

# In Remembrance of Sister Marie Franck, DW

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A good while ago, Anne Morrow Lindbergh wrote: ***“Only when a tree has fallen, can you take the measure of it. It is the same with a man (or a woman).”*** Might not this be true for our Sister, Marie – this Hundred-Year Old Oak or Sugar Maple! Only now can we begin to take the full measure of her life and her love. Only now can we measure and wonder at the whole length of her life, and only now can we see its parts, looking at its rings and circles of growth –years of plenty and years of pain, circle on circle, center unfolding out and folding in again.

Marie was a disciple and imitator of Jesus Wisdom. She truly sat down on the mountain of the Beatitudes and really heard what Jesus said: Become like me, he said –poor in spirit, meek, merciful, close to those in pain and in mourning. Become like me, a maker of Peace and Righteousness even at great cost. And measuring that fallen tree – in its whole length and in its smaller circles and parts – we can rejoice at the life and witness of our Sister, who strove to live like Jesus, and who now knows –with all her Dear Ones gone before her – the comfort and joy of the children of God.

100 years! Our Montfortian Family arrived here in the Port Jefferson region 115 years ago. We arrived in Ozone Park 114 years ago (and this September we shall hand the parish over to the Diocesan clergy). Marie’s long life, and all its smaller parts and circles, also invite us into the **Family of Montfort and Mary Louise** to rejoice and offer praise. For I believe that Marie embodied what is **BEST** in our Family, what is at the **heart** of our Family: Love that is real, simple and incarnate. Love that reaches out and embraces people at all stages of life: young students, growing professionals and healthcare givers, wise and tender care for the elderly.

Marie embodied what is Best in our Family of Montfort and Marie-Louise: that we are “kitchen table folk,” down to earth, giving “Skin” to God by our human, tender, caring touch and concern. **THIS is what INCARNATE WISDOM looks like! THIS is what the BEATITUDES LIVED looks like!**

I love the passage in ***Love of Eternal Wisdom***, where Montfort says: ***“Let us offer Eternal Wisdom the irrevocable gift of our heart. That is all she asks of us.”*** (LEW, 132).

Today we offer thanks – that our Sister, Marie, for over 100 years offered Eternal Wisdom the irrevocable gift of her heart. And let us give praise and glory to Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom, who now rejoices forever in Marie, and clothes her with the garments of salvation.

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