



Marcel Raymond.

**Short biography of
Marcel Raymond,
teacher-educator
1916-1970**

Extract from the council of commissioners' president's speech, Mr. Gabriel Bastien, at the official inauguration of école Marcel-Raymond, Saturday, June 20th 1981.

(...) Today, I'd like to take a few moments of your time to let you know about the one who has the distinguished privilege of having his name given to this school, that is Mr. Marcel Raymond.

Marcel Raymond was not only a teacher. He was before all else an educator. For him, his role was not limited only to communicating his science but, he made it a point to insure a complete education of the children confided to him. A long while before the recommendations in that sense in the rapport Parent, he was preoccupied with given his students a personal education through a progressive exercise of their freedom.

He wanted each and every student to develop his own personal discipline rather than enforce a collective discipline, rigid, that would only bring a superficial solution to the problems. In that sense, he was a man ahead of his times and like all precursors, he had to fight prejudices and old-age habits. In resumé, his vocation in teaching and educating was not put to practice only in the classroom. His devotion to the young lead him to mind about their activities voluntarily outside his school schedule. He initiated them to the practice of sports such as hockey, soccer, baseball, etc. All this, he did because he wanted to live his role as an educator all the way, regardless of his own personal comfort.

Marcel-Raymond, professor-educator, was also a cultivated man and, that culture was put the use of all citizens. He was a theater play amateur. Also, he communicated his talents to a great number of citizens by initiating them to this art and, at the same time, he

insured the population a cultural divertissement at an age where television was not present and the travelling theaters non-existent. Man of the theater, he was also a man who possessed a solid musical culture which he put to the service of the church.

Professor Raymond spent 27 years of his life among our community, which took maximum advantage of his marvellous talents and his communicative dynamism. At his contact, one could not be left indifferent. His optimism and joy of life were stimulants for one and all.

For the students, teaching personnel as well as for the parents, the school board wanted to remind everyone of the meaning of the words "commitment" and "education", two fundamental values in a school.

We want to allow everyone to identify himself to someone who lived among us. In a word, we are proposing him as a model in many points of view.

I am convinced that all together we will honor the memory of Marcel Raymond.

It is with a lot of deference and respect that I salute the presence among us of his companion during all those years of devotion, Madam Juliette Raymond.

To you also, Madam Raymond, our respects for the support given to Marcel.

Long and fruitful life to École Marcel-Raymond and may the blessings of God be present always in our school!

Biography of Marcel Raymond, extracted from "Les mémoires de Juliette Paradis-Raymond" July 1st, 1988



Marcel is 19 years old.

The origins of Marcel Raymond

He was born on March 4th 1916 in St-Hyacinthe, last in a family of 7 children. At the age of 5, he lost his mother. His father did not take care of his children anymore. They are then placed, each spread out. His old aunt takes him in to raise him. Never refusing him anything, she although insists that he do his classical course (8 years) at the St-Hyacinthe Seminar. Marcel likes justice, honesty; he is armed with great patience.

