

Sister Lucille was born on June 7, 1930, in St-Urbain, Charlevoix County, Quebec. Her father, Hidala Desgagné, owned and operated a woodlot. Her mother, Zulma Simard, ran the household with nine children: five girls and 4 boys. Lucille was the eldest. Following the local traditions, her paternal grandparents lived with the family. At six years old, Lucille attended the village school run by the Little Franciscans of Mary from Baie-St-Paul. She ended her studies after grade six to aid her mother as the other children grew and her grandparents required more care.

A Christian upbringing was of utmost importance: family prayers, reciting the rosary, daily mass, the way of the cross, and regular visits to the Lord as the Church was always open. Her family spent their free time together: card games in the evening, skipping rope in the street, and tobogganing in the winters. The children's greatest joy was to go with their father for two or three days into the woodlot and sleep in the little shack. The older boys helped their father, and the girls prepared the meals. They spent hours in the open-air roaming and discovering nature's wonders.

When she was thirteen and quite ill, she heard a voice asking her, *Do you want to be a religious sister?* She immediately answered, *Yes Lord.* This deep desire never left her. Once recovered from her illness, Lucille grew and contributed to the wellbeing of the family. For a few years, she crocheted and sold carpets to financially help the family. She then went to work as a seamstress in a warehouse.

When she reached adulthood, she had a dream. *I was on top of a staircase and a very beautiful lady appeared telling me, here is not where you are meant to be. When I woke up, the calling to religious life was so strong and I wondered where I should go.* So, she spoke to her parish priest who gave her a book on Maria Assunta and the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This book had been dropped off by the FMM during their mission appeal. It was like being hit by lightning! The simple life of Assunta and the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament confirmed where God wanted her. Her sister, Hélène, seeing her pensive, asked her this freeing question. *Lucille, when are you finally going to decide to enter religious life?* Lucille understood. She was free to pursue her dream. She was twenty-seven. After completing the requirements, she entered the convent of Grande-Allée in Quebec City on September 15, 1957.

Religious formation was not what she had expected. As an accomplished woman with many years of responsibilities, she found the novitiate very painful. She found it especially hard when your very move had to be cleared with all sorts of permissions. *The Lord told me, alone you cannot do it, but I will be with you?* Was this the presence of God in her life? Yes, Lucille always gave witness to that very fact. Her kindness and humility shone in her abilities of meeting others' needs with respect and empathy.

Her entire missionary life was spent in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. She started with the novices teaching them sewing and giving them a model of a humble life deeply

rooted in God and striving to truly be a daughter of Mary of the Passion.

She completed a Gerontology diploma and worked with the elderly in Ottawa. She greatly aided them during her visits. Her clients looked forward to seeing her. Her deep relationship with God and her pleasant personality led to many conversations of spiritual support and peace. This was also true during the eight years she spent lovingly serving in our women's residence in Quebec City.

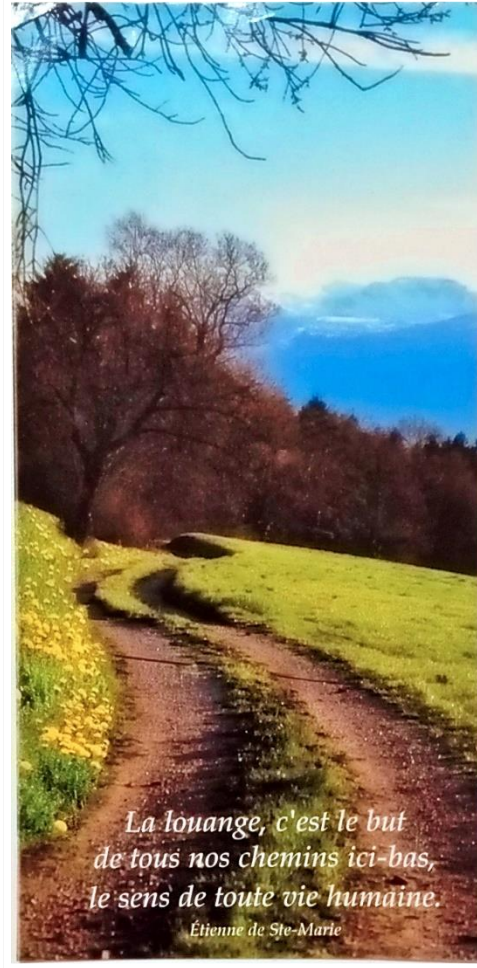
Sister Lucille was also the procurator in our convents of St Malo, Rigaud, and Ottawa. For ten years, she was such a precious help to her sisters, meeting their material needs.

As a woman of prayer, she was thrilled to be able to live a renewal during the *Année Relais* in Three Rivers, Quebec. She took bible courses to deepen her understanding of Jesus. Her greatest joy, though, was being named as sacristan in our chapel on Laurier Avenue in Montreal. When she heard the news, she exclaimed, *oh, thank you Lord, I always dreamed to be at the service of Jesus in the chapel.*

As the years went by, her health declined, and she was admitted to our infirmary. This was a rough time for her. She lived this transition as serenely as she could, despite how hard it was for her to accept. She began to appreciate the silence of her room. She took time to communicate with her family. She loved them deeply. She was so thrilled when they came to visit her or spent time on the phone with her.

In June 2021 with her fellow sisters, she moved to Carrefour Providence. She loved her room where she could watch the mass and the common prayers. She went to the little chapel for daily adoration. In her spiritual notes, she wrote, *since my baptismal calling and my religious consecration, I have received an abundance of grace as numerous as the stars in the sky. So many that they cannot be counted... Today, I strive to spend my time well as it is a gift from God. I want my life to be overflowing with love, peace, and joy in the Lord, my sisters, my family, and myself.*

Wise virgin in the final moments of her life, she recognized the call of God. A faithful servant, she was ready, and her little lantern was lit. She went with Him into eternal life. Lucille, thank you for your life among us. Farewell and go in the peace of the Lord.



*Praise is the goal of our earthly roads,  
the meaning of all human life.*

*Card found among her personal belongings.*



***Sister Lucille Desgagné  
(Marie Michelle de la Passion)***

***Franciscan Missionaries of Mary***

***born in St-Urbain, QC  
June 7, 1930***

***entered the Institute in Quebec City, QC  
on September 15, 1957***

***died in Montreal, QC  
on September 5, 2023***

***in her 94<sup>th</sup> year,  
the 66<sup>th</sup> of her religious life.***

***May she rest in the peace of Christ!***