



## **Press release** ***For immediate*** ***release***

### **Novena to Saint Anne** **Celebrating the theme of reconciliation**

**SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BEAUPRÉ, Quebec–July 17, 2009**–Today the activities which form the Novena to Saint Anne begin. These activities will reach their peak on July 26 with the Feast of Saint Anne. **Thousands of pilgrims from all around the world** are expected to take part in the celebrations during the course of these nine days. Father Gilles Routhier, a priest of the Diocese of Quebec and a professor at the Faculty of Theology at Laval University, will be doing the French preaching during the Novena. The preaching for the English part of the Novena will be done by the Redemptorist Father Remi Hebert from the Edmonton-Toronto Province.

#### **Nine Days of Festivities**

The major celebrations of the Novena, which begins today and will last all week, will be the Masses. Everyday, Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 am and 4:00 pm, except on Sunday, July 19, when Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 am. This Novena will also be punctuated by activities under the large tent everyday at 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm from Friday 17 to Friday 24. On Saturday, July 25, the solemn opening of the Feast of Saint Anne will take place in the Basilica at 4:00 pm. This celebration will be marked by the entrance of

the statue of Saint Anne, readings from testimonies of miraculous healings, and will finish with the launching of balloons within the Basilica. **High points of the celebration: the Feast of Saint Anne on Sunday, July 26, with the Anointing of the Sick at 3:00 pm and solemn Masses celebrated by the Most Reverend Monsignor Gilles Lemay, Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec, at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm. Each day of the Novena and on the Feast of Saint Anne, there will be a spectacular candlelight procession at 8:30 pm on the grounds of the Basilica which will unite hundreds of pilgrims.**

### **The Art of Renewal**

For Father Guy Pilote, rector of the Basilica, we do not make a habit of celebrating this great feast. “It is always a renewal for us to prepare and celebrate the Feast of Saint Anne. We have to unceasingly renew by adapting the preaching and the activities to suit the changing times. Furthermore, it is always a pleasure to speak with people and to see new faces each year.”

\* The Feast of Saint Anne is celebrated on July 26 and is preceded by nine days of preparation known as a novena.

For more information and to have the complete schedule, please visit the Shrine’s website at [www.ssadb.qc.ca](http://www.ssadb.qc.ca)

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