

On December 6th, we gathered to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the tragedy which took place at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, Quebec, where 14 women were shot and killed. Twelve of these were studying engineering ~ a field long dominated by men~ one was a nursing student and the other a university employee. Thirteen other women survived. The perpetrator, Marc Lepine, also took his life on that fateful day. This act of violent misogyny shook our country and led Parliament to designate this day as National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

December 6 falls within the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and ends on December 10, Human Rights Day. During our time of prayer and solidarity we remembered: the survivors of this tragedy, their families, friends and colleagues; the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls; victims of gun violence and all forms of violence; victims of domestic violence; and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals experiencing gender-based violence.

The names of each woman were spoken aloud in her memory~



Genevieve
Bergeron, 21



Helene
Colgan, 23



Nathalie
Croteau, 23



Barbara
Daigneault, 22



Anne-Marie
Edward, 21



Maud
Haviernick, 29



Barbara Klucznik-
Widajewicz, 31



Maryse
Laganier, 25



Maryse
Leclair, 23



Anne-Marie
Lemay, 27



Sonia
Pelletier, 28



Michele
Richard, 21



Annie
St-Arneault, 23



Annie
Turcotte, 21

Genevieve Bergeron
Nathalie Croteau
Anne-Marie Edward
Maryse Leclair
Anne-Marie Lemay
Michele Richard
Annie Turcotte

Helene Colgan
Barbara Daigneault
Maud Haviernick
Maryse Laganiere
Sonia Pelletier
Annie St-Arneault
Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz

Our final prayer was for all who advocate for just policies and adequate government funding to address and prevent such violence, while promoting healing and equality. The symbols of the anniversary are red roses and white ribbons.



(Lt.to rt~ Srs. Margaret MacLean, Irene Buechler, Monica Plante, Sandra Barrett, Roma De Robertis) Photo~ Pat Poole,scic