



Annals of Saint Anne de Beaupre

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Chronicle of the Shrine

Pilgrimages of the month of October. — Silence reigns around our Basilica ; the parvis is deserted ; the groves on the hillside are shedding their leaves. The aspect of the denuded trees inspires sorrow. Tears are contagious and the poets have wept so many tears on the leaves carried away by the breeze. Job saw in this a manifestation of divine power. However October is not lacking in charm at Beaupré with its sunny mornings and calm evenings. It represents fairly well, it seems to me, the ten years of man's life that follow the sixtieth. Decay has not yet come, for the faculties have retained their vigor ; but ardor, generosity, enthusiasm and hope are not what they were of old. Instead of facing the future, one willingly reverts to the past, happy if at that age one has an abundant harvest to gather from the works of one's youth and manhood. But, enough of philosophy ; let me however wish you, dear reader, an old age that will resemble the month of October 1900.

Let us speak of pilgrimages, for we were not completely solitary during that month. Besides individual pilgrims who came every day to the number of twenty, thirty, forty and from two to three hundred on Sundays, we had three organized pilgrimages in October.