



## Press release for the canonization of the Blessed Marie-Léonie PARADIS

On this first of July 2024, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, held a Consistory, a meeting of the Cardinals present in Rome. He announced that **the canonization of Blessed Marie-Léonie Paradis** (1840-1912), foundress of the Institute of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family of Sherbrooke, will take place on Sunday, **October 20, 2024**, in Rome. She was beatified in Montreal on September 11, 1984 by Saint John Paul II, during his memorable visit to Canada.

During the same celebration, eleven martyrs from Damascus (including 8 Franciscans and 3 lay faithful murdered in 1860 by Druze Muslims) will also be canonized, as well as two other founders of religious communities: Giuseppe Allamano for the Consolata Missionaries and Elena Guerra for the *Oblate dello Spirito Santo*.

The Church in Canada is greatly pleased with the happy news of the canonization of Blessed Marie-Léonie Paradis.

Born in 1840, she entered the Marianite Sisters of the Holy Cross at the age of 14, becoming a teacher in Varennes, Saint-Laurent of Montreal, Saint-Martin of Laval; then in New York, in Michigan she taught the French Canadians who emigrated in large numbers to the United States. She has always felt a call to support priests in their ministry; events led her to found a new community which was recognized in 1896 by the Bishop of Sherbrooke: the Little Sisters of the Holy Family. These consecrated women ensure the service of parishes and religious institutions; through their life of prayer and collaboration, they accompany priests in their ministry. In their self-giving, their goal is to serve Christ in the person of the priest on the temporal and spiritual plane. Many women have heard the same call and have dedicated themselves to this mission.

Precise information will be sent to us later on how to participate in the celebration of the canonization.

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✠ Serge Poitras

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