

When the Congregation Convent was completed, it became the most ardent desire of Marguerite Bourgeoys and her children, to build a church, but means were altogether lacking. Jeanne Leber came to the rescue, and furnished them with the sum needed, a part no doubt of that which her father had set aside as her marriage dowry, and her brother Pierre Leber gave the cut stone which was required for such an edifice.

Melle Leber made one stipulation in her donation to the community, that there should be constructed for her, at the back of sanctuary a cell. It consisted of three stories, a grating in the front enabled her to see the Blessed Sacrament, to confess and to communicate, and a door at the back to receive her food and materials for work.

When the church was completed, Jeanne obtained permission from her father and from the ecclesiastical authorities to sequester herself there.

On the 5th of August, Feast of Our Lady of the Snows 1695, the ceremony of her reclusion took place in the newly completed church. In the absence of the Bishop M. Dollier de Casson, Superior of St Sulpice and acting Vicar-General, officiated. There was a procession, in which participated many of Jeanne's friends and relations as well as the religious of the Congregation, and many of the clergy, all carrying lighted tapers and singing hymns and psalms. The cell was blessed, and Jeanne clad in a robe of gray serge, with a black girlede, knelt before the officiating clergyman, who adressed to her a brief exhortation, encouraging her to persevere in the holy path she had chosen, and to follow those brief and simple rules which had been laid down for her. The emotion of many of those present was audibly expressed and Jeanne's father, who had come to the church was compelled to withdraw. But while the litany of the Blessed Sacrament was being sung, Jeanne calm, courageous, and radiantly happy, was led to the door of the cell, into which she closed herself, never to come forth more.