Joan of Arc Pilgrimage
June 19-28, 2020
-Centennial Celebration of Joan’s Canonization-

Joan of Arc in Domremy, communing with St Michael, St Catherine & St Margaret.
(O.D.V. Guillonnet)
The Centennial Celebration of Joan of Arc’s Canonization will be celebrated in France during 2020, in many ways and places. Even 600 years later, Joan still attracts Catholics, Protestants and others. Indeed, Joan of Arc speaks to everyone.

God willing, in June, 2020 we will again lead a Joan of Arc pilgrimage to France. This will be our thirteenth opportunity for taking a group on this fascinating journey, and we are especially looking forward to this one. Our travel philosophy remains the same - one of going back to the essentials, of simplicity, of quality time in some places instead of 'rush-rush' in many. Although we will indeed see much, we want to experience the places we visit more as spiritual travelers than as consumers, to first see them through the eyes of believers and/or seekers, and secondly from such perspectives as historical, architectural, sociological, touristic, etc. Consequently, we will again purposely remain a small group.

Before going to the itinerary, let’s take a quick glance at Joan of Arc. Did you know that …

- Joan of Arc is the most attested person in history up to the 16th century. As Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (author of Sherlock Holmes) states, “...next to the Christ, the highest spiritual being of whom we have any exact record upon this earth is the girl Jeanne.”

- at 17 years old, Joan of Arc remains the youngest supreme military commander in history, male or female. Louis Kossuth says: “Consider this unique and imposing distinction. Since the writing of human history began, Joan of Arc is the only person, of either sex, who has ever held supreme command of the military forces of a nation at the age of seventeen.” Mr. Kossuth (1802-1894) was Regent-President of Hungary in 1849. He was widely honored during his lifetime, including in the United Kingdom and the United States, as a freedom fighter and bellwether of democracy in Europe.

- those who knew her from childhood frequently described her as “...simple and good, frequenting the Church and Holy places.” And they left us many specific examples of her life while growing up in Domremy. For example: “Often, when she was in the fields and heard the bells ring, she would drop to her knees.” Dominique Jean Waterin, laborer of Greux, Trial of Nullification, 1456
- even at the stake she was heard asking for the forgiveness of those executing her (reminiscent of Jesus), as well as for her own sins: “She also most humbly begged all manner of people, of whatever condition or rank they might be, and whether of her party or not, for their pardon and asked them kindly to pray for her, at the same time pardoning them for any harm they had done her. This she continued to do for a very long time, perhaps for half an hour and until the end. The judges who were present, and even several of the English, were moved by this to great tears and weeping, and indeed several of these same English, recognized God's hand and made professions of faith when they saw her make so remarkable an end.” Jean Massieu, Trial of Nullification, 1456
- her very specific and consistently fulfilled prophecies were famous even in her own time. “I told them things that have happened, and things that shall happen yet.” Joan of Arc, Trial of Condemnation, March 3, 1431
Mark Twain said, “… There have been many uninspired prophets, but she was the only one who ever ventured the daring detail of naming, along with a foretold event, the event’s precise nature, the special time-limit within which it would occur, and the place—and scored fulfillment.” Mark Twain, Joan of Arc-An Essay, 1896
Jeane Dixon was one of the best-known American astrologers and psychics of the 20th century. However her 50% success rate of fulfilled prophecy pales when compared with Joan’s 100%.
- she has many parallels and similarities with the saints/prophets of the Bible.
- The church burned her at the stake as a witch on May 30, 1431. Then, officially recognizing their mistake nearly 500 years later, she was canonized a saint on May 16, 1920. She is now one of France's Secondary Patron saints and her legacy to both France and the world run deep.

“Across the night of history's blackest pages,
One name is scrolled as by a shaft of sun:
Joan of Arc, the glory of the ages,
Who battled hate, and lost-
And losing, won.”
Albert Bigelow Paine
How did this seventeen-year-old, illiterate, French peasant girl save France from English domination? After all, as you might imagine, women’s rights were not exactly in the forefront during the 15th century. For Joan, the answer was always quite simple: it was the Lord’s will. Listen to her words to the King the first time they met, “Gentle dauphin, I am Joan the maid, and the King of Heaven commands that through me you be anointed and crowned in the city of Reims as a lieutenant of the King of Heaven, who is King of France ....”

During her Trial of Condemnation, she testified that He frequently sent His messengers to help her, and only through Him was she able to do all she did. Could this be true? After examining all the records available, we believe the best and most logical explanation behind Joan of Arc’s amazing feats and life is as she always said: she was God-sent. Not by just any god though, but by the God of the Bible. Through this, France was saved, and world history was changed forever.

**Itinerary**

Each day we will gather for some combination of the following: prayers/meditation, info on activities of the day, addressing questions, *Question du Jour* discussions... This time shared together has been a highlight for many who have come with us. Having said that…

**June 19-22, 2020, ‘Base Orléans’:** We will all meet at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris on Friday, June 19, 2020, at 10:30am, at the designated rendezvous place. This has worked very well for past pilgrimages. Those just arriving from the states will not have to go into Paris in order to link up with the pilgrimage. Also, as some people have expressed a desire to be able to use their frequent flyer miles, and/or be flexible before or after the pilgrimage, we've found that it is better that everyone make their own flight arrangements. Consequently the price has been reduced accordingly to take this aspect into consideration.

