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## Congregation of the Holy Cross

### This Section:

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«*IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS-CHRIST*» (motto of the Congregation of the Holy Cross )

The Congregation of the Holy Cross was founded in Le Mans, France, by Father Basile-Antoine-Marie Moreau, in 1837. At the time, the founder envisioned an apostolic institute where the teaching Sisters would serve as auxiliaries to the Fathers and Brothers of the Order of the Holy Cross.

In response to the appeals of the Pope and bishops, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters were sent throughout the world. The apostolic zeal of the Congregation eventually led a group of Sisters to Canada to pursue their mission as educators. Their first Canadian mission opened in Saint-Laurent, in the diocese of Montreal, home of the Mother House to this day. The year was 1847.

Sisters of the Holy Cross missions opened in Ontario as early as 1885, starting with Lafontaine, in the diocese of Toronto and followed later by Crysler, Pembroke, Alexandria, Cornwall and then to the distant diocese of Hearst. It was at the request of Bishop Hallé, the Vicar Apostolic for Northern Ontario, that four Sisters arrived in Foleyet, August 1932. In September of that year, Foleyet opened its doors to two classes of 29 and 39 students respectively. Our chronicles tell of the important role played by parish priest, Rev. Gustave Lampron and of the fire which destroyed the convent in 1935. The apostolic mission of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Foleyet spanned nearly half a century (1932-1978).

In 1958 Bishop Louis Lévesque requested Sisters for Gogama where he felt much good could be done. They were warmly welcomed on August 23 of that year by Rev. Georges-Aimé Mathieu and a large contingent of parishioners and students. It was in June of 1988 that the Sisters regrettably departed from Gogama.

Although progressively fewer in number, older and mostly retired from teaching in primary and secondary and boarding schools, the Sisters of the Holy Cross remain focused on an eagerness to serve. A deep willingness to risk everything for the Kingdom and a relentless readiness to serve the needs of the people of God, such is the spirit which led Sisters Clothilde Robillard and Marcella Laurin to respond to the request of Rev. Réal Veilleux and Smooth Rock Falls parishioners. Their fond wish was that, in the six years they spent in Smooth Rock Falls, they would bring to the fore what is so characteristic of the Congregation of the Holy Cross: union of hearts and apostolic zeal.

In 1993, Father Réal Veilleux was transferred to the Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Parish in Kapuskasing. At that time Sister Clothilde returned to Cornwall for reasons of health but Sister Marcella decided to pursue her work as pastoral agent at the Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Parish in Kapuskasing: this work consists of hospital visits to the sick, home communion to the sick and the elderly, preparing new parents for the baptism of their child, animating the celebration of the Word at funeral homes or in the absence of a priest, and providing any number of services to assist the church and the rectory. Sister Marcella is also the Diocesan Secretary for La Vie Montante (Ascending Life, a spiritual movement for the seniors).

With the grace of God, Sister Marcella hopes to be able to pursue her apostolic calling for many years to come right here, in this great Northern region which she calls her country of adoption, where people are so friendly and the land so enchanting.