And Today?

In Rosalie's time those in need constantly knocked on her door for help and they were always well received. Today, does the door of our home remain closed to the stranger in need?

Since Rosalie's time several organizations have been set in place to provide for the needs of the less fortunate. Does this mean that we no longer have to develop values such as hospitality, unconditional welcoming, non-judgment, etc.?

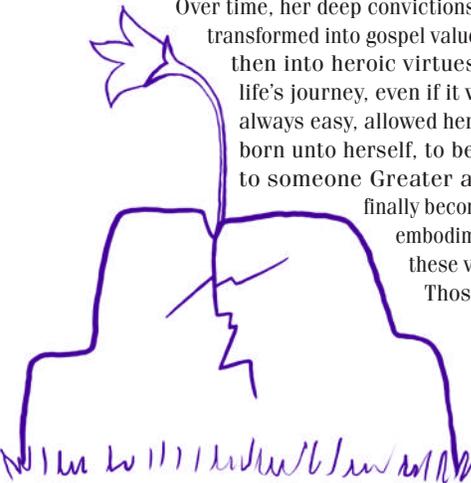
Of course not, the needs of our contemporary society remain just as great despite the presence of these numerous aid organizations. In addition, these needs are often closer to us than we like to think-- with our family members, friends and neighbours.

We therefore have within our reach a whole range of possibilities to help, to work and to deploy the values, the qualities, the talents we carry deep within ourselves. It's fascinating to think that by dedicating our time and our person to a cause/organization that we are the ones who are enriched and that this involvement is what makes us evolve into becoming the wonder that we are.

Values have the power to radiate beauty, goodness and kindness in our world, the background for God's work.

Truly they are a precious heritage, a legacy of inestimable value!

**N. B.** The historical facts of Rosalie's life were taken from *the Positio, Dossier sur les vertus et la renommée de sainteté de Rosalie*, Volume 1, Rome, 1994.



# A Journey Within

Francine Garneau and Denise Tessier

## Values, an Art of Living!

**“The more human values you have, the more valuable a human being you will be.”**

(Louis Berger)

Has it ever occurred to you that the values we choose to live by on a daily basis have the power to open an extraordinary path of Life that humanizes?

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That's right! The values to which we adhere become an “art of living.” Deciding to live them with authenticity provides solid points of reference for oneself, for others and what's more, they call for transformation.

Values are like a compass that guide our decisions and give us the strength to follow through on our deepest convictions. They influence our relationships. They radiate the inner beauty of our being, render visible the depth of who we are and the ideal to which we aspire.

Is going against our values not a sign that we are turning a blind eye to the ultimate good to which we are committed? Is it not to deny a part of ourselves that, let's admit, would have an impact on our personal life and the life of our surroundings?

**In the end, values are of great importance when building humanity.**

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**THE MISERICORDIA SISTERS  
EXAMPLES OF SIGNIFICANT AND  
INSPIRING VALUES...**

Indeed, at the example of Rosalie, the Sisters lived the gospel values of Mercy practicing unconditional welcoming, hospitality, compassion, non-judgment and non-violence that flow from their founding charism and served

as their inspiration as they lived their mission with mothers in difficulty and their children.

Their values crossed time, borders, cultures and mentalities. Moreover, they changed consciences and transformed hearts.

By courageously living these values in a spirit of faith, hope, charitable love, and by sharing them with others, the Misericordia Sisters contributed to building a better world for countless numbers of mothers and children.

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**IT REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF  
COURAGE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL  
TO WHO WE REALLY ARE**

**“The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”**

(Mathew 13, 45-46)

Every fine pearl is hidden within a shell. We must open wide the shell before we can discover the beauty of the pearl and allow it to reveal its splendour. Within each one of us exists a shell that contains the greatness of the values that inhabit us and that ask for nothing more than to be opened a little more each day.

**Remember: “The more human values you have, the more valuable a human being you will be.”**

(Louis Berger)



## AND WHAT ABOUT US?

What are the values, the fine pearls that influence our choices, our decisions, our actions, our relationships?

Do we know our values? The values of our workplace? Do we live them? Do we transmit them?

Do we underestimate the positive impact our values have on our surroundings when we affirm them?

## Let's take it one step further and think about a relational experience:

- Where we relied on our values to intervene? What were the results?
- Where we went against a value. What were the results?
- Where we respected our values while remaining open and receptive to values of the other. Values different from our own? What were the results?

**If we close our eyes to reality or negate our values, for all sorts of reasons, do we not run the risk of losing some that are of great value?**

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**THE UNIVERSAL VALUES WE SHARE  
IN SOCIETY WILL MAKE ALL THE  
DIFFERENCE!**

We all long to live in a harmonious world. As Christophe Maé asks in his song: “Where is happiness? Where is it?”

