

But how did St. Anne become the Patroness of Beaupré and how has she responded to the confidence and love of her children? It was our great Saint herself who chose the spot in her desire to shower down her gifts. Did she not herself inspire the inhabitants with the idea of erecting a shrine to her? Hardly was a modest chapel built there, than wonders of all kinds were worked in it, and attracted to it thousands of pilgrims whose number was destined to increase from year to year. Since then how many afflicted ones have been consoled. How many times has not the cry : *St. Anne save us !* escaped from the hearts of poor pilgrims ! That cry has been repeated by millions of voices. And every day still does *God St. Anne*, as her children love to call her, listen and succor Christians sailing on the tempestuous sea of life, on which they have so often been surprised by the storm of temptations and trials of every kind. Has their prayer been granted? Have they returned discouraged and deprived of succor? Have not their grateful hearts acknowledged by their hymns that in her shrine health, pardon, grace and happiness are obtained by fervent prayer and there also St. Anne has never been irresponsible to the appeal of the unhappy?

These hymns no longer resound in the little chapel of 1658. What has become of it? A Basilica, one of the finest monuments that piety and gratitude have ever erected and that excites the admiration, not only of Canadians but of the many strangers who come to it from New Zealand, from the Zambesi, from Palestine and from the most distant lands of the old as of the new world. And what memorable days have served to make this famous shrine illustrious ! What heart did not rejoice when the supreme Authority conferred the title of *Basilica* (royal house) upon that church wherein St. Anne grants her favors in a truly royal manner ! Who among those who were present at the festival of the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1887, can forget the *Crowning* of the statue of St. Anne when, to the sound of the salvoes of musketry, of music and the joyous chiming of the bells, His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau, in the name of the Virgin of Jesus Christ, placed crowns of gold and precious stones on the venerable heads of Anne and of