



Conseil du  
patrimoine  
religieux  
du Québec



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*

## **RELIGIOUS HERITAGE DAYS**

**September 12 and 13 2020: open, educate, promote**

**Montréal, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.** — The Québec Religious Heritage Council (QRHC) and the Québec Religious and Spiritual Tourism Association (QRSTA) is kicking off programming for the Religious Heritage Days! This event aims to provide Quebecers with an opportunity to appropriate their religious heritage and to learn about and appreciate its many artistic, historical, and architectural aspects. The event will be held across the province of Québec, September 12 and 13, 2020.

Developed successfully in Montreal in 2018 and 2019, the event is the first of its kind to be organized province-wide and marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the QRHC. On a voluntary basis all religious traditions, transformed places of worship and initiatives allowing Quebecers to discover the religious diversity that enlivens the province today were able to register activities for this year's programming until 31 August. Plans for the event were brought to a halt from March to June, but with the resumption of activities in the sector, **138 sites** responded to the call. In these times during which Québecers find themselves more than ever right here in Québec, the event offers a timely contribution to local and regional tourism.

### **An offer of 138 unique places to visit in the heart of 85 different cities and municipalities!**

From Gaspé to Amos, Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>, different types of places associated with religious heritage, little known and sometimes not very accessible, are within your reach. Certain sites have opted for outdoor or self-guided visits. For interior visits, in compliance with public health regulations, visitors above age 10 will be required to wear masks or face-coverings and all visitors must respect all public health efforts to slow the spread of the illness caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19). All activities offered as part of the event's programming are free of charge. Participating sites can accept donations. Starting now, you can consult the event's complete programming to construct your itinerary on the website [journeesdupatrimoinereligieux.ca](http://journeesdupatrimoinereligieux.ca). Follow the event's [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram profile](#) and post your best photos with the hashtag **#jdpr2020!**

“This important promotional event is an opportunity to show off your attachment to heritage. We are happy to create an opportunity for citizens to be welcomed as visitors in participating heritage sites. Québec's religious heritage is rich and abundant. Your visits should encourage you to discover your own history and bring you moments of contemplation or allow you just to marvel. The QRHC has documented a part of this heritage, especially through the Inventory of Places of

Worship and the series of reinvented churches, but it is in going directly to these sites that you can truly get to know this heritage that can be difficult to access at times. People should take advantage of this opportunity to visit these sites! Hopefully we can make it live on for years to come!” – **Josée Grandmont, president of the QRHC Board of Directors.**

“After the success of the last two years in Montréal, we applaud this initiative of the QRHC to expand the scope of this event to the entire province. Accessibility of religious heritage sites being at the heart of the QRSTA’s mission, this activity allows Québec’s population to discover or to rediscover them in all of their wealth and diversity. Religious and spiritual tourism already generates significant economic benefits for Québec. The Religious Heritage Days are an important element in our strategy to promote Québec as a destination not to be missed.” – **Michel Couturier, president of the QRSTA Board of Directors.**

The **QRHC** is a non-profit organization which operates across Québec. Its mission is to support and to promote the conservation and visibility of Québec’s religious heritage. This year, it relies on the collaboration of the **QRSTA**. This association’s mission is the development and diffusion of religious and spiritual tourism in Québec. It also contributes to the development of touristic experiences and products thanks to the wealth and authenticity of Québec’s religious and spiritual offerings.

– 30 –

**Sources :** Johanne Picard, project leader  
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**Possibilities offered to media outlets:**

- VIP access to de certain exceptional sites rarely accessible to the public is offered to media representatives upon request.
- The QRHC can direct the press to restoration projects that have been primed.
- The QRHC can direct the press to active restoration work sites, allowing them to see the techniques used and to learn best practices for the conservation of religious heritage.
- The QRHC possesses a bank of images that it can make available to media representatives upon request.

Watch the [promotional video clip](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxy-ZYFLOcA), for a glimpse at what you can discover during this event.  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxy-ZYFLOcA>)