

"Near this spot, on the 18th day of May, 1642, landed the Founders of Montreal, commanded by Paul de Chomédy, Sieur de Maisonneuve: Their first proceeding was a religious service."

The new settlement was named Ville Marie, in honor of the patron saint of the fraternity, "The Queen of Heaven."

The essentials of the proposed establishment were to be a seminary of priests, a nuns' hospital and a school for Indian children; the settlement that was to grow up around these institutions being simply for their defence and maintenance.

The first building erected was the "Fort," around the temporary chapel in which the first mass was sung; and within its narrow limits the little company lived and faced their difficulties together. Two years later the Hôtel Dieu at the corner of the present St. Sulpice and St. Paul Streets was ready for occupation.

In 1653 actual colonization began: grants were made, and a chain of houses built between the Fort and Hôtel Dieu forming a strong line of defence against Indian attacks; while a stout windmill standing until our day at "Windmill Point," served as a redoubt to the westward.

In 1657 the Seminary of St. Sulpice was founded, and six years later the Sulpicians became virtual proprietors of the Island. The remnant of the Company of Notre Dame de Montréal became so reduced in both zeal and purse that they begged the priests of the Seminary to take the charge off their hands.