‘Not For Ourselves Alone’

Non Nobis Solum
“You are setting yourself a difficult task, but one that is worthy of your zeal, of your courage, and of your devotedness to education.”

Fr. P.-L. Archambeault to Marie-Esther Blondin Vaudreuil, QC
“I still see a venerable old man in the arms of his child, in mutual embrace, begging the child to have pity on the grey hairs of the parents, to remember the sacrifices made for the children, and not to shorten the parent’s days on earth by a separation beyond their strength.”

Sr. Mary Theodore, SSA
_Heralds of Christ The King_
Victoria, BC (1939)
“A woman’s life is not limited; life will be mostly what women truly wish it to be.”

Mother Mary Providence, SSA
Victoria, BC (1891)
“Sisters, take this [gold piece] plant it, and water it with your prayers, and it will grow.”

Dr. J.S. Helmcken, MD
Victoria, BC (1868)
“The Alaska of 1880 was a formidable challenge – a vast expanse of uncharted territory – ‘Seward’s Ice Box’ as it was called in those early days.”

Sr. Edith E. Down, SSA, PhD
A Century of Service
Victoria, BC (1966)
“I am not trying to make the nurse a close competitor of the doctor. On the other hand, I find it unjust to find fault with the nurse if she knows somewhat of the doctor’s business...”

Sr. Mary Gertrude of Jesus, SSA Victoria, BC (1901)
“Our forward position and the difficult conditions under which we worked caused this [honour] but we always felt that we only did what other nurses would have done had they been fortunate enough to have the opportunity.”

Norah Leahy, RN
Royal Red Cross
Germany (1941)
“We followed the RN’s training schedule, and spent some time in the X-Ray department at the same time...We learned mostly from practical experience.”

Dorothy Browning
Victoria, BC (1948)
“We were put on the floor and within a week or two we were taking blood specimens...At that time we had a very large animal husbandry area here, like rabbits, guinea pigs, because all the pregnancy tests were done on rabbits when I first came.”

Esther Bertelsen, Victoria, BC (1954)
“There was a little one born, weighed one pound, fourteen ounces. The concentration of the entire staff, and the yearning for it to live was what got it through.”

Sr. Mary Grace, SSA
Victoria, BC (1929)
“Young man, do you write shorthand?”

“No, I do not.”

“You are a fool and will fail in life!”

Sir William Richard Gowers, MD
Founder,
Association of Medical Stenography
London, UK (1877)
“Today, our first meeting in class is, or should be to each of you, a serious day...A new sphere of thoughts and actions is opened to you...”

Sr. Mary Gertrude of Jesus, SSA
Victoria, BC (1900)
End of an Era

“Through their labours and Christian Dedication, the Sisters of St. Ann have endowed this hospital with a deep concern for the Body and Spirit…”

Victoria General Hospital Inscription Victoria, BC (1972)
“Institutions can be closed and buildings torn down, but the attitudes and personal qualities of those who walked the halls and sat in the classrooms will rub off on others and ripple through the nursing profession and the community at large.”
“The Sisters of St. Ann reinforced my deep belief in the power of women to make the world a better place and the importance of getting rid of barriers to women reaching their full potential.”

“From personal experience, I can tell you that they left their mark on the minds and souls of the girls who were in their care.

“They teach about living a life which is not just about yourself.”

Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, PC, CC, QC
Victoria, BC (2008)

Photographer: Martin Dee
Sources

- Archives of the *Sisters of St. Ann* (Victoria, BC)

- Cantwell, M. (Sister Kathleen Mary) in collaboration with Babin, L. (Sister Mary George Edmond) *North To Share*, Sisters of St. Ann (Victoria, BC)

- Down, E. (Sister Mary Margaret of Scotland) *Century of Service*, 1966, Morriess Printing Company (Victoria, BC)

- Pineault, S. (Sister Mary Theodore) *Heralds of Christ The King*, 1939, Kennedy Brothers (New York, NY)

  - (I remember Auntie!)