



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

August 26, 2017

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In Memoriam
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Dear Friends,

Summer is running away fast, with beautiful weather, outdoor festivals, gatherings of families and friends, and other sources of joys!. Some of you traveled this summer, including to Chartres: may this have been a rewarding experience. Do tell us about your visits to the Cathedral.

Thank you for your Support and Generosity!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thanks to all of you who so generously contributed to Project II: the restoration of the Bakers' Window (Bay 140). By the end of December 2016, we had raised the €173,000 needed to complete the project. The funds have now been transferred to France. Since its creation in late 2005, American Friends of Chartres has raised close to half a million dollars (\$492,537 to be exact). What an achievement! Your generosity shines through the restored windows in the Cathedral!

***Launching Project III: the Restoration of Two Bay-windows
and the Nativity Scene of the Jubé!***

For our third project, we have agreed with the French Ministry of Culture and our sister organization, *Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde*, to finance the Restoration of two Bay Windows, Bay (117) of Three Saints: Philip, Jude and Andre; and Bay (125) of St Anne; as well as the cost of the restoration of the Nativity Scene of the Jubé.

The windows are located in the North Transept of the Cathedral, whose restoration is scheduled to start in 2018. The Window of Three Saints (Bay 117) contains a rose representing a priest-donor with two lancets depicting St. Philip and St. Jude and St. Philip and St. Andre respectively. The Window of St Anne (Bay 125) depicts the story of St Anne, the mother of Virgin Mary, including the annunciation to Joachim and the visitation of Mary to her mother. AFC has committed to raise about \$250,000 for the restoration of these windows, representing about 60% of the estimated cost. The French Government will finance the other 40%.

Regarding the Nativity Scene of the Jubé: as you may know, the Jubé (Choir screen) was a magnificent sculpted stone screen created in the 16th Century, which separated the liturgical choir from lay people. In accordance with the beliefs of the time, the choir was considered a holy sanctuary, only accessible to priests, and the place where the mystery of the Holy Mass was celebrated. The Jubé was taken down during the renovations of the choir in 1757 to increase the visibility of the Mass, in accordance with changing religious customs. Some of the stones were found under the choir pavement, but other elements were preserved in the vault of the Cathedral. The French Government is planning to restore those elements and exhibit them in the St Piat Chapel, where the Treasure of the Cathedral will also be permanently exhibited after restoration. American Friends of Chartres has committed to raise about \$50,000 for the restoration of the Nativity Scene. AFC specifically chose this element of the Jubé because it 'lacks' the head of St Joseph, which the Metropolitan Museum of Art owns as part of its Medieval collection. Both the French government and the MET have indicated preliminary interest in having this element of the



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Jubé exhibited together with the head of St Joseph, both in France and in New York – which would be very exciting.

We aim to complete our total commitment to Project III of \$300,000 by the end 2020. Its completion will coincide with the completion of the restoration of the North Transept, and with the millennial celebration of Bishop Fulbert's commitment in 1020 to build the early medieval Cathedral.

Chartres: Light Reborn!

In our last newsletter we shared information about the film: *Chartres: Light Reborn* for the production of which AFC provided modest financial support. The film, directed by Anne Savalli and produced by Kanaris Film, documents the trades, artistry and craftsmanship involved in the restoration of the nave of the cathedral. The film is going to be screened at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on November 1st and 5th, 2017, and possibly later in November in Washington DC and New York. If you have suggestions of possible places to screen the film, please let us know (friendsofchartres@yahoo.org). We would love to work with you to make this happen.

Our Goals: How can you contribute!

Your financial contribution makes possible the conservation of the glorious stained-glass patrimony of the world, held up to the light by the sheltering stone walls of Chartres. Checks are the best option (no fees) at P.O. Box 5921, 4005 Wisconsin Avenue N.W. Washington D.C. 20016. You can also contribute through PayPal on our website www.friendsofchartres.org/donate, or Razoo (the most expensive option) at www.razoo.com.

Finally, do pass the word to your friends and anyone interested in the preservation of this inspiring UNESCO-designated world monument. Let us know if you want to host an event, so that we can send you documentation if needed. Contribute to our Facebook page, post your impressions if you visit as well as your pictures or videos. Let us know if you want to arrange a visit with our liaison officer in Chartres, Anne-Marie Woods; you can also contact her directly at: scovilleavenue@gmail.com. Finally, we are looking for more volunteers and trustees. Let us know if you are interested, or if you know of someone who would be interested: our email is friendsofchartres@yahoo.com.

With my best wishes!

Dominique Lallement
President

Detail Details of Bay 140. PhotoDLallement2016



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