From the airport we will drive directly to St Benoit-sur-Loire, a small town near Orleans, where we'll check in to our home for the next 3 evenings: the world-renowned Benedictine monastery *St-Benoît-sur-Loire*. It is located on the Loire River, and will be a welcome respite from the 'big city' of Orléans.

This still active monastery was founded c. 630 AD, and is one of the oldest abbeys of the Benedictine rule. Saint Benedict (c. 480 – 547AD) is honored by the Catholic Church and the Anglican Church as the patron saint of all of Europe and students. His remains are housed in this monastery to this day.
Much history has been recorded at St. Benoit. Joan of Arc and the French Revolution both passed through here, but their visits could not have been more different. Charles VII, accompanied by Joan while on their way to Reims for his anointing and coronation, came peacefully through on June 21-22, 1429. On the other hand, the French revolutionaries of the 18th century passed through St Benoit pillaging and destroying.

Today a community of approximately 40 monks resides within its walls. They still follow the Rule of St Benedict, and sing Gregorian chants and Psalms during services. You’re invited to sing along and participate in their prayer services as you like. We’ll meet with one of the monks who will tell us about the life of a monk, and answer any questions you may have.
There are six different services each day, some very short (as short as 15 minutes), and longer ones also (as long as 75 minutes).

Our rooms at St. Benoit are, as with most monasteries, clean and simple. No frills, but providing all the necessary essentials. Communal bathrooms and showers are located at the end of the hallways. We won't be surrounded by material luxury, but rather by a luxury of things we may have forgotten, such as simplicity, peaceful surroundings and some silence. And the wonderful eleventh century abbey church, built in the Romanesque style, is always just steps away. We’ll have some time to relax and enjoy the small town atmosphere here. And BTW, it’s a wonderful place to take a quiet river walk …
The Loire River walk is just a few minutes’ walk from St Benoit monastery.

While in Orleans, we will take some of our meals here in the monastery. We’re hoping that, as usual, Brigitte Bardot will once again be our effervescent, smiling host in charge of the kitchen, (as you might have guessed, that’s just her nick-name). The food will be simple, healthy and often tasty; French style.

If you speak some French, your experience in France will of course take on an added dimension. However if you don't, it’s not a problem. Most people who have come with us don’t speak any French at all. We will be translating for most tours, activities etc. (FYI-Catherine is French and Chris is American, and both speak French and English fluently).

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Day-trip destinations while in Orleans include these three:

1) Site of *Les Tourelles*- the main fortress protecting the English in 1429 was called *Les Tourelles*. This is gone now, but we’ll go to the river to see where it once stood. From this viewpoint, it’s not difficult to imagine what once was. This is another interesting and appreciative site we’ve recently added to the pilgrimage.

2) The *Cathédrale Sainte-Croix d'Orléans* (i.e. Cathedral of the Holy Cross of Orleans). Immediately after the battle of Orleans was over, Joan went here to give thanks to God for His great victory over the English. Dominique, the Secretary of the Cathedral’s Rector (*Secrétaire du Recteur de la Cathédrale*) is the heart and soul of the *Cathedrale*. She and her assistant Bernadette have been very kind in providing us a private tour of the Cathedral, where you’ll see things that most people never get a chance to. We’ll attend Sunday Mass here, and then have lunch with Dominique and perhaps others. We never know who might join us. In 2019, the Bishop dropped by to give our group of pilgrims a warm Bonjour!
Cathédrale Sainte-Croix d'Orléans
Following Sunday morning mass at Sainte Croix, people begin leaving through the ‘front doors’. Just outside these doors, notice the banners hanging from the buildings in Rue Jeanne d’Arc, (i.e. Joan of Arc Street). These are the coat-of-arms of people who actually rode with Joan.
3) The *Château de Sully-sur-Loire* is a fairy-tale like castle. Joan spent a couple of months here prior to being captured. Weather and circumstances permitting, we will have a French picnic lunch on the Loire River, overlooking this beautiful castle. It's truly a site to behold. You'll also be able to explore the castle on your own.
A little about French food is in order here. The French are of course known for their excellent food and wine. And for good reason. Charles de Gaulle said, "How can you govern a country with 365 different kinds of cheese?"

However… when you eat a "real" French lunch or dinner in a restaurant, you must count on being there 2-3 hours. It's a nice way to relax, eat well and enjoy each other's company. However, ATTENTION! (WATCH OUT!) If you have two full meals in a restaurant per day, and a petit dejeuner (breakfast), your day will be reduced by some 4-6 hours just sitting in a restaurant. There are too many other interesting and important things to take advantage of in France besides just the food experience.