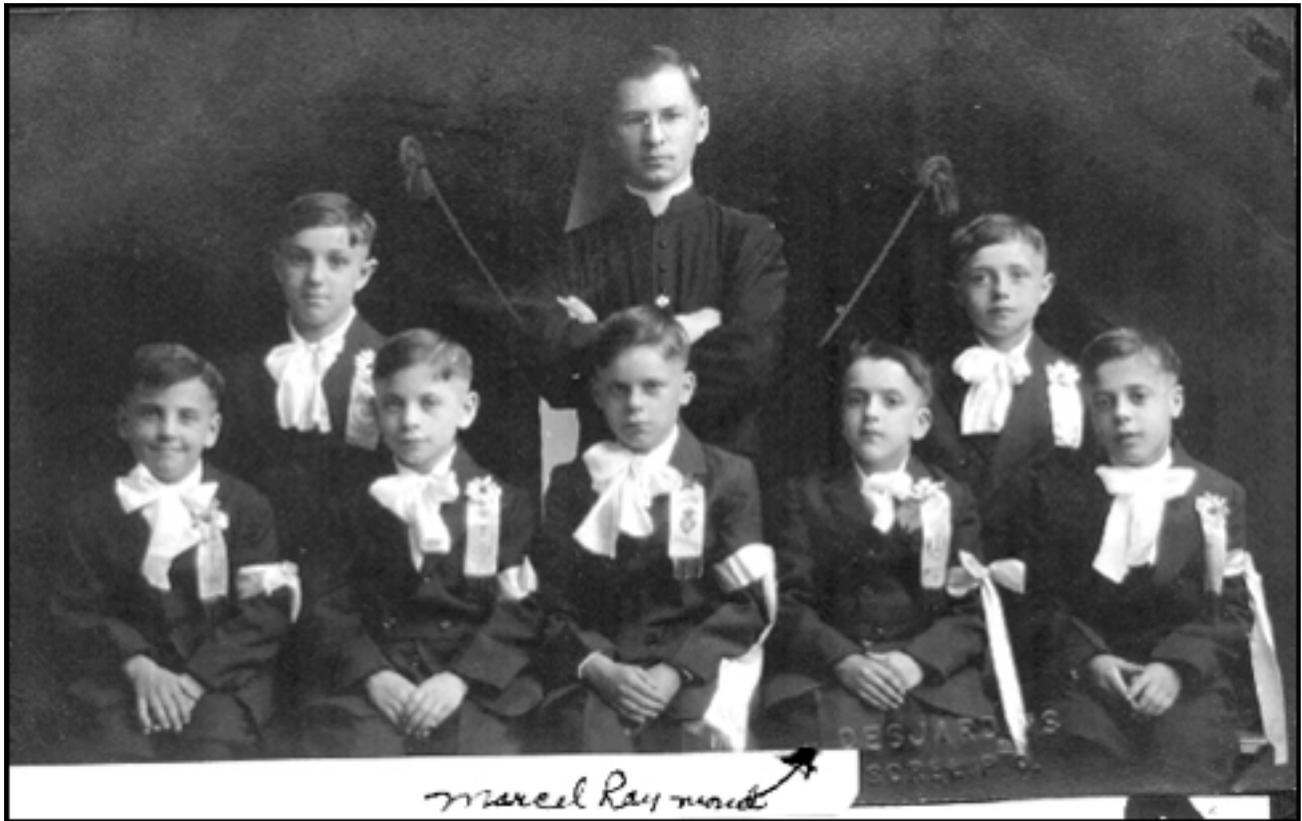
Upon the death of his great aunt, Marcel lives one year in a room and board. To be able to continue his studies, he works summertime on the boats in Sorel. He is lodged and fed on the boat and the 90\$ a month he earns are clear to him. That way, he can pay partly for his courses at school in September. He decides that 2 years at Ecole Normale would allow him to live off teaching.

In October 1941, Marcel starts his first year in teaching at St-Étienne-des-Grès, county of Papineau. He engages himself to Juliette Paradis in October and marries on December 26th 1941, the date of birth of Juliette.

For his second year in teaching, Marcel is employed in Chénéville, Qc. In June 1943, Marcel accepts a job in Lorrainville. Having started at 750.\$ the first year, 900.\$ the second year, he would now earn 1,200.\$ a year in Lorrainville.



Marcel and his aunts, one of them took care of his education.



Marcel at his first communion. Marcel identified himself with his signature.

A new teacher in Lorrainville

Micheline, the oldest, is 10 months old and Juliette is 7 months pregnant of a second one. It is in July and on a very hot day that the family leaves by train for Lorrainville. It's a painful voyage; temperature is 105oF. in the train and there is no water and nothing to eat.

It's the parish priest of Lorrainville, father Gauvin that asked for him to come. There is no school at the time and it is not always in well heated rooms that Marcel must teach.

