

Let us see how he also found matters connected with the devotion to St Anne. We shall afterward see what he did for its development. We shall resume all in one word: he took up every one of Monseigneur de Laval's works, and gave each one a prodigious extension.

When he ascended his throne and from there cast a scrutinising glance over the vast field that he had to cultivate, the new archbishop found that things had greatly altered since Monseigneur de Laval's time.

The country was far from being an almost uninhabited one, peopled by savage tribes. It was a country rendered fruitful by the blood of martyrs: wherein the Cross of Jesus Christ shone resplendent on the summit of many steeples. The multiplicity of parishes had long before necessitated its subdivision into several dioceses.

On the côte de Beaupré, in particular, a transformation had been effected. It was no longer a small number of houses scattered here and there with a small church on the edge of the beach. It was a parish with from seven to eight hundred communicants. The stone church that had replaced the wooden one had itself disappeared in 1787 in the time of Rev. M. Gaillard, to make room for a larger one.

In consequence of the greater dimensions of the new shrine, pilgrims came in greater numbers to implore the assistance of their holy Patroness. Entire parishes had begun to set themselves in motion and to form veritable « organized pilgrimages » such as we see in our time. About ten of such pilgrimages came to St Anne's Shrine during the years that preceded Monseigneur Taschereau's elevation to the see of Quebec. The average number of pilgrims was from ten to twelve thousand, as may be seen in the Registers of the time.

Souls animated with less fervor for the glory of God, for the honor of the Saints and for the advantage of the faithful, would perhaps have been content with such a comparatively satisfactory state of affairs. But Monseigneur Taschereau, like Monseigneur de Laval, his model, soon perceived what God required of him: to labor with all his might to promote in every way the devotion towards her whom the people call