That's where the traitteur comes in. When there are interesting activities coming up, and time is of the essence, then we will take advantage of a traitteur (kind of a French delicatessen who specializes in daily fresh dishes... often very good!). We've already prepared menus with these specialists for times such as these. This way, we believe we will have the best of both worlds: good fresh French food, and the flexibility of eating at home, perhaps a picnic, etc. BTW, unlike the vast majority of tours, most of the meals (i.e. 82% of all meals) are covered in the price.
Jargeau is a small town on the southern bank of the Loire, about ten miles east of Orléans. The Battle of Jargeau took place on June 11-12, 1429. It was Joan’s first offensive battle, and the first sustained French offensive in a generation. Le Duc d’Alencon, Joan’s friend and one of the commanding officers said, “Joan breathed the will of God into French troops, ensuring them their victory, saying, ‘Act, and God will act!’ … a stone hit her on the head here (it split her helmet in two as she was climbing a scaling ladder), causing her to fall. But driven on by her determination she got up and exhorted her companions forward … the French (then) took Jargeau, and set off in pursuit of the running English.” The English suffered heavy losses. Trial of the Rehabilitation, 1456

D’Alencon (a.k.a. the Bastard of Orleans) also made some other interesting comments about this battle, including this one revealing Joan’s gift of prophecy: “During the assault on the town of Jargeau, Joan said to me at a moment when I stood in a certain spot, that I should withdraw from that spot and that if I did not withdraw, ‘that machine...’ pointing out to me a war machine which was in the town, ‘will kill you’. I withdrew and just a little time thereafter, at that very spot where I had been someone was killed. His name was my Lord de Lude. Realizing all that, a great fear came over me and I was amazed at Joan’s words, and all these events that came about.” Trial of the Rehabilitation, 1456

Along the lovely and historic Loire River (B. Perler)
Jargeau statue of Joan of Arc, holding her head after being struck by a rock during the battle.
Leaving the Loire Valley, we next head to the lovely, medieval town of Troyes:

Troyes has been in existence since the Roman era. In medieval times it was an important international trade center. But of course our interest here is Troyes’ role in Joan’s story. The Cathédrale Saint Pierre-Saint-Paul is not only beautiful, but has seen its share of French history. This is where the infamous Treaty of Troyes was signed in 1420, giving the affiliation of the city to the English king, and where Joan and the Dauphin later received the fealty of the citizens of Troyes on July 10, 1429.

Charles’ situation was critical at this time: the army’s food supplies were exhausted, a strong Burgundian garrison held the center of the city, and as always, the French captains were divided about their preferred course of action. The ‘Bastard of Orleans’ tells how Joan intervened once again: “And so the Maid went and entered the council of the king, saying these words more or less, ‘Noble Dauphin, command your people to come and besiege the city of Troyes, and do not waste more time in long councils, for in God’s name, within three days I shall lead you into the city of Troyes, by love or by force and either way with courage: Burgundy will be stupefied by it’”. Joan posted troops along the ditches outside the wall and strengthened them with artillery, “...and she worked so well that night
and the next day that the bishop and townspeople, shaking and trembling, made their obedience to the king.” Simon Charles, another eyewitness to these events, adds the following: “A large number of foot soldiers followed her, and she ordered them to make bundles of sticks to fill the ditches. They made many, and the next day Joan issued a call for the assault, giving the order to put the bundles in the ditches. Seeing this, the inhabitants of Troyes, fearing an assault, sent to the king to negotiate their surrender. The king reached an agreement with the inhabitants and he entered Troyes with great ceremony, and Joan carried her standard near him.” Joan of Arc Her Story, Regine Pernoud and Marie-Veronique Clin, p.63.

Below: Light from the beautiful stained glass windows of Troyes’ Cathédrale creates its own lightshow
(Above) Miniature Portrait of Joan of Arc & Charles VII receiving the keys to Troyes in a 1484 manuscript about the Hundred Years War titled *Les Vigiles de Charles VII*.

(Below) - ‘Joan’ entering one of the royal cities-
From a previous Jeanne d’Arc celebration in France. (B. Perler)
We will of course visit the *Cathedrale Saint Pierre-Saint Paul* while in Troyes
While in Troyes, we’ll be staying in a small Benedictine monastery, Monastere Notre-Dame de la Sainte-Esperance (i.e. Our Lady Monastery of the Holy Hope), located out in the countryside. It is a small, quiet monastery, where they nonetheless have a remarkable library of some 50,000 books.

Their services follow “the course of the sun. In the early morning (7:00am), Laudes celebrates the beginning of a new day. In the evening (6:00pm), the Vepres serve as a thanksgiving for the day now completed. Then as night falls (8:30pm), the Complies mark the time for entering into the Big Silence. The center of the day (11:15am) is marked by the Eucharist, and is the high point of our daily Christian life.”

Next page top- The little country road leading up to Monastere Notre-Dame de la Sainte-Esperance.
Bottom: Courtyard of the monastery.
“Our life is centered on the meeting of God in prayer. Jesus tells us to ‘pray without ceasing.’ (Luke 18:1) The frequency of the prayer services helps us to take God’s word deep within ourselves, so that the word of God never leaves us.”

