

KATERI AND MONTREAL

Despite Adair, Bergeron, and Ferron, who was recently medalized by the *Société Saint Jean Baptiste* of Montreal, the island city is truly the achievement of a group of saintly people if not of saints. It definitely bears the stamp of divine intervention, naïve as this assertion at first glance may seem.

The founder of Montreal, a receiver-general in la Flèche, a city of the former Province of Anjou, Jérôme Le Royer de la Dauversière, inspired by God and our Blessed Mother, secured the help of admirable collaborators: Paul de Chomedey Sieur de Maisonneuve, Jeanne Mance, first lay nurse of North America, and Blessed Marguerite Bourgeoys. His faithful stand-by, founder of the Sulpicians, Father Jean Jacques Olier, the president of the influential Society of the Blessed Sacrament, Baron de Renty, and the “unknown benefactress”, Madame de Bullion, with several other charitable personages, never forsook him in spite of the apparent foolhardiness of the undertaking.

Why? Their one aim was the conversion of the Amerinds to Christ. Few important cities on our planet were founded specifically for religious motives. In the founder's mind, Montreal or as it was then called, Ville Marie, to all intents and purposes, was a missionary foundation. So it remained during his lifetime and during the following years as long as his lieutenant, Paul de Chomedey, served as its governor.



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Woodcarving by Larry Taylor of Caughnawaga

KATERI AT PRAYER