

work and prayer, in unconscious imitation of a religious community. At the age of twelve, she was left to replace her beloved mother as mistress of the house and teacher of the two younger children.

Later in life, Marguerite Bourgeoys accused herself of having, in those youthful days, given too much thought to her personal appearance. A light from Heaven at once revealed this weakness to her and freed her from it forever.

On Rosary Sunday, 1640, she took part in the solemn procession held to honor the Blessed Virgin. As she passed the old Abbey of Notre Dame aux Nonnains, she paused to salute the statue above its portal. At that moment, Mary's image suddenly transfigured, cast upon the kneeling girl a look of wondrous love. That brief vision raised Marguerite Bourgeoys to new heights of sanctity; thenceforth, she lived only for God and souls. Drawn by divine grace, she strove to follow the mysterious call that