



PRESS RELEASE

Monday, April 27, 2026
St. Malo, Manitoba

Ave Maria Committee

Members:

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Ave Maria Grotto receives \$61,000 in funding from FDÉFP

A transformative, high-impact project: culture, tourism, and regional economic development in St. Malo

The 45-acre site, originally discovered in 1892, has continued to evolve over the years to better meet the growing needs of the region and the wider Manitoba community. This ongoing evolution reflects the vitality and significance of the site. Thousands of visitors from all over the world come to explore the grotto year-round and participate in events held on the site, contributing to its cultural, tourist, recreational, and economic appeal and influence.

The upcoming enhancement projects, enabled by this funding, are expected to provide substantial support to local businesses and suppliers. By investing in infrastructure improvements and enhancements to the site, the initiative will create opportunities for local enterprises, foster growth among service providers, and contribute to the overall economic vitality of the region.

“We are very pleased that our funding application to the Francophone Economic Development Fund of the Prairies for 2026–2027 has been selected,” said Léo Roch, chair of the Ave Maria Committee. “This funding will allow us to complete several infrastructure renovation projects, install accessible bathrooms, develop a contemplative labyrinth and interpretive panels, enhance our online presence, and more.”

For more information and media interviews, please contact Mr. Léo Roch, Chair of the Ave Maria Committee, by calling 204-712-0833 or by email at rochleo28@gmail.com

The Ave Maria Grotto, Manitoba's largest grotto and formerly called the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, will celebrate its 130th pilgrimage on August 16th, 2026.

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Julie Turenne-Maynard

¹ <https://www.cdem.com/publications/communique-de-presse-fdefp-2026-2027/>
<https://www.cdem.com/publications/communique-de-presse-fdefp-2026-2027-2/>