



**Press Release  
For immediate distribution**

### **Update on the incident at Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal**

**Montréal, March 22, 2019** – Saint Joseph's Oratory wish to provide more details about the knife attack on rector Father Claude Grou, that took place as he delivered this morning's 8:30 mass.

Father Grou suffered superficial injuries and is expected to be discharged from the hospital soon. He will be taking a few days off to rest.

The directors would like to thank the volunteers and worshippers who bravely intervened, the security services and Oratory staff who responded with exceptional efficiency and, of course, the EMTs and SPVM officers.

"We're touched by the many messages of support we've received," said Céline Barbeau, head of the Oratory's Communications Service. Our prayers are with Father Grou during his recovery. At the request of Father Grou himself, regular activities will continue, in line with the Oratory's mission of openness and compassion."

The assault took place in the crypt, which will reopen to the public tomorrow. The rest of today's masses will be celebrated in the basilica.

As the largest shrine dedicated to St. Joseph in the world, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal receives some two million pilgrims and visitors from around the globe every year. Listening services, celebrations and sacraments, pilgrimages and tours: everyone will find a space for reflection and an unconditional welcome.

[www.saint-joseph.org](http://www.saint-joseph.org)

- 30 -

#### **For more information or to schedule an interview:**

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