In 1943-44 and 1944-45, he teaches in the parish hall (later known as "Salle Lorraine"), very large and very cold and which he must heat because of the very cold winter. Dr. Philippe Chabot also finds that it is very bad for the voice.

The following year, in 1945-46, the school board sets him up in the room above the firefighters' Fire

station. There, the level below not being heated, all must keep their boots on because of the winter cold on the feet. The students keep their mittens on until the heat sets in a bit.

Other places where he teaches

In the summer of 1946, we celebrate St-John the Baptist in Lorrainville to raise funds for the building of a school. Marcel participates to the construction of two allegorical floats for the parade with one of his students from the secondary level. It's a beautiful sunny day. A real success! So the following year, the school would be built.

Waiting for the construction to end, Marcel teaches in a private home built by Albert Arpin of Béarn. It was supposed to be used as a shoe-repairer's shop. Today it is the property of Madame Alice Lafond who lives there.

In 1947, the St-John the Baptist school is ready and has but two classrooms. Marcel sets up in it with his students, all happy to have a real school to teach in. There also, there is the heat to see to: a big wood furnace (in the basement) that he must "stuff up tight" in the winter, as he says, early in the morning, at noon, after school and at night before going to bed. While we are living in the apartment of the actual building of Bastien Insurances in Lorrainville, he must defy the weather to go heat up the school. One day, a plumber (occasional...) says to him "You do not have to go heat up the place tonight because you went at 6 o'clock". That's what Marcel does, or rather does not do... The next morning, the toilet is cracked and we must replace it. We have no money but it must be paid for since he is responsible for the heating. It comes out to 32.\$ and the school board only pays half of it.

Mr. Roger Champoux, Mrs. Lucille Jolette and a Mr. Murray also taught there in a second classroom later on. I don't remember in what chronology. Marcel teaches there until the construction of Notre-Dame School, in 1955, in front of Emile Jolette's building supply store. This time, it's a big school with many classrooms.



Marcel in 1957.

In 1957, we move the parish hall to build another school: école St-Louis. We now have a school for the elementary level and another for the secondary level.

During the time of that construction, Marcel teaches in Ville-Marie, travelling with other teachers from Lorrainville also teaching there.

Once the construction of that school terminated, Marcel comes back to teach in Lorrainville: always chemistry for grades 10 and 11. Many of his first students now teach with him. At that time, école St-John the Baptist was used for teachings to the little ones, I believe. Afterwards, it would be used to put away the hockey equipment of the young ones in Lorrainville. There is skating rink just out back. Today, it has become the municipal library.

The last three years of his life, Marcel is director at the primary level at école St-Louis.

After many years of negotiations, in 1979-80, it is decided: we would have a polyvalente in Lorrainville. Demolishing Salle Lorraine, which had done its time, but also because of the space needed, the building of the polyvalente school is done using the two existing schools already in place. It would bear the name "Marcel-Raymond".

A petition

That same summer (it has been in Lorrainville for 4 years), a very scrupulous man goes around with a petition to have it signed to have Marcel fired, saying that he explains too clearly sexuality to the students in catechesis, because he teaches all the subjects to his students from 1st grade to grade 10, all boys.

After 10 o'clock mass, everyone is on the church steps and the big discussion is going on about the pros and cons. Marcel's students (who all love him) also argue because they want to keep him. Marcel is afraid of having to leave Lorrainville but, on the contrary, he is re-hired with a raise.



*From left to right in the back : Hervé McFadden, Arthur Guimond, Albert Clermont, David Laverdière, Paul-Émile Bellehumeur, Roland Beaulieu and ?
Front line : Charles-Edouard Thérien, Marcel Raymond, Adrien Frappier, Jean Baril and Gérald Guimond.*

A lot of activities

With a teacher in town, we use Marcel in every sauce we prepare. He's involved in and takes care of the hockey activity in winter, baseball in summer, with the young ones as well as with the adults. He is director of the choir and also works on allegorical floats for the St-John the Baptist and for the winter carnaval.

