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BEATIFICATION OF CANADIAN SISTER DINA BÉLANGER

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall announces that a Canadian delegation will travel to Rome to attend, on Saturday, March 20, the beatification of Dina Bélanger, Sister of Jesus-Mary.

"The Church's decision to beatify a Canadian woman of the 20th century is an honour that we all share in," said Mrs. McDougall.

The Canadian delegation will be led by Gilles Loiselle, MP for the riding of Québec, where Sister Bélanger was born. Gil Rémillard, MPP for Jean-Talon (the constituency where the Provincial House of the Sisters of Jesus-Mary is located) and Suzanne Duplessis, MP for Louis-Hébert (where the Provincial House in which Dina Bélanger lived is found), will also attend the beatification.

Dina Bélanger, called Sister Marie Sainte-Cécile de Rome, was born in Quebec City on April 30, 1897. Early in life she exhibited a charitable nature and developed this propensity for helping the poor around her. She was educated by the Sisters of Our Lady Congregation. Although a gifted and diligent student, she retained a simple and modest disposition.

Sister Bélanger became a piano teacher, giving concerts in aid of charitable works. Her music students were impressed with her kindness, humility and patience. She joined the Sisters of Jesus-Mary in 1921. She died of tuberculosis eight years later, on September 4, 1929, in her thirty-third year.

The day following the beatification of Dina Bélanger, the Sovereign Pontiff will canonize Claudine Thévenet, the French nun who founded the Sisters of Jesus-Mary.

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