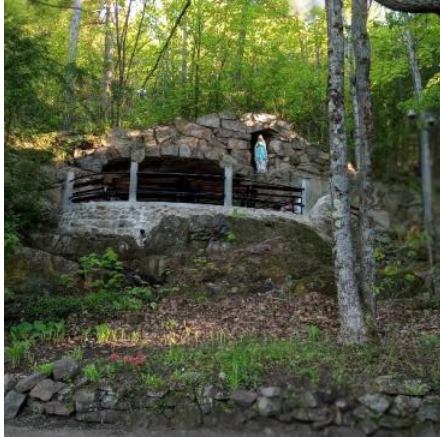


Voice of the Sanctuary of Rigaud

Winks from the Virgin

Last year, when we launched the fundraising campaign for the belvedere in front of the grotto, we had no idea how far Providence would lead us. Thanks to the generosity of so many hearts, our contractor, Mr. Jack Ireland, was able to shape a place worthy of Our Lady: a place more spacious, more harmonious, almost as if Mary herself had breathed upon the plans.



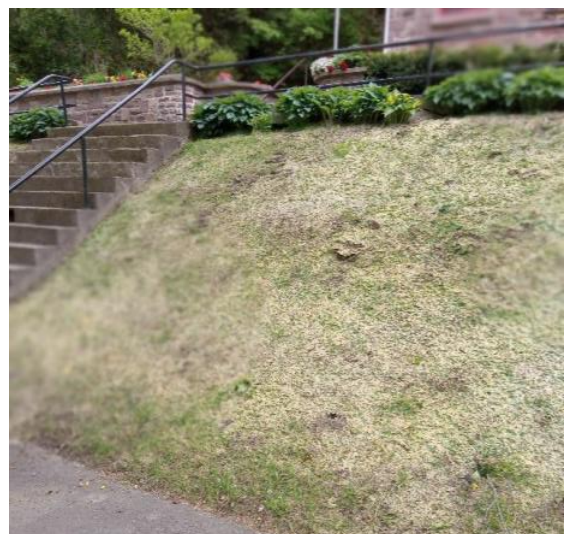
Shortly before the opening, during a visit with **Linda Rose**, the beauty of the work surprised us, moved us, inspired us. A gentle, insistent thought slipped into our hearts: what if we added a few benches? Five benches... but we



needed to find the funds. We had barely expressed this desire when someone who had overheard our conversation approached us. They asked about the cost, then offered the full amount, on the condition of remaining in the shadows. A pure, silent gesture — like a breath from beyond.

Why nine benches? So that groups may pray together. So that pilgrims may sit, breathe, and let their hearts come to rest. So that one day, perhaps, an altar may rise there, and Mass may be celebrated in this peaceful, grace-filled place. Will we find benefactors to bring this dream to completion? We place this desire in the hands of Our Lady of Lourdes.

In front of the Main Chapel, the grassy slopes, burned by the sun and weakened by run-off, struggle to stay green. Another benefactor, attentive and discreet, had noticed this. He asked whether we would like him to intervene. He knew a company capable of restoring life to those slopes. Not only did he want to act, but he offered to pay for the entire project. How could we refuse such a gift? How could we not recognize, once again, a wink from Our Lady?



Yes, Mary watches over us. She opens paths, touches hearts, inspires gestures. She whispers through the generosity of her children.

Thank you, Mary, for having said yes — and for continuing to say yes in our lives.

Celebration at the Sanctuary — a Day Vibrant with Life

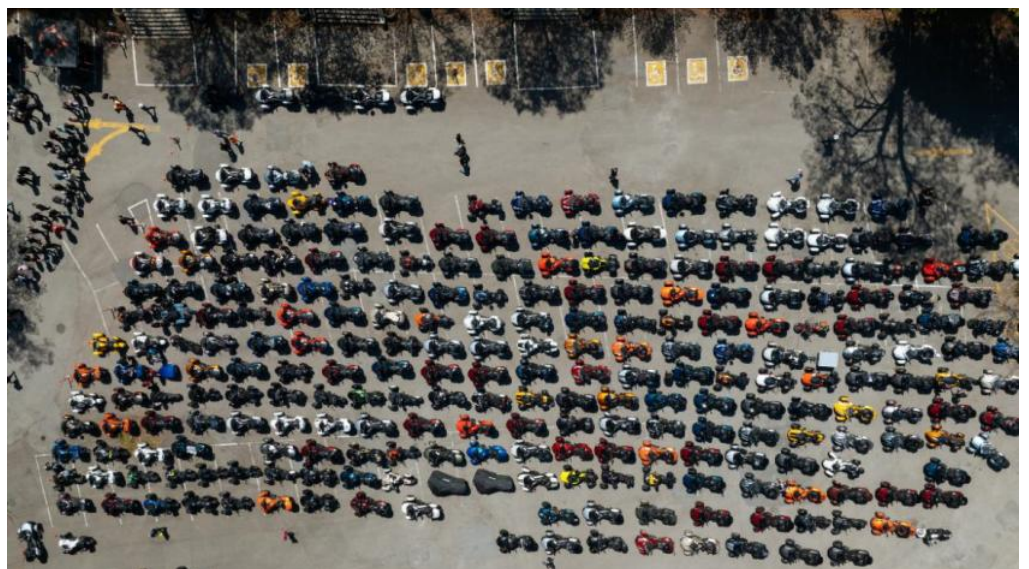
We all remember when nearly thirty members of the Spyders group arrived on April 25, smiles on their faces, to install benches and give the site a thorough cleaning. Their energy was a forerunner of the festive breath that would come to the Sanctuary.



