



Annals of Saint Anne de Beaupre

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Chronicle of the Shrine



December 10th. — We have just concluded the ceremonies of the Forty Hours, begun in our Basili- ca the day before yesterday, the feast of the Imma- culate Conception of Mary. No better days could have been chosen for this solemnity in the shrine of Good St Anne. How sweet it was to contemplate with the eyes of faith these sublime mysteries : the glorious Anne, the living shrine of the Immaculate Conception ; Mary Immaculate the living tabernacle of the God of the Eucharist ; St Anne and her august Daughter seconding with all their credit the fervent prayers poured forth at the foot of the throne of mercy.

The Forty Hours ! to what can they be better compared than to the desert oasis where the weary caravan quenches its thirst in the clear waters of the spring and finds soothing rest in the shade of great palm trees. The hours of adoration, especially amidst the silence of the night, perfume the soul with a truly heavenly fragrance. In the ecstasy of contemplation one cannot avoid saying with Peter on Mount Thabor : *Lord it is good to be here.* Willingly one sings with the royal prophet : « How lovely are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts ! My soul longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh have rejoiced in the living God. For the sparrow hath