**Are we aware that the leverage of happiness is to cultivate, defend, protect and transmit these sacred values more and more?**

Wishing you a wonderful journey!

## Rosalie Cadron-Jetté 1794-1864

### Secular Life

- Rosalie is born in Lavaltrie (Quebec) on January 27, 1794.
- She marries Jean-Marie Jetté on October 7, 1811.
- Together, they have 11 children. Only six survive.
- Jean-Marie dies of cholera on June 14, 1832.
- Once her family is grown-up, Rosalie takes care of the needy.

### Religious Life

- Rosalie opens the Hospice de Sainte-Pélagie for single mothers, on May 1, 1845.
- She establishes the Misericordia Sisters' Community on January 16, 1848.
- Rosalie becomes “Mother of the Nativity”.
- She dies on April 5, 1864, at age 70.

### Canonization Cause

- Documents on the heroic nature of Rosalie's virtues were deposited at the Vatican in 1994.
- On December 9, 2013, Pope Francis ordered the promulgation of the Decree of Venerability of Rosalie.
- The Roman Postulator is Father Luigi Guarneri, f.s.c.
- The Vice-Postulator is Ms. Hélène Grégoire.

# MOTHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

Michel Laroche

## From the Smallest to One Greater Than Oneself

We are all familiar with the expression out of the mouths of babes. Although we know that this is not always the case, we have to admit that the wisdom of these little ones often has the ability to bring us back to the essential, to what is really important.

I'm thinking of the day when I recently received the parents and their two children aged 3 and 4 for their first family workshop. After I greeted them the mother asked her 2 boys to introduce themselves by name. Taken aback by the silence of the children the parents firmly insisted that they should obey, threatening to punish the boys if they didn't comply and that they would return home immediately.

Visibly uncomfortable and short of solutions, the parents looked at me for a brief moment, then relieved, immediately accepted my invitation to us adults to act as role models by miming our introduction. Intrigued by the scene the children slowly approached indicating that they too wanted to play. Suddenly, to everyone's surprise and similar to a rallying cry, the oldest one exclaimed: "I am a human, everyone is human, human dad, human mom, etc." causing a great outburst of laughter, astonishment and approval.

In all his naiveté and without realizing it doesn't this little boy engender the need to look up to someone "greater than oneself?" Of course he does! By choosing to ignore his parents' injunction to identify himself by the name, which would have only meant to name what he had in common with his entourage, he agreed to break the

silence. Moreover, it should be noted that he only spoke after feeling he was in a place of trust as demonstrated by the understanding and openness to the shared pleasure his parents began to show him.

When I think of the challenges thrust upon us by our societies where we encourage lifestyles based on individualism, the candour of this "child's words" should resonate in all of us as an urgent call to raise our level of collective consciousness. It is important that the "I" does not always take precedence over the "we."

Let us now apply this principle of the "greater than oneself" to the development of the mother's bond of attachment with her child.

As Christians and at the example of the Venerable Rosalie Cadron-Jetté, Mercy constitutes for us one of the most sacred values that exist. On the one hand it requires that we allow ourselves to be profoundly touched, in an almost organic way, by the suffering of our neighbour, but, on the other hand, that we take concrete actions such as the practice of the "acts of Mercy" -- to relieve the suffering of the person.

The theory of Attachment defines the concept of "maternal sensitivity" as: "the ability to adequately perceive and interpret the signals given by the child and the capacity to respond quickly and appropriately. If at first sight this notion may seem abstract, we quickly realize that it refers to a multitude of observations and actions that mothers deal with on a daily basis."



In terms of caring for a child, and depending on his or her level of dependence and vulnerability, even more so to those needed by a baby, Mercy and maternal sensitivity are definitely compatible. This similarity is not only due to the skills and the know-how they require but also to the fact that they share and embody the same set of universal human values such as: the gift of self, empathy, compassion, hospitality, acceptance, respect, listening, caring, love of others, kindness, commiseration, etc.

By giving priority to establishing a strong bond with her child a mother directly contributes to the evolution of the human species and the construction of a better world. In the same way, daily life with children is filled with opportunities to cultivate the spirit of Mercy and the human values associated with it.

Taking on the role of parenting is almost always accompanied by the questioning of one's priorities, values, beliefs and the meaning one gives to his/her life. It can also be conducive to a spiritual journey.

It is more than certain that after having lived the life of a mother, the values of unconditional welcoming, listening, sensitivity, generosity, closeness, commitment and many more, occupied a special place at the heart of the Charism received by the foundress of the Misericordia Sisters for the accomplishment of her divine mission on earth.

# MERCY IN ACTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL MISERICORDIA FAMILY

Gary Nolan

## WORDS AND THEIR POWER TO HEAL

Our Creator understands the power of words because He created speech and language. The power of words is a recurrent theme in the *Bible* and particularly the *Book of Proverbs*.