From the brother’s website of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Hope

Inside the new chapel of Monastere Notre-Dame de la Sainte-Esperance outside of Troyes.
June 23-26, 2020, 'Base Domrémy-la-Pucelle': Next we’re on our way to Domrémy-la-Pucelle (i.e. Domremy the Maid). There are some great reasons to spend time in Joan of Arc’s birthplace and hometown. First of all, it is the center of what we call ‘Joan of Arc country’, an exceptionally beautiful part of France, and a good example of 'la France profonde', which means 'the deep France'. That is, the lovely pastoral countryside that few tourists ever see, much less experience.
Secondly, Domrémy is a wonderful place to search for both Joan’s roots and her spirituality. As you might imagine, there is a wealth of Joan of Arc experts living in this area. In the past, they have been very generous to us with their time. One such person who was such a big help to us in 2019 is Roger Melcion. He is involved in many areas of the Joan of Arc sites in Domremy. It is a pleasure to share his company. He is so nice, helpful and knowledgeable that one wonders where all his gifts came from. Certainly part of the explanation lies in the fact Roger is a direct descendant of the family d’Arc, from Joan’s brother, Jacquemin. He tells us that is why he always tries to give his best for those seeking information about Joan. It is his calling and mission in life. That’s quite a high standard to shoot for, but it is the one he consistently aspires to reach. He says, “We’ve learned a lot from Joan, and we still need her. Her story is unique, and it touches my heart deeply, and this is what I want to share with others.”

From the small village of Domrémy:
in the distance is the Basilica dedicated to Joan.
From this viewpoint, you can see the Basilica dedicated to Joan of Arc on the left, and just next door on the right (with the red roof) is the *Maison des Chapelains*.

This year in Domremy we will be blessed to be staying at *La Maison des Chapelains* (i.e. the House of Chaplains), also known as *Maison d’accueil Spirituel* (i.e The House of Spiritual Welcome). This is a privilege, and will be the first time we will be able to stay with them. The mission of the Chaplains is twofold: first of all, they are charged with being the guardians of the Basilica, and secondly their job is welcoming those on pilgrimage to Joan’s hometown. Consequently, they are purposefully strict on who they allow to stay with them. Only those who are on pilgrimage can receive this blessing. Here’s their ‘mission statement’: “*Want to take a break from the pressures of daily life? Alone, as a couple, with your family or in a group, you can take a time of retreat with Saint Joan of Arc, here where her vocation was born and nurtured. In calmness and beauty, you will find a brotherly welcome, a discreet and respectful ear, and, if you like, of course, an accompaniment in prayer.*”
They are wonderfully situated on top of the hill, and just a stone’s throw from both the Fairy Tree and the Fountain of the Fevers, where Joan often heard her heavenly messages. Catherine and I stayed up on the hill a few years ago and just loved it. Although Domremy itself is a wonderful, lovely small village, being able to stay on top of this sacred hill is a different world all together. To get there, you take a small side road, so that once up on the hill, things suddenly seem very quiet.

The views from up there are marvelous, and some of the rooms in the Maison des Chaperlains face the Meuse Valley, with the windows opening up to quite a panorama.

Of course from here we can go visit the Basilica whenever we like. Although France currently has a big shortage of priests, there is one here available, and Mass is held daily at 6pm for those who wish to attend. The Basilica itself tells Joan’s story in eloquent and powerful fashion through paintings, mosaics, stained glass windows and sculpture. This time, the creation is worthy of its subject.

On the practical side of things, they do have a washing machine here.
From this viewpoint you can see the end of the Maison des Chaperlains (bottom far left), and more amazing views.
At the *Fountain of the Fevers* and the *Fairy Tree* location.
We’ll have a guided visit of Joan’s house, and we’ll spend some time at the Fairy Tree location. Although the tree was cut down in the 17th century, the location remains the same place as the "Fountain of the Fevers", and a small fountain still flows there to this day. The site remains very calming and pastoral.

“Not far from Domremy there is a tree that they call ‘The Ladies Tree’, others call it The Fairy Tree; nearby, there is a spring where people sick of the fever come to drink, as I have heard, and to seek water to restore their health. I have seen them myself come thus; but I do not know it they were healed...I do not know, and have never heard if the fairies appear there; but my brother told me that it is said in the neighborhood: ‘Jeannette received her mission at the Fairies’ Tree.’ It is not the case; and I told him the contrary....there were prophecies which said that from the neighborhood of this wood would come a maid who should do marvelous things. I put no faith in that.” Joan of Arc, Trial of Condemnations, Feb. 24,1430.

