



Newsletter from
CHARTRES, SANCTUAIRE DU MONDE

Association for the preservation of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Chartres



February 2009

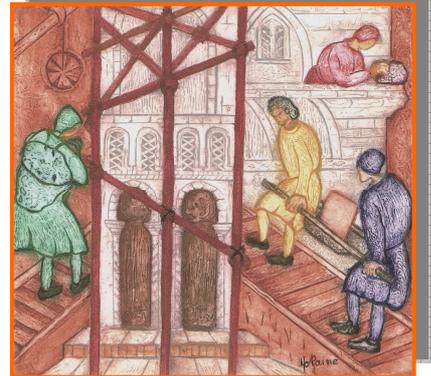
Dear friends of Chartres Cathedral,
Dear donors and future donors,

Yes, we can. By combining our efforts we can complete new restoration work to restore the cathedral's beauty, in spite of the credit crunch that threatens bank balances just about everywhere in the world.

Now more than ever, is it not essential that we preserve this wonderful sanctuary, returning to the very source of our spiritual roots?

Now more than ever, preserving our heritage is also about giving extra momentum to the forces of artistic creation, like a torch passed on from generation to generation.

The work underway, shown by large areas of scaffolding, proves that the building trades specializing in cathedrals – in the tradition of builders through the ages – are alive and thriving.



© Yolaine, engraving, 2008



Stone masons, master stained-glass window makers, vault restorers, all are helping, under the supervision of the chief architect of historical monuments, to restore Our Lady of Chartres, thanks to your individual gestures of generosity.

Our 2009 newsletter tells you about what we have actually achieved with your help and what we are planning to do with your support.

**Let us join forces and continue, because together we can!
2009 will be a busy year of new projects
for the cathedral!**

Servane de Layre-Mathéus, president

Scaffolding everywhere!

There is interior and exterior scaffolding everywhere, with some work nearing completion and other work about to start, thanks to your action:

- Work is continuing on the restoration of the stained-glass windows in the upper choir, on the two windows showing the story of St Martin and the Count Thibaud rose window. These three windows are currently at Anne Pinto and André Morteau's studio in the Limousin. Funding from Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde totaled €97,985.
- The Vitrail France studio in Le Mans removed the five lancet windows from the south portal in September 2008 and has been working on them for several months. Funding from Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde totaled €120,578.
- The renovation of the interior decoration of the Chapel of the Apostles, known as the 'axis chapel', by Tollis (restoration of the cut stonework) and Art Anjou (restoration of the murals), is nearing completion in early 2009. The full cost of €87,294 was funded by Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde.

These three projects were made possible by your donations and those from the American Friends of Chartres association. Corporate sponsors topped up the funding: Crédit Agricole, Caisse Val de France et Fondation, and MMA assurances.

Spotlight on the work in the Chapel of the Apostles

© Denis Metzen, Tollis, 2008

The chapel has been closed for several months because of the scaffolding erected right up to the keystone, and we shall see the result of the restoration in March 2009.

The painstaking millimeter-by-millimeter cleaning work has revealed ancient colored wall coatings. The original wall coatings were rediscovered by applying a latex 'peel' that pulls off the layers of grime and dirt, revealing the traces of old polychrome decorations. You can follow the project (in French) on the blog kept by Denis Metzen, a stonemason employed by Tollis:



<http://web.me.com/denis.metzen/Tollis/Chartres/Chartres.html>

The different phases of restoration of a capital in the chapel



Latest news:

The French government, supported by the Centre Region and Europe, is beginning the restoration of the vaulting in the choir and ambulatory. The work will start in January 2009.

When at last cleaned, this vast area of beautiful stonework will regain its original splendor following a few months of extensive and spectacular work in a hardworking and very lively atmosphere.

Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde – a few key figures:

Donations in 2008:

- **Almost €102,000** collected for the restoration of the cathedral.
- **713 generous donations** from private donors totaling **€84,675**, ranging from €10 to €8,850 and including **5 donations of more than €3,000**.
- **1 check for €3,000** from the Paris-Necker-Pasteur Lions Club was presented to Servane de Layre-Mathéus at the Club's Christmas party. This donation was funded by the profits from the theatre evening organized in Paris in September.
- **1 check for \$20,000** presented by Monika Riely, president of the American Friends of Chartres, in September 2008, collected thanks to the generosity of American donors in our 'sister association' for the restoration of the lancet windows in the south transept.
- **Artist sponsorship:** the Dominican priest and artist Kim en Joong contributed **€15,000** to the restoration of the windows.



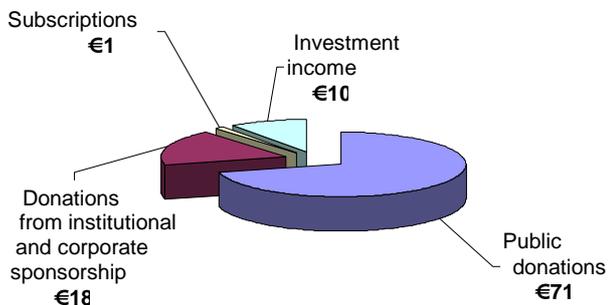
Our payments to the government:

€305,856 were paid to the Architecture and Heritage Directorate in agreements for the completion of three projects: the restoration of the Chapel of the Apostles, the five lancet windows in the south transept, and the two Saint Martin windows and Count Thibaud rose window in the upper choir.

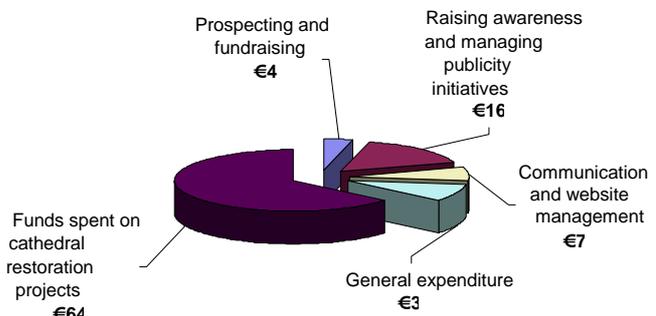
Increasing numbers of people are **visiting the website www.chartres-csm.org** every day, from **67 countries**.

More about the resources of Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde*

Where did 100 euros of resources come from?

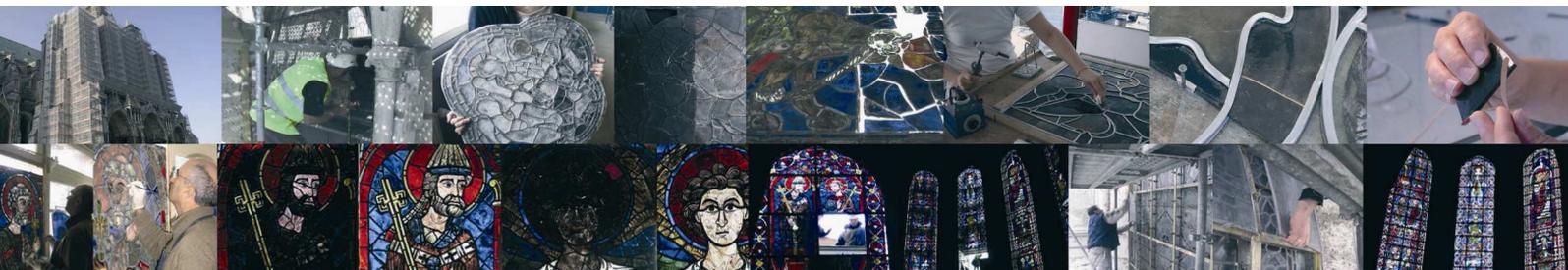


How were 100 euros of resources spent?