Solomon and others in *Proverbs* teach us of the power of the tongue throughout the book. For example,

### **life and death are in the tongue**

(Prov. 18:21);

### **a word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in setting of silver**

(Prov. 25:11);

### **the tongue that brings healing, is a tree of life**

(Prov.15:4).

It is particularly this last text that interests the International Misericordia Family (IMF).

For the IMF, words are a source of healing. According to *Proverbs*, everyone in the Family has the power to change a life, protect, build respect, and add value.

## Some of the practical ways the IMF uses words are by:

1. Offering reassurance in an anxious situation to settle people
2. Choosing words that encourage and promote development
3. Interacting with people with respect and dignity

4. Understanding that being honest doesn't mean being brutal or harsh
5. Thinking of ways to show appreciation and gratitude
6. Keeping in mind that a kind word can change a day or attitude from bad to good
7. Remembering that thank you is not only good manners but is a spiritual gesture
8. Showing by word and action that everyone is loved, respected, and valued
9. Conveying words that are simple, sincere, and true. Mercy requires that we act with love and truth.

## How to start building words and conversations of healing

The suggestions by the IMF, mentioned above, are ways to start using or thinking about healing words. Another way is to follow the words of the apostle Paul. At Phil. 4:8 in the New International Version we read:

**Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.**

Another important way is to follow Rosalie's attitude toward the rejected of society. Her words reflected the



loving feelings she felt in her heart for the mothers. Jesus mentioned that when He said

**that the good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good**

(Lu 6:45)

Cultivating the right heart condition for the mothers will convey the positive messages we have in our hearts for them.

## Why words of Mercy start with us

Because things that are said to us, affect us, we must be careful what words we use with ourselves. Therefore, it's worth remembering to choose words about ourselves that are words we accept because our words can reduce our self-esteem. A question we should always ask ourselves is, **Do we also use words of healing on and for ourselves?**

Happily, we can all be a source of healing with our words. **Therefore, which words will we listen to, dwell on, and use, for ourselves and others, to be a source of healing?**

# The Prayer

IMF Prayer Committee

## The Prayer Network

Prayer is a source of hope for our world. The strength of communal prayer is very powerful. It enlightens, guides, calms, reassures and revitalizes the person experiencing difficulties.

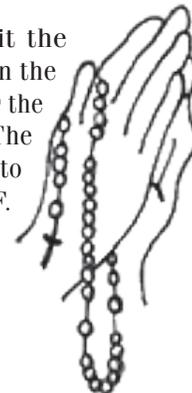
The Misericordia Sisters were faithful witnesses to the importance and the power of prayer for the members of the International Misericordia Family (IMF). They were very careful to transmit the heart of their spiritual heritage by creating a Prayer Network over 25 years ago.

This year the Prayer Network will undergo a renewal. A number of lay persons have decided to continue the prayer ministry of the Sisters by forming a prayer community in the Church and in the world. They will come together to practice different forms of prayer: adoration, the rosary, Perpetual Novena, personalized prayers for the mothers and their children.

It is in the name of their faith, their hope and their charity that these lay people will carry in their hearts the prayer intentions

asking Mother Rosalie to intercede with the Merciful Father.

We invite you to visit the CRCJ site by clicking on the "Prayer" tab to discover the prayer life of the IMF. The Prayer Network is open to non-members of the IMF. For more information you may contact the CRCJ by going directly to the site, by email or by telephone.



## For Your Prayer Requests

*For prayer support, send your requests to RCJC and these will be deposited on the tomb of Mother Rosalie. Rest assured that the International Misericordia Family, the Sisters and Lay People, will be united in prayer with you daily to ask God to help you. Every Friday, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. your prayer requests will also be placed on the altar of the chapel of the Motherhouse during the Misericordia-Adoration Hour.*

Dear Rosalie... 

Favours collected by Martine Fradet

## Favours Requested

 Prayers are requested for K. and L. who bought a house last July and who every week are discovering new hidden defects that are harmful to their health. They have initiated legal proceedings against the former owner in the hope that everything will be settled quickly and for the best. They are also the new parents of a little boy, all three live with K.'s parents since their new home must be decontaminated and renovated before they can move in. I pray that Rosalie will intervene with the Father so that the legal proceedings and the work on the house can be brought to completion as soon as possible and this little family can return to their rightful home.

 Dear Rosalie, I pray that peace will reign in my family and that the Lord will bless the person who is the instigator of all the quarrelling.

 For K., mother of three, victim of domestic violence who was assaulted and injured by her spouse. The concussion she suffered has made it impossible for her to work for the past two years. I ask Rosalie to please ask the Lord to restore K.'s physical, moral, psychological and spiritual health so that she can resume her normal course of life.