“The questionnaire prepared for the interrogation at Domremy (from the Trial of Rehabilitation) touched points that are still capable of startling historians: the Fairy Tree, for example...It is striking to see more or less the same description from each of these peasants who reported without embarrassment the legends of the Fairy Tree...They formed from such ancient folklore a culture very much their own and transmitted it from one generation to the next. Joan’s godfather reported with pleasure what he had heard about this Fairy Tree: ‘I heard tell often that women and the enchantresses who are called fairies used to dance there beneath that tree, but, according to what they say, ever since the Gospel of John was read in these parts, they do not go there anymore. In our time, when Laetare Jerusalem is sung during Sunday mass, the young girls and men of Domremy go out to that tree and often they eat there and ... go to the fountain and while walking about and singing they drink the water of that fountain and play roundabout and pick flowers’...There is no hint of devil worship or sorcery in any of their testimony” Regine Pernoud and Marie-Veronique Clin, Joan of Arc-Her Story
Joan had no military training, but she did have exceptional guides for the mission at hand: Archangel Michael, St Catherine & St Margaret. Michael's first message to Joan was about holiness, since living a holy life was a vital part of Joan's preparation to fulfill the mission God had called her to.

Saint Michael, Saint Margaret and Saint Catherine serve as guardians to St. Joan’s Basilica.
Joan testified, "Above all, Saint Michael told me that I must be a good child, and that God would help me. He taught me to behave rightly and go often to church." After Michael identified himself, he told her to not be afraid. She later said, "It seemed to me a worthy voice, and I believed he was sent to me by God. After I had heard this voice the third time, I knew that it was the voice of an angel."

Joan’s small childhood church, St Remy. Joan stated St. Margaret appeared to her here. To this day it still serves as the village church. You’ll have time to visit St Remy on your own.
Included in our day trips from Domrémy are: Vaucouleurs, la Chapelle de Notre-Dame de Beauregard, Maxey-sur-Meuse, la Chapelle de Bermont, and Vouthon-Bas. Just a word on each of these destinations:

Vouthon-Bas- this small village, located in a bucolic setting close to Domremy, is Isabelle Romee’s (Joan’s mother) birthplace, and where she married Joan’s father, Jacques d’Arc. A monument has been dedicated to Isabelle and Joan just outside of the village.

La Chapelle de Bermont- According to the Trial of Rehabilitation testimony, Joan often went to this simple chapel for prayer. It is still located in the woods, close to Domrémy. Bermont provides a lovely, quiet, countryside atmosphere. Mr. Olivier is the President of the Association of Bermont. He will be there to greet us and explain (we’ll be translating) the fascinating story of Bermont, and the images
they have recently uncovered there. These images have been dated to shortly after Joan’s death, and the belief is (for very good reasons, we think) that these are actually paintings of Joan of Arc made by those who knew her at that time: the monks/hermits of the Chapelle de Bermont. On the way to the chapel, we’ll pass through the small neighboring village, Maxey-sur-Meuse. Maxey, now a charming little village, was Burgundian during Joan’s time, and the Domrémy children often had neighborhood scuffles with the Maxey kids.

La Chapelle de Bermont

“I know it pleased her to go often to the Hermitage of the Blessed Mary of Bermont, near Domrémy. Often I saw her go there. She was there when her parents thought she was with the plough or in the fields; and when she heard the Mass-bell, if she were in the fields, she would go back to the village and to the Church, in order to hear Mass. I have been witness of this many times. I have seen her confess at Easter-time and other solemn Feasts. I saw her confess to Messire Guillaume Fronte, who was then Cure of the Parish of Saint Remy.” Jean Morel, of Greux, laborer

There is a new Joan of Arc statue located at the Chapelle de Bermont. The face for this statue was actually taken from some of the 15th century images found underneath several old layers of plaster/paint. They then used computer-generated images to create the face. Take a look at this statue on the next page.
Could this actually be what Joan looked like? Several experts believe it is.
“Ask where the good road is, the godly paths you used to walk in, in the days of long ago…”
“Yet the Lord pleads with you still: Ask where the good road is, the godly paths you used to walk in, in the days of long ago. Travel there, and you will find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6: 16
Vaucouleurs—After first convincing the Captain of Vaucouleurs that she was God-sent, Joan was sent from this small town to see Charles VII, soon to be anointed and crowned King of France. We will have a good guide here, one very knowledgeable about Vaucouleurs' Joan of Arc history. Among other things, we'll visit la Porte de France through which Joan left on her way to see the King, and the chapel where Joan was often praying (we even know from the Trial of Rehabilitation exactly where she was kneeling).

La Chapelle de Beauregard - When Geoffroy de Bourlemont came home from the 7th Crusade (1248-1254 A.D), he wanted to build a place of thanksgiving to his God, and this was the result. It has just recently been restored. Its name literally means ‘the Chapel of the Beautiful View’. And so it is. Overlooking the Meuse River valley, it is well deserving of its moniker and still today remains a harbor of peace.
Local tradition says that Joan of Arc came here to pray. Yes, it would make sense. Roger Melcion, mentioned previously, the direct descendant of Jacqueman d’Arc (brother of Jeanne), is convinced of this, and if anyone would know, it’d be him. These stories have been passed down from generation to generation, and of course Joan frequently went to churches and other small chapels in the area. And Beauregard is easily within walking distance from both Domrémy and Bermont.

