



**Mennonite  
Church  
Canada**

Resource Centre

*Ste. Marguerite  
d'Youville*

## Children's Story

Year B, Epiphany 5

Title: Ste. Marguerite d'Youville  
Author: Barb Draper  
Church: Floradale Mennonite Church,  
Floradale, ON  
Text: Mark 1:29-39  
Theme: Jesus has compassion on  
(cares for) sick people.

### Wondering Questions:

- I wonder what life was like without hospitals.
- I wonder why God helped Marguerite care for sick people.
- I wonder what God wants to help us care about.

### Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they gather and remind them that this story-time is a chance to gather close together with other children and with God. Take a moment to become aware of being together, as a group of children in the nearness of God. Imagine yourselves altogether fitting onto and snuggling into God's big lap.

Today's story will remind us of what Jesus once did. In Mark 1:29-39 we are told about how Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law when she was sick. Here it is in my Bible. Listen for this when the Scripture is read. But now let's listen to this story which happened many years ago in Montreal.

Sometimes, like Jesus, we get challenged. Not everyone agrees about what is right. Even when we know the right thing to say or do, it can be very hard. But when we manage to do the hard but right thing, we show people that we're with Jesus. That's what happens in our story today.

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**Story:**

Many years ago, when Montreal was just a little town, a little girl named Marguerite lived with her large family in a nearby village called Youville. Just like everyone else in Youville, Marguerite spoke French. When Marguerite was only seven years old, her father died. Now she was the oldest of six children who had no father. The family was very poor, but Marguerite managed to go to school because her grandparents paid her school fees.

When Marguerite grew up, she married Francois. At first, she was very happy, but when Francois would go away on long trips, she was sad. Marguerite was happy when their babies were born. But, when her babies got sick, there was no hospital and some of them died. Soon she had only two boys. Then Francois got sick and died, too. Poor Marguerite was very sad. She cried and prayed to God and asked God to take care of her.

After a while, God helped Marguerite notice that she was only one of many people who needed care. She met a woman who was blind and invited her to live with her. When her two boys were a little older, Marguerite and three of her friends rented a bigger house so they would have room to look after poor and sick people. Then a war started between England and France and the nearby town of Montreal was attacked. Marguerite and her friends decided to help the wounded soldiers. Actually, they helped anyone who was hungry or sick. They didn't ask if the people deserved help or not, they just helped.

These kind women formed a group that they called the Sisters of Charity, but most people called them the Grey Nuns because they wore grey clothes. Other women came and joined their group. A hundred years later four Grey Nuns traveled by canoe all the way from Montreal to Winnipeg so they could help sick people there. The Grey Nuns started hospitals and schools in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. (Do a search to find out if there is a nearby hospital or school that was started by the Grey Nuns.)

Marguerite was a brave woman who cared about sick people. In 1990, the Catholic Church declared her to be a saint because she showed God's love and care to sick people like Jesus did.

**Prayer:**

Thank you, God, that you and people like Marguerite care about sick people. Thank you for hospitals with gentle nurses and doctors. Please help us when we are sick and help us do our part in caring for others when they get sick. Amen.