

## *Pere Laval Appeal*

September 9, 2014, a day (and night) for friends of blessed Jacques-Desiré Laval and Mauritians of all stripes and creeds to embark once more on a walking pilgrimage from all corners of the island. This year, they will have two additional causes for celebration. They will be marking the 150th anniversary of the death of a saint-to-be, beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1979 and now awaiting canonization, hopefully by a Pope who has pointedly demonstrated his affinity for the poor and the down-trodden, just as the Apostle of Mauritius did. And, when they arrive in Sainte Croix, the pilgrims will congregate in worshipful prayer in a brand new crypt.



As most of you know, the body of Father Laval has been moved a few times. In 1870, four years after his death, his coffin was enclosed in a stone sarcophagus and placed in a narrow crypt, with just enough room for up to six pilgrims at a time. Some of you may still have fond childhood memories of running down one set of steps and up another one, at the opposite end of that crypt. In 1964, on the 100th anniversary of Father Laval's death, the sarcophagus was moved to its current location to accommodate the large number of people who would come at any one time to ask for his intercession. As the years went by, the faithful kept coming, in increasingly larger numbers, especially on the night of September 9, so much so that accessibility (and safety) have become an issue, once more.

Father Hym, head of the Spiritual Centre of Spiritans at Ste Croix which administers the tomb of Father Laval, has recently made a world-wide appeal for funds, with a view to building a more dignified and accessible crypt, in time for this year's pilgrimage. You can see an artist's rendering of the new facilities above.

Most of us who live in North America will, unfortunately, be thousands of kilometres removed from the sesquicentennial celebrations. However, all of us can join our fellow countrymen in spirit and show our devotion to our Apostle by contributing to a most worthy project.

We hope that you will be able to join the thousands of fellow Mauritians who will be doing their small, but meaningful part in gratitude to Blessed Jacques-Desiré Laval for his past (and future) intercessions. Your donations will be passed on to Mauritius through the Spiritans in Canada who will issue tax receipts for amounts of \$20 or more.

Please fill in and enclose the form below when you mail in your gift.

*Communications, EMMAÛS*

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### 2014 Père Laval Pilgrimage

#### Tomb Renovation to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death

Please accept my donation for:

- \$20       \$30       \$40       \$50       Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Please send me a tax receipt (minimum donation of \$20)
- Please include me on EMMAÛS mailing list

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to **The Spiritans**, with the following notation on the memo line **"Père Laval – Emmaus"**

**Address:** 34 Collinsgrove Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 3S4