

by the religious instinct of a people, who in the New World have renewed all the glories of their forefathers in the Old. Scarcely a promontory runs out into the flood, which is not marked by the Cross of Christ. Over every village there gleams in the sunlight the spire of the parish church, pointing to heaven with the same emblem of man's redemption. And these manifestations are only the weak outward expression of the spirit of religion that enters so deeply into the character of the Canadian people—a spirit that means as much to them as the air they breathe, and with which mingle their lowliest pursuits as well as their highest national aspirations. Such a spirit, so fostered, is sure to crystallize in monuments of piety and devotion. Further, it is in the midst of a Catholic peasantry, imbued with that spirit, that God has ever been pleased to make His presence manifest in wonders of His predilection, tenderness and love; witness the Sanctuary of Cap de la Madeleine.

Cap de la Madeleine is a small village, situated within a few miles of the town of Three Rivers, on the north bank of the St. Lawrence. It is famous, or, to speak more exactly, is fast becoming so for a shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary, which it possesses. St. Anne de Beaupré on the lower St. Lawrence has long been known all over Canada, but it is only within very recent years that Cap de la Madeleine has come into prominence. Nevertheless it may be said to have a history that goes back for more than two centuries.

On the 11th May, 1694, an official diploma issued at Rome by the Superior General of the Dominican Order, granted to Rev. Father Vachon, the first pastor of Cap de la Madeleine, the privilege of erecting in his parish the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary. It is very probable that this venerable priest, who has left a reputation for sanctity, took good care to avail himself of such a powerful means of stimulating the piety of his people. But, when death removed him from earthly scenes, there was none to take his place and until the year 1844, the parish of Cap de la Madeleine remained without a resident pastor. Therefore, when the Very Rev. Father Désilets, in 1867, undertook to restore the ancient cult of Our Lady of the Rosary, he surely had to lay the foundations anew.