He looks after plays, at least one per year during many years. The first one that he set up, with also a short comedy, provided two hours of entertainment in all. That play is shown 13 times. Marcel had acted in plays at college, but he had never set up any by himself.

When Micheline was once hospitalized, it was risky that the operation would not turn out too well. With the idea in mind that it could help her get well, Marcel decided to join the group Lacordaire. He would stay a member until his death. Besides all his other activities, he is involved now in the movement Lacordaire.

Marcel is also regional president of the insurance company Les Artisans. During the Christmas holidays for a few years, Les Artisans organized a party for the children. St-Nicholas would distribute candies, after having played " the birth ".

One year, we ask Marcel if he can play the passion of our Lord at the grotto in Ville-Marie, with his actors and he accepts. No one had ever imagined such a thing before. It's a success!

It's evening. Each group is in place at a designated site on the mountain side arranged for the occasion. The projectors are directed on the group or person that would speak. It's magnificent! It lasted well an hour. It is even radio-transmitted for those who cannot assist in person. He had to play it again the following year seeing it had been loved so much.



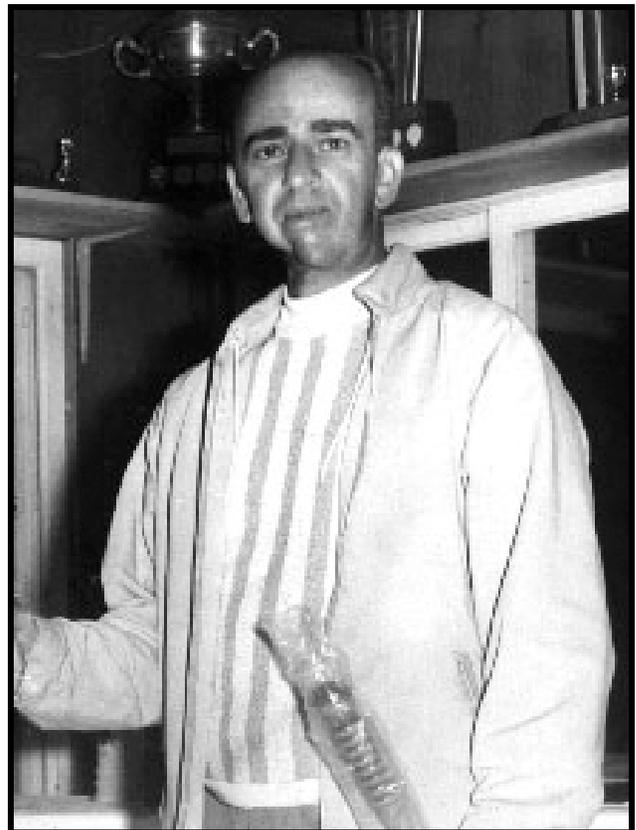
A play directed by Marcel : “Le Chapeau de l’horloger”. Marcel is in the center.

Last years before Marcel's death

In '68, Marcel has cancer and is admitted to Notre-Dame hospital in Montreal to be operated on and receive 3 weeks of cobalt treatments before returning to Lorrainville.

After 11 months, everything seems to be a success. But, after a while, a small lump grows on his jaw. He returns to Montreal where he is re-operated on July 15th 1969, one year exactly after his first operation. This time, half of his jaw is removed and he also receives cobalt treatments. The cancer continues his work and, after a blood hemorrhage of the throat, he is admitted to the Ville-Marie hospital at the end of October '69.

He cannot talk anymore, he writes as long as he has the strength to do so. He is lucid until the moment he dies on January 26th 1970, at the age of 53 years, 10 months.



After his operation, Marcel continues to play golf to get his mind off things. Here, Marcel in 1969 receiving a price at a golf tournament in Ville-Marie.