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### **Celebration of the feast of the Assumption**

**MONTREAL, Canada** - At the end of a preparatory novena for the great feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, under the theme *Being a disciple of Jesus at the school of Mary*, animated by different ethnic groups, a solemn and prayerful mass was held on Tuesday August 15, 2023, at the Mary Queen-of-Hearts Sanctuary in Montreal, presided over by Father Doris TOMBAOSA, SMM, rector, who was joined by a dozen concelebrants, including the Montfortian Fathers of the Sanctuary.

A large number of faithful were present and gathered, coming from Montreal and from the surrounding regions.

At the beginning of the celebration, all the fathers entered in procession singing with the congregants: *You are all beautiful, acclaimed by the angels...*

For his homily, Father Doris artfully used the analogy of the protective, enveloping and reassuring attitude of the hen towards her chicks to present the attitude of faith, joy, sharing, soothing protection and motherhood of Mary in our life.

The songs, in honor of Mary, enriched and accentuated the meaning of this celebration and fostered a climate of prayer and interiority.

After the solemn blessing, the candlelight procession set off with the fathers in the lead, followed by the bearers of the statue of Mary, then the various groups involved in the Sanctuary and the faithful.

The young people from the youth ministry of the Sanctuary animated the glorious mysteries of the rosary, interspersed with songs and meditative texts.

On the return from the procession, these same young people continued to animate this gathering with religious songs and their rhythmic and lively music, in an atmosphere of celebration, joy and solidarity on the forecourt of the Sanctuary.

We give thanks for this beautiful interiorizing and unifying celebration in honor of the Virgin Mary and for her active presence in our lives!

*Lise LAMY,  
Associate*