



### **Opening celebration of the Tercentenary in Canada**

**Montréal** - On 13 June 2015, the members of the three Montfortian congregations in Canada, joined by their lay-associates and many guests, gathered at the Shrine 'Marie Reine-des-Coeurs' in Montréal for the inauguration of the tercentenary of the death of Montfort. The celebration had three parts.

**Solemn Mass.** First, there was a brief video presentation of the celebration held at St-Laurent-sur-Sèvre on May 24, linking it to the assembly present for the mass that followed. Three bishops were present: Mgr Quesnel Alphonse s.m.m., bishop of Fort-Liberté in Haïti, who presided the celebration and pronounced the homily, Mgr Roger Ébacher, bishop emeritus of Gatineau (Canada), and Bishop Gérard Deschamps s.m.m., bishop emeritus of Daru-Kiunga and Bereina (PNG). Over 20 priests concelebrated. The assembly was led into singing by Brother Ronald Brissette s.g. Organ and trumpet filled the air with their joyous music.

**The festive meal.** Over 300 guests joined for the meal, prepared by a catering company involved in social reinsertion. Suddenly, in the middle of the meal, Montfort, Marie-Louise de Jésus and the first St-Gabriel in Canada appeared on the stage! They came to give a message to their 'descendants'! This short event was filled with humour and thanksgiving for the road we shared together.

**The concert.** The Ensemble Vocalys - a choir of 15 professional singers- presented a great concert. The first part offered a vast repertoire from Purcell (+1695) to Rutter (born 1944). The second part consisted of the world premiere of the oratorio *Virgo Fidei*, music

composed by a young Québec talent, Nicolas Gagnon, on a libretto from Georges Madore s.m.m. Benefits of the concert will be offered to Montfortian projects in Haiti.

*-Fr. Georges Madore, SMM*