



## Letter of Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde February 2012

Preserve  
this beauty  
which is so  
old, and yet

Dear donors,  
Dear friends,

The medieval builders of the cathedral were guided in their work by the ‘Master Builders of Chartres’, a succession of extremely knowledgeable and talented men who oversaw the whole construction process.

This splendid Gothic cathedral, erected on top of an ancient holy shrine, bears the stamp of a unique, perfectly proportioned beauty, both as a whole and in its detail.

The Master Builders knew and used the trade secrets of the builders that had gone before them in late antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. Knowledge was carefully passed down from father to son, from builder to apprentice, and so on.

Later, new ideas were spread by Suger, Abbot of Saint-Denis, and his entourage of theologians. Skilfully assembled by the builders of Chartres, this collection of past knowledge, enhanced by new scientific learning, was put to use at the beginning of the 13th century to build Our Lady of Chartres, which became a cathedral suffused with light, with stained glass images that capture our imagination through the emotion of the events depicted in colour and the intensity of the faces portrayed. We’re asking you to help preserve this beauty, for now and in the future!

The original, vivid design of this sanctuary becomes apparent to visitors from all over France and around the world when they witness the amazing interplay between the stained glass windows and carved portals. They tell of the New Covenant, the message brought to humanity by Jesus Christ, majestically depicted in the royal portal. Figures from the Bible, the Evangelists, the Virgin Mary and all the saints are there, full of life, presence and poetry; an almost supernatural beauty emanates from them all.

This timeless splendour evokes the vision that overwhelmed Saint Augustine and one that continues to inspire and bring peace to those who visit the cathedral today. In autumn 2011, an elegant Japanese lady was heard to say, “It’s so peaceful here!”

We invite you, dear readers, to experience, rediscover and perhaps share the beauty of Chartres, a beauty that, in the words of Saint Augustine, is ‘so old, and yet so new’.

By protecting the cathedral and supporting its restoration with a donation, however modest, we in turn take on our share of the work.

We labour for the cathedral and it rewards our labour.

Servane de Layre-Mathéus



The builders  
detail from the Saint  
Thomas stained glass  
window  
© Henri Gaud



**The restoration of the large rose window in the Royal Portal**

has just been completed by Claire Babet, a master stained-glass craftswoman from Eure-et-Loir. We were fortunate enough to get a close-up view in her workshop of the stunning medallions making up the window!



Details of medallions in the west rose window © D.R. Notre-Dame de Chartres

**American Friends of Chartres** is keeping up its good work in New York! In September our American friends presented us with a cheque for \$25,000 in the office of Philippe Bélaval, Heritage Director at the French Ministry of Culture. This donation comes through their involvement in the restoration of the five lancet windows in the south portal. A further contribution of \$5,000 was added to this at the end of 2011. American Friends of Chartres hopes to be able to launch a new campaign in the coming year aimed at funding the restoration of two windows and one rose window in the nave.

Délégation d'American Friends of Chartres dans le bureau de Philippe Bélaval, Directeur des Patrimoines, Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication septembre 2011 © CSM - Caroline Berthod-Bonnet



**Well done: three bays in the transept funded by you!**



119

117

116

Saint Thomas et saint Barnabé saint Jude et saint Thomas saint Philippe et saint André saint Jude et saint Philippe saint Christophe et saint Nicaise saint Denis et un chevalier

Thanks to your extremely generous individual donations, the association has been able to contribute €65,000 towards the restoration of bay 117!

The Caisse régionale du Crédit Agricole Val de France and the Fondation Pays de France du Crédit Agricole are contributing €90,000 in sponsorship towards bay 119.

Finally, we have a first! A European collaboration is going to be involved in the restoration of bay 116. The Peters restoration workshop in Germany is providing sponsorship in the form of expertise, in accordance with the Historical Monuments directives.

Montage of bays 119,117 and 116, in the cathedral transept © Cabinet Patrice Calvel

**...2011... Three boosts for renovation fund raising by CSM**

**∞ Talk by Bernard de Montgolfier**

On 18 March 2011, over 150 people gathered in the former Chapel of Sainte Foy in Chartres. Art historian and honorary senior heritage conservation officer Bernard de Montgolfier gave a talk on the beauty of English cathedrals and their fan vaulting, which is so characteristic of the Perpendicular Gothic style. The evening raised €2,042.

A big thank you to our speaker and to the Galerie de Chartres, which hosted the evening!

- ▲ Our next talk in Chartres "Charles Péguy and the cathedral, a temporal and spiritual space", by Odile Vetö - 30 March 2012, 8.30 pm – Chartres Cathedral



**∞ L'exposition de**

The sale of works by Yolaine de Chartres at the Town Hall in the 8th arrondissement raised €8,785. Inspired by scenes from daily life windows of the cathedral, her work is according to Jean-Paul Deremble added to the union of light and a We are extremely grateful to the

Water carrier—engraving by Yolaine © D.R.

