

her scanty meals an occasion of continual mortification. Her bed was the bare ground; her pillow, a block of wood. Her brief rest was interrupted by hours of prayer. Her body was torn by frequent disciplines, and she wore on her head a cap lined with pin points. She prayed most fervently for sinners. Monsieur Souart, her director, called her "the little St. Genevieve of Canada," asserting that her prayers were a safeguard for the entire colony. In spite of these austerities, there was nothing stern or repelling in a demeanor that drew hearts to God by its attractive holiness.

In 1667, the people of Ville Marie, with the approval of Monsieur de Courcelles, Governor of Canada, drew up a petition begging the King to grant Letters Patent to the Congregation de Notre Dame. Mgr. de Laval, Bishop of Quebec, added a warm recommendation. On the advice of her counsellors, Mother Bourgeoys decided to present the petition in person, and thus