

Sainte Anne de Beaupre



Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica

Each year, over a million and a half pilgrims and visitors come to the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré

The Shrine, which celebrated its 350th anniversary in 2008, is one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in North America. The history of the Shrine began in 1658, with the construction of a small chapel. It is believed that a man named Louis Guimont, crippled at the time, was healed after having placed three stones in the foundation of the church. He is considered to have received the first healing of Good Saint Anne. News of this miracle spread and "Sainte-Anne-du-Petit-Cap" quickly became a popular place of pilgrimage.

A second church was built in 1661, but it was replaced in 1676 by a stone church that better met the needs of the parishioners and the increasing number of pilgrims. This third church was used as the place of worship for the next two hundred years. The present-day Memorial Chapel stands on the foundations of the third church's southern transept.

In 1872, due to the steady increase of pilgrims and the deteriorating state of the church, the construction of a fourth church began. Architect L.-A. Dion from Québec City drew up the plans, which were later revised by Charles Baillargé. On October 17, 1876, this church was open for worship.