From the Chapelle de Beauregard we see sweeping views of the Meuse Valley.

The Chapelle de Beauregard provides some wonderful views of the very heart of ‘Joan of Arc country’. With this photo you can see Domremy’s Basilica, sitting on the other side of the valley (just a little right of dead center). On the next page we see the same wooden bench as above, with Roger Melcion sharing some of his knowledge with a couple of pilgrims. A little photographic depth-perception ‘slight of hand’ reveals the Basilica seemingly much closer.
June 26-June 28, 2020-‘Base’ St Thierry-Reims—For our last Joan of Arc stop, we head to Reims, the highpoint of Joan’s brief career: the anointing and crowning of Charles VII in the Cathedrale Notre Dame de Reims.

France is well known for its many inspiring churches, Basilicas and Cathedrals, but this one is exceptional. It is truly fit for a King. In fact, twenty-nine Kings of France, including Charles VII, were anointed and crowned here between 1027 and 1825. It is a Gothic art masterpiece which has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1991.

You’ll have free time here in Reims to visit the cathedral at your leisure, have lunch on your own or do whatever strikes your fancy.
"Let there be light!" Gen. 1: 3. Cathedrale de Reims
Fit for a King! It’s impossible to capture the immensity of *la Cathédrale de Reims* with a photo.
Stained glass of Sainte Jeanne d’Arc, inside la Cathedrale de Reims.
France’s relationship with God was unique among the nations. Established in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century, France still remains in unbroken communion with the bishop of Rome. In spite of its current secular leanings, France is still referred to by Rome as the “eldest daughter of the church”.

On July 17, 1429, with Joan of Arc in attendance, Charles VII was finally anointed and crowned in the \textit{Cathedrale de Reims}. Crowning him would not be enough. Under the French medieval protocol of succession, a king had to first be anointed with God’s holy oil before he could be crowned King. The anointing was in fact seen as the most important part of the ceremony.

\textit{Sainte Jeanne}, still leading us today in front of the \textit{Cathédrale Notre Dame de Reims}

Like the Kings of the Old Testament (e.g. see 1 Samuel 10:1 or 2 Samuel 5:3), the coronation represented the sealed alliance between God and the new sovereign. In exchange for this divine anointing, the king promised to rule according to the law, to protect his peoples and to support the Faith. Specifically,
July 17, 1429-Coronation of Charles VII, with Joan & her banner in attendance. (Guillonnet).
it was based on Paul’s teachings in Romans 13, where the idea is that all true authority comes from God: “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” Romans 13:1.

After this five-hour ceremony, kneeling before the King and embracing his knees, Joan said: “Noble King, now is accomplished the pleasure of God, who willed that I should raise the siege of Orleans and should bring you to this city of Reims to receive your holy coronation, thus showing that you are the true King, him to whom the throne of France must belong.”

This year we have again decided to dig deeper into this ‘anointing and crowning’ aspect of the King’s coronation. It is a fascinating and unique aspect of Joan’s story. We searched for a qualified and knowledgeable expert, and in 2019 found one of the very best. We are especially thankful that Dr. Patrick Demouy will again come on board to share his expertise with us on such an interesting and relevant subject.

Dr. Demouy is uniquely equipped in these areas. As a French historian and writer specializing in the Middle Ages, he is one of the leading experts in his field. He is a Doctor of History, Doctor of Arts, Professor Emeritus of Medieval History at the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, and also associate professor at the Catholic Institute of Paris. Notre-Dame Cathedral of Reims is at the heart of his research, and he has devoted many books and papers to it. His doctorate thesis was focused on this and entitled: Genesis of a Cathedral. He won 1st Prize Gobert in the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres for his book, The Archbishops of Reims and their Church in the 11th-12th centuries. His latest book, just out in Oct. 2016, is entitled Le Sacre du Roi (The Anointing of the King).
While in Reims, our place of rest will be the beautiful Benedictine monastery, *Les Benedictines de St-Thierry*. It is located in the countryside, in the middle of champagne country. It is a very relaxing environment. Monks or nuns have lived in this peaceful place since the 6th century, and now it’s these Benedictine Sisters.

Their gardens (they grow some of their own fruit and flowers) overlook the surrounding vineyards and countryside, extending all the way to city of Reims and its famous cathedral, some eight kilometers away. Beautiful!

They are a poor but very hospitable community. They will serve us our meals while in Reims (the food will again be simple, healthy and typically French). For those interested, you may attend some of the Sisters’ prayer services, and/or hear their soothing singing in their 12th century chapel. Again, for those interested, we will be meeting with one of the sisters, who will talk some about their community life of prayer, hospitality and work and answer any questions you may have.

Overlooking some of the sister’s gardens at Saint Thierry Benedictine monastery.
June 28, 2020, Paris-CDG airport: We’ll spend our last night near Paris, in a hotel next to Charles de Gaulle airport, where we'll have our farewell dinner, and the pilgrimage comes officially to a close. On Monday, June 29, many will be taking their flight home. Some however may wish to leave for Rouen on that day. Although Rouen is not part of this pilgrimage, for those who wish to visit there, we would be glad to help make the necessary arrangements, and perhaps accompany those who are going.