* based on the figures from the 2007 tax year

© Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde – composition 'The stages of restoration of a stained-glass window'



About the association

Association officers (2008 general assembly):

- Servane de Layre-Mathéus, president
- Noël Raimon, vice-president
- Jean-François Lagier, general secretary
- Jean-Pierre Gaillard, treasurer

Our office in Chartres is open on Mondays from 2 to 5 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - 22, cloître Notre-Dame, on the left-hand side of the courtyard, first floor.

Contacts: +33 (0)2 37 36 04 63 / +33 (0)6 82 28 63 61 -

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New projects

1. Protecting the Romanesque windows

"Chartres' three west windows are the greatest and most important work of painting on glass from the mid-12th century. They are incorporated into the prodigious Gothic glazing like a priceless relic. In the evening, when the shadows creep over the cathedral, these three windows continue to shine, and they alone light up the whole building." Louis Grodecki, *Chartres*, pub. Draeger et Verve, 1996.

Today, these three magnificent but unprotected windows are in danger of being damaged by the elements. A system of protection is under consideration by the government departments; we are awaiting instructions and quotations from the departments of the chief architect of historical monuments before we can act, but we are asking now for your involvement in this cause.

2. Restoration of the windows in the south transept

Following on from the restoration work on the windows in the upper choir, which will be completed next year, we will begin the restoration of the transept windows.

Our association has decided to launch an appeal this year for funds for two sets of two windows and one rose window.

Iconographic description of the two sets

Window 116: St Denis

The left-hand panel features a donor, by the name of Geoffroi, facing his altar, with St Christopher and St Nicasius overhead. The right-hand panel features the coat of arms of the Clément family between two candelabras at the bottom. At the top is St Denis handing the standard of France to a knight, very probably Jean Clément. The rose window above these two windows shows John the Baptist, with the Clément arms.

Window 120: two prophets

The left-hand panel shows Pierre Mauclerc of Dreux, duke of Brittany, at the bottom. Above him is a huge prophet whose identity is unknown. It cannot be Hosea, who is pictured next to him, or Malachi or Micha, who are opposite. There are nine other possibilities. The right-hand panel features the coat of arms of Pierre Mauclerc below and the prophet Hosea above. A Virgin with child surrounded by the arms of Pierre Mauclerc decorates the rose window above the two windows.

3. Organization of an event to raise funds for the stained-glass windows in Chartres Cathedral

In 2009, eleven contemporary artists are helping to preserve the cathedral by creating works inspired by this gem of Gothic art. The works will be sold to raise funds for conservation work. The work of each artist will attempt to portray Chartres Cathedral in a new light, giving it renewed appeal and anchoring its heritage firmly in the 21st century. The works are due to go on show in **Saint Andrew's Collegiate Church in November and December 2009**. We hope to see you there.

This interaction between historical art and contemporary works will breathe new life into the problematic issue of the restoration and conservation of this historical monument, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

The artists are the key players in this project, and are being invited to share their visions of Chartres Cathedral through participatory projects that will be organized. All visitors will be invited to the events and informed of the approach of each artist and his/her involvement in and commitment to the preservation of Chartres Cathedral.

The eleven artists who have been selected or asked to participate are:

Francesco Araya, photographer; **Laurent Baude**, sculptor; **Véronique Bigo**, painter; **Pierre Buraglio**, painter, **Béatrice Casadesus**, painter; **Hortense Dameron**, sculptor; **Philippe Demontaut**, photographer; **Najia Mehadji**, painter; **Anne-Marie Pascoli**, choreographer; **Régis Perray**, plastic artist, and **Nicolas Simarik**, plastic artist.

4. Receiving our donors in Chartres

On request we can organize a tour of the restoration work to which you have contributed, with the support of the office of the rector. Please send your request in writing to CSM, 16 cloître Notre-Dame, F-28003 Chartres cedex or by e-mail to the address contact@chartres-csm.org.

Newsletter from Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde

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Reading committee - Béatrice de Chabot, Jean-Pierre Gaillard, Jean-François Lagier and Noël Raimon

© Henri Gaud, detail from the Jesse tree

