

Biography of Sister Rolande Levesque, Edmundston, Canada



Sr Rolande was born on 29 April 1930 in Rivière Verte, New Brunswick where she met the Marist Sisters, newly arrived in Canada. The Levesque family included 10 children who were fortunate enough to celebrate their parents' 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries. Rolande completed her secondary education with the Sisters of Charity of St John, N.B., before venturing to the Marist Novitiate in St-Prix, France. She made her First Profession on November 27, 1952, under the guidance of Mère Louis Chanel, whom she greatly appreciated.

On her return to Canada, Rolande's talent as an educator was already apparent in Parent, even before her training at the École Normale des Hospitalières de St Joseph. Rolande was much appreciated in the Madawaska region as an elementary school teacher in Edmundston, Parent and Grand Sault, and the Congregation entrusted her with many responsibilities: assistant novice mistress, community animator, provincial councillor and local bursar.

Faithful to her Marist vocation, her sense of welcome, discretion and kindness enabled her to share her many talents well beyond her retirement from teaching. Rolande has been a “presence of Mary” wherever she has devoted herself: Help Center, CEGEP Student Residence, work with the elderly, accompanying the dying at the ERH, Sector Assistant, St Vincent de Paul Volunteer.

Rolande joyfully experienced “compassion and believed in God's love” for her and assures us, “I am proud to be Marist, I feel comfortable in my ministry and respond to it with joy.”

We give thanks for such a beautiful and fruitful life, and for this eloquent witness to the Gospel lived “in the manner of Mary”.