



Press Release
For Immediate Release

INAUGURAL CEREMONY FOR THE FOUNTAIN OF ST. ANNE TO HIGHLIGHT THE NOVENA DURING THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, July 16, 2008 – This morning, in the presence of the landscape architect Anne Carole Beaugard of *Beaugard et Associés*, of her faithful collaborator and co-architect Mario Vandal, of the master constructor Conrad Bafaro, of the various artists and workmen involved in the project, as well as in the presence of the president of the Society for the 400th Anniversary of Quebec City, Jean Leclerc, the twelve water jets of the fountain of St. Anne were activated by the rector of the Sanctuary of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Fr. Guy Pilote.

"During these 350 Anniversary celebrations, we would like to offer a gift for the eyes and for the hearts of those pilgrims and visitors who will be coming to Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré. The inaugural ceremony for the fountain and the blessing of the gardens in front of the Basilica on the eve of the Novena of the great feast of St. Anne, which is the highlight of the 350th Anniversary celebrations, is also a very beautiful way to honour our patron saint," declared Fr. Pilote. "Many people are grateful to her for having saved them from the storms either at sea or else in their daily lives. This is why the fountain is shown to be somewhat of an extension of the great river that flows nearby."

The fountain of St. Anne, erected in the square in front of the Basilica, in the very heart of the Basilica's gardens, measures 30 feet in height. The statue alone measures 9 feet. This statue of St. Anne is the work of Émile Brunet, and was made in 1959. It now has a place of honour in the midst of a huge bronze basin that is made in the form of a shell, which is the symbol of a pilgrim. The entire structure rests on a huge granite base. The fountain's basin utilizes a closed circuit containing 14 000 litres of water. As well, four strips of stained glass around the fountain recall the numerous stained glass windows that embellish the Basilica. Water will flow continuously from the fountain during the daytime, and is magnificently illuminated at night, from May to November of each year.

This project was made possible thanks to the generous donations of several sponsors such as the *Caisse populaire Desjardins, Mont Sainte-Anne*, the *Knights of Columbus of St. Hyacinthe*, as well as numerous pilgrims and visitors to the Sanctuary.

Photos are available upon request. To obtain a copy of the special program for the 350th Anniversary celebrations, please visit our website at: www.ssadb.qc.ca.

Source: France Lefrançois, Co-ordinator of the events of the 350th Anniversary celebrations
Sanctuary of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré

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