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### **The Holy Week at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Ottawa**

**OTTAWA, Canada** - The Holy Week began with the blessing of the Palms followed by a procession throughout the church in which the faithful were proudly acclaiming Christ present in their lives. On Sunday, the Passion according to Matthew was proclaimed with the participation of three readers. People were invited to bring the olive branch home and

place in full view as a reminder of how far God's love went for us and of our call to become witnesses of this love.

On Holy Thursday, Mgr. Gilles Côté, Bishop Emeritus of Daru-Kiunga (PNG), gathered with a group of many faithful. Two gestures were brought to light: the procession of the offerings, symbols of our lives offered to the Lord, and the washing of the feet of 10 members of the assembly as symbol of love and service. On Holy Friday, the Veneration of the Cross, symbol of the infinite love of Christ for humanity was preceded by a procession of the cross in the church itself. In the evening, a way of the cross on a family theme was animated by young people with times of singing and of meditative silence. More than one hundred worshippers participated.

The Pascal Easter Vigil began with the blessing of the new fire outside the church, followed by a procession to the entrance of the church, where light, symbol of Christ's victory over death was passed on to each faithful during the singing of the Exultet, the pascal hymn. A young adult was also baptized and confirmed.

We thank the faithful who participated in this Easter Triduum, also the many volunteers who ensured the smooth running of the celebrations. Let the vitality and the impetus of the Risen One, flood the earthly realities of our lives with his light so we can witness his love and his presence every day.

*Communications Canada*