



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

A New Sound and Light Show Will Spotlight the Feast of St. Anne: The Highlight of the 350th Anniversary Celebrations at the Sanctuary

Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, July 16, 2008 – This morning, during the inauguration of the fountain of St. Anne in the newly created garden outside the sanctuary, several special activities planned for the Novena and the Feast of St. Anne were presented to the guests who were specially invited to the ceremony. One such event will be a new Sound and Light show, which will develop the Novena's theme, "350 Years: Awake to the Light". The Novena will begin tomorrow and will end with the Feast of St. Anne on Saturday, July 26.

Fr. Guy Pilot, rector of the Shrine of St. Anne, made the following statement: "During this 350th anniversary of the Shrine, we would like to give a special flavour to the Novena and to the Feast of St. Anne. Besides the installation of the fountain in the gardens in front of the Basilica, various special activities have been planned for the event, including a Sound and Light Show at twilight (around 10 p.m.) on July 25 and 26. This never-before-seen Sound-and-Light Show, which will be projected onto the Basilica, will even continue after the Feast of St. Anne, until August 1. We send out a warm invitation to all people to visit us on pilgrimage during these 350th anniversary festivities."

The president of The Society for the 400th Anniversary of Quebec City, Mr. Jean Leclerc, made the following comment: "We are honoured to contribute towards the creation of this never-before-seen, majestic Sound and Light Show recounting the history of the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré and of the city that saw this shrine being erected. This is a part of history that is intimately linked to the foundation of Quebec City."

The Sound and Light Show bears the title, "350 Years of History: A Magistral Ode to Devotion to St. Anne". The Ode itself, which recounts the 350-year history of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré in music, was produced by *Alain Dubé Événements* and was specially composed for the occasion. Five magnificently-orchestrated movements retrace the great moments in the history of devotion to St. Anne, from the construction of the first three churches to the two basilicas. The following is the program for the Sound and Light Show:

- Prelude: The Sailors' Legend
- 1st Movement: Construction of the First Church
Construction – Story of Miracles – The 3 Stones & and Healing of Louis Guimont
- 2nd Movement: Construction of the Second Church
The First Expansion – The First Pilgrimages – Devotion of the First Nations to their Patroness
- 3rd Movement: Construction of the Third Church
"La belle époque" - Desertion of the Côte-de-Beaupré – War of the Conquest – The Return of Tranquility – Naval Salutation at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré
- 4th Movement: Construction of the First Basilica
Industrialization – Modern Pilgrimage by Steamboat and by Train – The Great Tragedy of the Fire
- 5th Movement: Construction of the Second Basilica
Tribute: Devotion to St. Anne
- Finale: Ode to St. Anne with the song *Elle est là* ["She is here"]

Besides the role played by the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, the realization of this production is made possible through the financial contribution of: *The National Bank of Canada* and *The Society for the 400th Anniversary of Quebec City*.

This year, each day of the Novena will provide an occasion for offering tribute to some of the people who developed and transmitted to future generations devotion to Good St. Anne. Thus:

- Thursday, July 17: *Towards the Light: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs*
Tribute to all those who have helped to organize the pilgrimages
- Friday, July 18: *Towards the Light: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth*
Tribute to parishioners of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré
- Saturday, July 19: *Towards the Light: Blessed are those who weep, for they shall be consoled*
Tribute to our volunteers
- Sunday, July 20: *Towards the Light: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied*
Tribute to our constructors (including the Redemptorists, who have been guardians of the Sanctuary for the last 130 years)
- Monday, July 21: *Towards the Light: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*
Tribute to various ethnic groups
- Tuesday, July 22: *Towards the Light: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God*
Tribute to our artists
- Wednesday, July 23: *Towards the Light: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God*
Tribute to those who are suffering
- Thursday, July 24: *Towards the Light: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs*
Tribute to the Sanctuary's employees
- Friday, July 25: *You are the Light of the World*
Tribute to St. Anne

Among the various special events, there will be animations under the tent, concerts and theatrical plays from 1:15-1:45 p.m. during each day of the Novena – that is, from July 17 to July 24 inclusive. Finally, there will be a “special visual effect” during the Novena: a 20-foot spotlight that will be placed in the choir of the Basilica to light up the baldachin.

Each day, major celebrations will take place at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. This year, the Novena will be preached by Bishop Pierre Morissette of Baie-Comeau, and Fr. Michael Brehl, superior of the Edmonton-Toronto Province of Redemptorists. On July 25 at 4 p.m., a solemn ceremony will take place to open officially the Feast of St. Anne. The climax: the Feast of St. Anne on Saturday, July 26 with solemn Masses at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., celebrated by His Excellency Luigi Ventura, the Vatican's Apostolic Nuncio to Canada. Each day of the Novena, as well as on the Feast of St. Anne, there will be a candlelight procession at 8:30 p.m.

The great Feast of St. Anne is celebrated each year on July 26, and is preceded by nine days of preparation called the Novena.

Photos are available upon request. For more information about the program of the Novena, or the special program for the 350th anniversary festivities, please visit our website at www.ssadb.qc.ca.

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