

### An Interesting Story:

Johanna had just completed her chemo treatments, had her port removed, and stopped relying on the many medications she had become accustomed to by the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders first big assignment was to choose their favorite saint, prepare a short write-up, and dress as their saint. They had a Saint's Parade and marched from the school into the church dressed as their favorite saint for a very sweet little ceremony.

Johanna chose to be Saint Marguerite D'Youville. I bought a pilgrim's costume and doctored it up a little to resemble the outfits in a book we have about Saint Marguerite. I cannot tell you how excited she was to be Marguerite D'Youville!!

A bit of a funny/strange story about this:

When Johanna and I spoke of which saint she should choose to be, she immediately thought of Saint Marguerite D'Youville. She pulled out a book we were given about her, and her photo album of a trip up to Montreal, Canada from when we visited my brother-in-law Andre's family. Andre's Aunt is the Superior General of the Grey Nuns Order of Montreal, an order founded by Marguerite D'Youville nearly 300 years ago. Johanna was quite taken with all the Nuns she met, and loved seeing and touching Saint Marguerite's personal things that are almost 300 years old!

The funny thing is that the day we did this research was October 15th - Saint Marguerite D'Youville's birthday! We didn't know that until we started reading!! Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

During Johanna's battle with Burkitt's Lymphoma, I told her that all of her Nun-friends were praying very, very hard to Saint Marguerite D'Youville, and to God - that made her so happy and gave her such a smile!

I also want to mention this - and I tell everyone this - that I firmly believe that a miracle took place in Johanna. The doctor's told us that after her 1st week of chemo, they wanted to see her tumors reduce in size by at least 20%. If there was little or no change, they would need to re-visit the protocol, of which I think there really wasn't any other hopeful cure - they told us that her tumors would kill her in less than two weeks if this didn't work...we were so very nervous at the end of that 1st week. Then her doctor came in to speak with us with a big smile - Johanna's tumors had reduced 100% - they couldn't see them at this point!

Miracle? I think yes, absolutely.

Johanna still had to complete over 4 months of chemo as the protocol went, but she far surpassed all the doctor's expectations. I believe Saint Marguerite D'Youville had a hand in this!



### **The following is Johanna's Saint's Write-Up:**

My Uncle Andre's Aunt, Sister Aurore Larkin, is the Superior General of the Grey Nuns of Montreal. She goes to many poor places to tell people about God's love and Saint Marguerite's love, and to help them, too.

I visited the Mother House in Montreal in March, 2006 and saw all of Saint Marguerite D'Youville's things - I kneeled on her very own kneeler and said very special prayers to Saint Marguerite - I think Saint Marguerite helped me to get better, too!

### **Saint Marguerite D'Youville**

Marguerite D'Youville was the first Canadian person to be made a saint.

She was made a saint by Pope John Paul II in 1990, after a miracle in her name occurred.

About 30 years ago, a little girl named Lise Normand got Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia (AML). Her doctors said there was no cure and that she would die soon.

All of her family and friends prayed very hard to Marguerite D'Youville to help this sick child, and Lise really believed that she would.

Very soon after, she was cured - her doctors could not figure out why - it was a miracle! Saint Marguerite D'Youville's feast day is on her birthday every year, October 15th.

Marguerite D'Youville was born 306 years ago on October 15, 1701. She had 5 brothers and sisters. Her father died when she was just 7 years old - they were very poor. Marguerite helped her mother with all the children and chores. When she grew up and got married, she had 6 children - 4 of them died when they were just babies. Her other 2 sons became priests. Her husband died after being sick for a very long time. Marguerite took very good care of him. All her life Marguerite believed in God's presence in her life. Marguerite began doing charitable work in God's name, helping the poor and very sick. Marguerite and 4 of her friends started the Grey Nuns of Montreal, Canada on 12/31/1737 - 270 years ago! They ran a hospital and shelter and vowed to always help the sick and the poor for God - it is still there today!

Marguerite died on 12/23/1771 when she was 70 years old. She will always be known as the "Mother of the Poor" and the "Mother of Charity". The Grey Nuns still do Marguerite's work! They even travel all over the world to help the poor and the sick.