## Favours Obtained

 Thank you Rosalie, my husband has been a cancer survivor for the past 7 years!

 Thank you Rosalie for being there for my granddaughter. I entrusted her to you when she was born. Last week's operation was a success. Thank you!

 Dear members of the International Misericordia Family, thank you for your prayers for my daughter P. and for having entrusted her to the good care of Rosalie. My daughter was able to move to a suitable home far from the man who was harassing her. Just recently she was offered a job that suits her perfectly. She is overjoyed!

 Dear Misericordia Sisters thank you very much for praying to Rosalie for me. My heart surgery went very well, I received a new valve and I am getting better every day. D.

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE INFORM THE RCJC OF FAVOURS OBTAINED!**

## What's New in the IMF?

Martine Fradet

We offer you two excerpts from the text that Sister Monique Lallier, s.m., Superior General, read at the Annual Gathering of the International Misericordia Family last October.

### Recognition of the IMF as a Spiritual Family by the Church

In recent months a step became urgent and crucial for the future of our founding charism by the IMF. As you know, the IMF was born from the Misericordia Sisters and has evolved through our Community.

We have taken serious steps with the Diocese of Montreal to ensure the viability of the IMF and to ascertain that the Church immediately recognize the IMF as heir to the founding charism so that it can pursue our heritage.

Last September, a meeting was held with François Sarrazin, representative of the Diocese of Montreal, the members of the General Council, Denise Tessier Coordinator of the CRCJ, Francine Garneau and Michelle Pelletier members of the Transition Committee to give a detailed explanation of the organizational structure of the IMF, its mission in the Church and its humanitarian mission, in order to receive official recognition.

After receiving the presentation, François Sarrazin, the Church representative, was stunned by the quantity of work that has been accomplished thus far. His spontaneous

reaction was to say: "when do we begin?" He told us this was unprecedented, that he was not only impressed but fascinated by the breath of renewal that could come from the IMF.

A giant step has been taken, the diocesan authorities assure us that they will grant us recognition.

Needless to say, this news filled us with happiness, wonderment and gratitude. I can tell you our hearts were dancing with joy.

If we have successfully reached this stage, it is thanks to the hard work of the past five years, where together, the General Council, the Misericordia Sisters, the CRCJ, the laity involved on the various mandated committees, the mission-liaison persons, the directors, the members of the Board of Directors made the commitment to work through the transitional steps and to lay a solid foundation for the continuity of the charism. We have the right to be proud!

### Our Congregation Last Will and Testament

Our history and our mission imbued with the values of Mercy have contributed to building a better world for hundreds of thousands of mothers and their children as well as for innumerable vulnerable people. Our wish is for the IMF to continue this great story by

continuing to live the mission so as to pass on this precious treasure to future generations.

To be a lighthouse of Mercy within the Church and society is this not a wonderful gift that we can offer the world today?

In order for this to happen we believe that every family needs a home, a place where they can come together and share the same mission.

We are pleased to announce that our residence on De Serres Street, where reside four Sisters and the CRCJ, will officially become our Family Home. Through this legacy the Family Home will provide security, stability and a place of belonging for the members. This Family Home will be a place of hospitality, gathering, renewal, training, prayer and Eucharistic celebrations.

A house of Mercy at the heart of people's lives!

Sr. Monique Lallier, s.m.  
Superior General

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*The CRCJ Team Denise, Lise and Martine wish you Happy Holidays!*

Visit the Website of the RCJC!  
It's worth the detour!  
[www.centrerosaliecadronjette.org](http://www.centrerosaliecadronjette.org)

Version  
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Save the trees...  
Ask us for your RCJC NEWSLETTER by e-mail!  
[secretaire.crcj@videotron.ca](mailto:secretaire.crcj@videotron.ca)

### Publication of the RCJC Newsletter

The RCJC Newsletter is published three times a year and offered to those who wish to deepen in their faith.

The printing and mailing costs add a burden on our operations. If you want to help us, you can help by making a donation. We will greatly appreciate it!

We say thank you to all those who sent a financial contribution!

An income tax receipt is provided for all donations of \$25 and more.

### GOOD READING AND GOOD JOURNEY!

**REMEMBER!**  
Please advise the RCJC  
of any change of address.  
Thank you!

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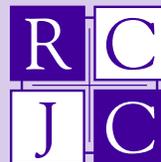
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Rosalie-Cadron-Jetté  
Centre

#### Our coordinates:

Rosalie-Cadron-Jetté Centre  
12435, avenue de la Miséricorde,  
Montreal (Quebec) H4J 2G3

**Telephone:** 514-332-0550, ext. 1-330

**E-mail:** [secretaire.crcj@videotron.ca](mailto:secretaire.crcj@videotron.ca)

**Website:** [www.centrerosaliecadronjette.org](http://www.centrerosaliecadronjette.org)