Epilogue

February 2008

On 12 July 2005, Albert Laurent Ray (Lorne) died in Ottawa, leaving Gertrude as the sole survivor of Marie-Louise’s three children.

At the moment of concluding this book, in August 2007, Marie-Louise Bouchard Labelle and Joseph Ray (Jérémie Alphonse Roy) had 13 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. The unconditional love and unfailing devotion that Marie-Louise brought to raising her children after their father’s departure have left an indelible mark on this large family where humour combines with love, generosity, frankness and self-giving.

In early January 2008, destiny helped me bring closure to this story that kept haunting me and of which I was hoping so much to uncover the last secrets. The publisher to whom I had submitted my manuscript sent it to an independent evaluator. One of the comments made by this evaluator suggested a research avenue unknown to me until then. It was with a pounding heart that, in searching through the tomes of this new source of information, I found out what became of Father Roy after he left his family in 1928.

The Church first sent him to the Saint Antoine Hospice in the village of St-Lin (now St-Lin-Laurentides) 30 kilometres north of Montreal in the present Lanaudière administrative region, at the foot of the Laurentians. This institution was run by the Sisters of Providence from Montreal. Then in 1933, at 75 years of age, he was transferred to the Saint Janvier Residence at 795 Gouin Boulevard.
in north Montreal. The following year, this Residence moved to 1801 Gouin Boulevard East. In 1935, Father Roy replaced Mr. Alfred L’Ecuyer as Chaplin at the Residence, a position that he occupied until 1943. During this period, the Residence opened a crèche, the Saint Paul Crèche, administered by the Sisters of Mercy. In 1943, Father Jean-Louis Chartrand became the Residence’s new Chaplin. Father Roy, who was then 85 years old, stayed at the Saint Janvier Residence, and this is where he died on 28 July 1944, without saying goodbye to Marie-Louise and the children.

![Gertrude in front the grave of her father’s, J.A. Roy](image)

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