

## **An exhibit and fresco for the Sanctuary's 350<sup>th</sup> years... and let the parties begin**

Saint Anne de Beaupre, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – It's today, with many dignitaries present, that the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been launched. For this occasion, the model for the historical fresco of the Saint Anne's Museum has been revealed and the exhibit of ancient photos has been unveiled.

"The year 2008 is filled with festive events for all the family, and we wish that the Quebec's population and elsewhere will take the opportunity to discover the religious, artistic, and patrimonial dimensions of the Saint Anne de Beaupre's sanctuary", declared the sanctuary's rector, Father Guy Pilote. "We invite all people to celebrate with us one of the famous chapters in our history by visiting not only the Basilica, but the Saint Anne's Museum, the Cross Path, the commemorative chapel, and the Holy Stairs (Scala Santa) ".

In this year of festivities, the Saint Anne's Museum will have a beautiful historical fresco with a 180 square meters dimension next to the Saint Anne's boulevard. Furthermore, the visitors will get access to a temporary exhibit called *International Pilgrimage Booming: Life of faith, life of town*. Some of the paintings represent photos of the Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre's sanctuary a hundred years ago. The ideas men, Mathieu Lachance and Philippe Vaillancourt, have favoured 3 feet by 6 feet canvas to make the setting. The themes shown are: the Sanctuary (life of faith), the town (life of town), the transports and, the great fires.

You can find at the Basilica and the Museum, in addition to the unique ex-voto's collection, splendid and overwhelming sculptures from Baillargon, Jobin, Brunet, Moroder and, Paré. New this year, commented visits of the Museum will start in May, at 10am and 2pm. The Museum will be open all days of the week as soon as May, from 9am to 5pm.

### **A fresco to be reminded of**

"I am glad for this fresco project which, with a successful partnership, will represent in an original way the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Saint Anne de Beaupre's sanctuary" declared the president and general manager of the Quebec's National Capital Commission, Jacques Langlois.

*The Saint Anne de Beaupre's Fresco* will have, in an architectural trompe l'oeil, five colored postal card style paintings of ancient times. Themes that stem from the history of Saint Anne de Beaupre's town and sanctuary will be represented, such as:

- The life of the secular and religious people which have contributed to his development
- The rural aspect
- The religious heritage
- The artistic influence
- The First Nations
- The river
- The holidays
- The tourist attractions and activities
- The great events

The Murale Creation, with the help of a scientific committee, has achieved the conception and realization of this architectural trompe l'oeil. The fresco's inauguration will be in June. In addition of the Saint Anne de Beaupre's sanctuary, his realization was possible by those partners which are the following: Desjardins Mount Saint Anne Credit Union, the Quebec's National Capital Commission and, the Saint Anne de Beaupre's town.

Put together by Sautozieux Quebec's Society and the French company City Creation, Mural Creation offers a unique expertise resulting in as many as 400 monumental works of arts around the world since the year 1978, and about 20 in Quebec since the year 2000.

The Saint Anne de Beaupre's Fresco will constitute the twelfth mural fresco in trompe l'oeil elaborated with the participation of the Quebec's National Capital Commission on Quebec's territory. The mural fresco's program was launched by the Commission in 1998 and it has a double purpose which is to give back life and attraction to the Quebec's walls and to award a didactic role to the great characters and moments which have shaped our national history.

### **A year filled with special activities**

The opening celebration for the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first chapel erected in Saint Anne will be presented by the skilled Quebec's archbishop, Monsignor Maurice Couture, on Easter Day, March 23, 2008 at 9h30am. As many as 2000 people, including several dignitaries, will be there.

Here are the activities that many pilgrims and visitors will enjoy during the year 2008, pilgrimage of the Saint Anne de Beaupre's parishes by bicycle, foot or boat, pilgrimage and cultural visit for the International Eucharistic's Congress participants, First Nations' Sunday, Sainte Anne's novena, *From a Basilica to another's* march related to the New France Holidays, 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the *Sanctuaries' Path Montreal – Saint Anne de Beaupre*, the Cote de Beaupre's Great Birthday and, the closing celebration for the 350<sup>th</sup> with a wishing mass presided by Quebec's Archbishop Mr. Cardinal Marc Ouellet.