Next morning help yourself to the self-service breakfast (included). For those interested, you can take the shuttle (included) to the airport (i.e. Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport) to catch your flight home. For those planning a longer stay in France/Europe, it could also drop you off at the train or subway station. Both are also located at CDG airport.
In all of our previous pilgrimages we have stayed very close to our detailed itineraries. However, please keep in mind that this itinerary is meant to be a guideline and is not carved in stone. Once in France, we reserve the right to make any changes that we may feel at the time would be best for the group, and we encourage people to be flexible in their approach to pilgrimage.

-Your travel hosts, guides, translators and fellow pilgrims are Chris Snidow and Catherine Henon-Snidow.

1. Catherine Henon-Snidow: Born in Valenciennes, France. A social worker in France, she met Chris at Taize, France, and later moved to the USA where they married. She became a Registered Nurse, and is currently teaching Nursing Aide students in Dallas. Speaks French, English and some German. She loves among
other things, sharing a good meal with friends, gardening, walking, bicycle rides and reading.

2. Chris Snidow: Born in W. Virginia. Played in bands in Texas, California, France and Holland. Composer-producer of several critically acclaimed CDs, including a CD and DVD based on the 2007 Sound and Light show performed in the Basilica of Saint Joan of Arc in Domremy. Author of *The Witch That Wasn’t- Joan of Arc and the God of the Bible*, which is currently available in French and English. He is a Registered Nurse. Speaks English, French and some Dutch. They currently live in Dallas, TX with their two cats, and are active members of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, TX.

From St. Thierry’s Monastery we can see for miles and miles. BTW, this is champagne country, as you can see from these vineyards right next to the monastery.

(Photos by Chris Snidow unless otherwise attributed)

Contact info for Chris and Catherine Snidow
cowrind@sbcglobal.net, Telephone: 214-327-4579
Dallas, Texas 75218 USA-www.pilgrimwitnesses.com
-Joan of Arc’s Centennial Celebration of her Canonization-
French Pilgrimage, June 19-June 28, 2020

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Price: $3,799.00

Payment, refunds and cancellation fees: A $450.00 per person deposit is required for registration. Full payment, including single room supplements if applicable, is due postmarked no later than March 15, 2020. If full payment is made later than March 15, 2020, a $200.00 Full-Payment-Late-Fee will be added on the trip price. The deposit is non-refundable, except in event of the trip's cancellation by Chris Snidow and Catherine Henon-Snidow. You can pay by check or credit card (through PayPal). Participants are responsible for all PayPal fees, bank fees, checking fees or any other fees that have been added on.

Single accommodations may be available (there are a limited amount available) for a supplemental charge of $514.00, which provides single room accommodations throughout the pilgrimage. A $100.00 per person deposit is required for single room registration. First come first served for all single accommodations.

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to inadequate registration that makes this trip economically unfeasible for us to operate, though we would inform you of this at the latest by May 17, 2020. In such a case, we would refund to you the total trip cost. However, we are not responsible for additional expenses incurred by participants preparing for the trip (e.g. clothing, equipment, medical expenses, etc.). Participants are responsible for unanticipated price increases which result from a significant devaluation of the U. S. dollar, or significant gasoline increases. No refunds can be given once the trip begins, or for any meals, lodging, activities, or any other services not used.

If you cancel:

From March 15, 2020-April 13, 2020 then you forfeit 25% of total cost of the trip price.
From April 14, 2020-May 1, 2020 then you forfeit 50% of total cost of the trip price.
From May 1, 2020-May 12, 2020 then you forfeit 75% of total cost of the trip price.
From May 22, 2020-July 7, 2020 then you forfeit 100% of total cost of the trip price.
WHAT IS INCLUDED ON THIS TRIP:

1) Transportation costs while on this trip in France, with the following exceptions:
   a) Air fare or other transportation expenses to or from Paris, France not included.
   b) Participants are completely responsible for meeting group in Paris, France, at Charles de Gaulle airport on Friday, June 19, 2020 at 10:30am, at the designated place.
2) All sleeping accommodations (double rooms) at religious communities or monasteries, hotels, gites, and chambres d'hotes.
3) Twenty-four out of twenty-nine meals are included (82%).
4) All admission fees for all Je Anne d'Arc related activities.
5) All meetings and/or conferences with various scholars, experts, and/or historians of Jeanne d'Arc and her times throughout the pilgrimage.

This tour requires a blend of adventuresome spirit, physical fitness, walking ability, mental alertness, and a capacity for accepting situations as they exist and not, as we might find them in America. We regret that we are unable to accept requests for special diets or itinerary variations. Disabled travelers requiring special attention or treatment while on tour must be reported when reservations are made. A companion who is able to provide the required assistance must accompany any person who is unable to travel independently or who needs assistance.