# The new restoration campaign for 2012

## a sets of two windows and a rose window in the nave



Main view of the nave.  
Details of bays 170 and 171  
in the nave, Saint Lawrence's  
face, Saint Stephen's face and  
detail of the martyrdom of  
Saint Lawrence  
© D.R. ND de Chartres

The windows in the side aisles and the ambulatories read like graphic novels. Meanwhile, the windows in the clerestory of the nave feature the apostles and saints at twice life-size to make them more visible. With such intense expressions on their faces they create striking images.

**The Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde team is launching a new campaign to restore a bay in the nave, and we hope you will get involved once again!** We are proposing to restore a set of two lancet windows, one of which features the stoning of Saint Stephen and the other the martyrdom of Saint Lawrence in the flames of the grill. These two important saints were among the first Christians to be persecuted: Stephen in 33 AD in Jerusalem and Lawrence in Rome in 258 AD. Both deacons spread the word of Christ and exercised charity. Saint Lubin, Bishop of Chartres in the middle of the 6th century, sits enthroned in the centre of the rose window which tops the lancet windows.

### à renouveler .....

#### Yolaine

de Schonen, exhibited at the  
ment of Paris in March 2011,  
painted on the stained glass  
engravings and canvases are,  
e, like "vibrant new touches  
all-consuming colour."  
e artist for her generosity!



#### ∞ Open-Air Visual Arts Day

On 10 September 2011 a morning of artistic creativity saw more than 60 artists of all ages expressing themselves through drawings, oil paintings, photography, watercolours, origami and even embroidery. Around a hundred works were exhibited and then put up for sale.

By the end of the day the association had raised €3,097 towards the restoration thanks to the artists' donations and the buyers' good spirits.

Thank you to all the artists and art lovers!

▲ **The second Open-Air Day will take place on Saturday 22 September 2012. Chartres Cathedral parvis from 9.30 am.**

An artist in action at the Open-Air Day on 10 September 2011

# 2012 CALENDAR

## // MARCH

**Wednesday 21 March – 6.30 pm / PARIS**

“New ways of giving

in aid of the restoration of the cathedral”

Discussion workshop led by Noël Raimon, President of the Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde Endowment Fund.

Cercle de l'Union Interalliée

33, rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, F-75008 Paris

By reservation only - admission: €10 - limited places

chartrescsm@yahoo.fr / +33 (0)6 82 28 63 61

**Friday 30 March – 8.30 pm / CHARTRES**

“Péguy's journey - from plain to cathedral”

by Odile Vetö, Doctor of Comparative Literature,

Professor Emeritus at the Universities of Yale (USA) and Rennes (France).

To mark the 100th anniversary of Charles Péguy's pilgrimage to Chartres.

Leading into Holy Week.

Chartres Cathedral – free talk open to the general public

## // MAY

**Thursday 24 May – 8 pm / CHARTRES**

“The beauty of a monument, a living memory worth saving?” (provisional title)

Philosophical discussion in partnership

with the “Y a d'la joie” association.

Venue and precise topic be confirmed at a later date.

## // JUNE

**Sunday 17 June – 9.30 am / La Villette-Saint-Prest**

Walk along the route of Charles Péguy's pilgrimage

To mark the 100th anniversary of Charles Péguy's pilgrimage to Chartres.

Start 9.30 am: La Villette-Saint-Prest railway station – picnic lunch around midday

Arrive at the cathedral at around 4 pm, thanksgiving mass in the crypt.

## // SEPTEMBER

**Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 September / CHARTRES**

Associations Fair

Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde stand

The stand will be located between Place des Épars and Boulevard Chasles

**Saturday 22 September / CHARTRES**

Open-Air Visual Arts Day

Open to all - all disciplines, all techniques

From 9.30 am – Cathedral parvis

3 pm: exhibition / 4 pm: auction - Place Billard

## // OCTOBER

**Friday 19 October – 7.30 pm / CHARTRES**

20th anniversary fund-raising evening

Presentation of the 20th anniversary edition and arts tombola

11 cours Gabriel', new function room at the Hôtel du Grand Monarque

11, rue Gabriel Péri - F-28000 Chartres

€100 - dinner and tombola ticket

Advance booking only – cheques payable to Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde

chartrescsm@yahoo.fr / +33 (0)6 82 28 63 61

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Calendar updates at [www.chartres-csm.org](http://www.chartres-csm.org)

+33 (0)6 82 28 63 61 - [chartrescsm@yahoo.fr](mailto:chartrescsm@yahoo.fr)

**We look forward to seeing you  
at our forthcoming events!**

**20th  
anniversary  
appeal**

**1992 - 2012**

**20 years of generous donations to keep the  
Chartres message alive!**

**To pay tribute to your commitment, the  
association would like you to have your  
say, so get writing! Please send us your  
contributions by 31 March:**

**16 cloître Notre-Dame**

**F-28000 Chartres.**



Special edition “stained glass window” watch,  
The builders  
detail from the Saint Thomas stained  
glass window  
Price €35 incl. VAT  
(see enclosed order form)

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© Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde - février 2012

Tirage à 4500 exemplaires - publication annuelle gratuite