But May 16 ... that was something else entirely. At dawn, as the first light began slipping between the trees, the earliest Spyders were already purring in the parking lot. At **5 a.m.**, several members, accompanied by their leader **Mr. Claude Leblanc**, arrived to begin the preparations. You could feel the excitement in the air, like a promise of joy.

Tents unfolded like wings, chairs lined up for conversations with suppliers, spaces for music took shape, microphones and speakers were tested. Later, food trucks and sponsor vehicles joined in, completing this vibrant and generous scene.

Then, like a colourful and joyful wave, **more than 400 Spyders** and nearly **500 members** filled the Sanctuary grounds. Everything had been thought out: everyone found their place, everyone knew where to go. Everyone participating gave a small contribution — for the Sanctuary, for a cancer foundation, and for those who wished to take part in the raffle. The atmosphere was simple, fraternal, and warm.





Before the raffle, I was asked to say a few words. I stepped forward and was moved by their presence. I welcomed them and thanked them for their help on April 25, and I entrusted each one of them to the tenderness of Our Lady. I wished them a bright

summer, filled with open roads, freedom... and above all, safety.

For the blessing, **Linda Rose** had prepared everything with her usual attention to detail: the water I blessed, the tables, the large bowls and the sprinklers made from evergreen branches. Having accompanied this group for years, she knew exactly what was needed.



Father **Jean-Marc Provost** and I positioned ourselves at the exit of the Sanctuary. And then came a moment of pure grace. The drivers approached one by



one with their Spyder — often with a radiant smile, sometimes with a sign of the cross. The blessed water rose in fine droplets and fell upon them like a rain of light — as if the Virgin Mary herself were placing upon each of them a discreet and maternal protection.

As I watched them leave — blessed, happy, grateful — I found myself hoping: ***One day, will other groups also come here seeking the blessing and protection of Our Lady of Lourdes of Rigaud?***

If so, our Sanctuary will be ready to welcome them with open arms.

A Day That Warmed the Heart – Fondation Compagnom

Thanks to Mrs. **Christiane Lévêque**, Chair of the Board of Directors of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Sanctuary of Rigaud, a precious connection was made with Mr. **Jean Martin Coté**, President of Fondation Compagnom. And on May 20, 2026, that simple link blossomed into a wave of human warmth that brightened our Sanctuary.



Around 10 a.m., several cars arrived, filled with coordinators and young autistic adults who had come to offer their time and their hearts. Under the attentive guidance of Mr. Coté — whose truck was overflowing with flowers, nearly **\$1,000 worth of colors and fragrances** — they set to work with a joy that was uplifting to witness.



Their enthusiasm was contagious. They filled the large pots with soil, cleaned a hedge, and distributed the flowers with touching precision and pride. As soon as the pots were placed, everyone wanted to be the first to plant. The Sanctuary vibrated with a simple, genuine, deeply beautiful energy. By noon, a large part of the work was already done.



At the picnic area, the pizza lunch took on the feel of a celebration. And as if their generosity were not enough, they then helped our employees install two large statues of the Virgin Mary.





It was in front of one of these statues in **Mary's Garden** that they chose to take a souvenir photo — a humble gesture, yet full of meaning. I am convinced that Our Lady of Lourdes will accompany and bless them, each in their own way, in the simplicity of daily life.

I was also deeply happy to see with us two of our precious volunteers: **Mrs. Michelle Montes** and **Mr. Mario Laroque**. Their presence added even more warmth to this beautiful day.

May such a surprise return every year, like a breath of hope and fraternity offered to our Sanctuary.

Opening Day at the Sanctuary

On the eve of the season opening, the forecast called for rain. I imagine I wasn't the only one praying for Mary to intervene, as she did at the wedding feast of Cana. When I got up, it was still raining. Yet deep within me, I held a quiet certainty: since the Sanctuary is dear to her, Our Lady would do something so that this day would not be spoiled.

And then, at the very moment the 9 a.m. Mass began, the rain stopped. The entire morning remained dry, like a gentle wink from Heaven. Thanks to the faith and perseverance of the pilgrims, over 200 people attended the 9 a.m. Mass, and more than 100 attended the 11 a.m. Mass. At the end of each celebration, we spontaneously applauded Our Lady of Lourdes to thank her.



Everything had been carefully prepared by Linda and her volunteers. Both celebrations, as well as the individual blessing given at the end of each Mass, were deeply appreciated.

The 2026 season is now underway, and we are confident that all will unfold for the best.

Thank you, Mary, for having said "yes" and for loving us with such tenderness.

On Pilgrimage to the Sanctuary

Your parish, your prayer group, or your circle of friends is warmly invited to experience a pilgrimage to **Sanctuaire Notre Dame de Lourdes of Rigaud** — a time of peace, renewal and fellowship in the heart of nature.

Your priest is welcome to celebrate Mass in our chapel, offering your group a privileged moment of prayer and communion. And if no priest can accompany you, a member of the Sanctuary's pastoral team will be delighted to celebrate the Eucharist for you in honour of the Virgin Mary, so that your spiritual journey may be fully supported, nourished and filled with light.

To reserve your pilgrimage, please contact **Linda Rose**, our pilgrimage coordinator, at **450-451-0043** or by email at reservation@lourdesrigaud.ca. She will be happy to guide you and assist you in preparing your visit.



Do you like the Sanctuary? We need you!



Assure that the peace of the Sanctuary will continue to radiate. A simple gesture, a gift, helps to keep alive this special place where nature and prayer open our hearts. Offer your support through *CanadaHelps* or use the QR code.

Gaëtan Labadie c.s.v.

www.lourdesrigaud.ca

Layout design by Linda Rose