Due to limited vehicle storage capacity, each tour member is permitted only two pieces of luggage. The size of the "suitcase" we recommend is: 9" X 22" X 14". The size of the "carry on" bag is: 17" X 10" X 10". This is the size of our own baggage, and allows us to also take them with us on the plane. [NOTE: If you have ever had the airlines lose your luggage, as we have, you will appreciate being able to keep them with you.]

Chris Snidow and Catherine Henon-Snidow do not assume any responsibility for loss or damage to baggage or passengers' belongings.

Chris Snidow and Catherine Henon-Snidow reserve the right to refuse to accept any person as a member of the tour/pilgrimage for any reason. They also reserve the right to require any participant to withdraw from the trip at any time who presents a significant risk to the health or safety of themselves or others, which cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level by Mr. Snidow and Ms. Henon-Snidow's reasonable accommodations.

We reserve the right to make any schedule or itinerary (and price) changes due to unanticipated circumstances.
CONTRACT AGREEMENT
Joan of Arc, ‘A Great Light’
French Pilgrimage of June 19-June 28, 2020

I fully understand all the terms and conditions of this agreement, and I agree and hereby enter into this contract with Chris Snidow and Catherine Henon-Snidow.

Name as stated on passport (print please): ____________________________

Mailing address: ______________________City____________State_____
Zip Code_______

Passport # :__________________Expiration Date:_________________

Country of Issue: __________Date of Birth:________________________

Telephone: (Home)__________ (Work)__________ (Cell)___________

E-mail address: ____________________________________________

Accommodations desired:

Double: Yes_______ No_______

Sharing a room with (if you know):______________________________

When available, single room: Yes_______ No_______

In the event of emergency, please contact:

Name:____________________Relationship:_______________________
Address:____________________City:________________State:_____

Day time phone #____________ Night time phone#________________

Cell Phone #_____________ Email address:______________________

NOTICE: We accept no responsibility for any loss or injuries of any nature, regardless of their cause.
To sign up, and pay by check:

1) Fill out, date and sign contract.
2) Sign and date the following forms.
3) Send contract and all forms with your check for deposit to:

Chris Snidow
9320 Biscayne Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75218 USA

Or, you may pay by credit card. To pay by credit card you must go through PayPal. PayPal charges a variable fee (usually around 3%) for their services, if the transaction is completed in the United States. If outside of the United States, the additional fee is slightly higher. Initially they take their fee out of the money we receive, but then we will add that fee back to you. Long story short, paying by check will save you the additional approximately 3% PayPal fee (or more outside of the USA).

However, some people do prefer to pay by Credit Card. If that is you, then:

1) Fill out, date and sign contract
2) Sign and date the following forms
3) Send contract and all forms to address above.
4) Then log in to your PayPal account. Click on Goods or Services, put in our email address, put in the amount to pay, plus PayPal’s fee (2.9% or 3.9%, depending on where the transaction is completed). Use our email address (i.e. cowrind@sbcglobal.net) for the payee. Please call us for any questions: 214 327 4579
AGREEMENT TO ASSUME ALL RISKS OF TOUR TRAVEL (a/k/a PILGRIMAGE OR RETREAT) STAYING IN FRANCE & TRANSPORTATION, AND TO RELEASE CHRISTIAN C. SNIDOW AND CATHERINE M. HENON FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY RELATED THERETO.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I, __________________, fully understand that participation in a tour group (also known as a PILGRIMAGE or RETREAT) that will be traveling and staying in France for up to 11 days exposes me to certain INHERENT RISKS, including, but not limited to, transportation accidents (such as an accident in a vehicle). I fully understand that these risks include but are not limited to loss or damage to personal property, injury or fatality due to collision with a vehicle, equipment failure, whether or not caused by the negligence of a tour leader, or illness. Nevertheless, I wish to engage in this tour travel in France (a/k/a PILGRIMAGE or RETREAT), and I AM WILLING TO TAKE COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY OWN HEALTH AND SAFETY AND TO ASSUME ALL RISKS OF INJURY, ILLNESS OR DEATH, whether foreseen or unforeseen, that may befall me as a result of my participation in these activities, specifically the Joan of Arc, ‘A Great Light’ French Pilgrimage of June 19-June 28, 2020. This agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the law of the State of Texas, and is permanently binding.

Signature: ______________________

Today's Date: ____________________
RELEASE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE

Therefore, as consideration for being permitted to participate in this travel tour in France, I hereby agree that I, my assignees, heirs, and legal representatives RELEASE CHRISTIAN C. SNIDOW AND/OR CATHERINE M. HENON, their agents, employees and representatives from any and all liability arising from any and all actions, claims or demands that I, my assignees, heirs or my legal representatives, may hereafter have and that I, my assignees, heirs, and legal representatives will not make a claim or demand against CHRISTIAN C. SNIDOW AND/OR CATHERINE M. HENON, their agents, employees and representatives for PROPERTY DAMAGE, ILLNESS, PERSONAL INJURY, OR DEATH arising from my participation in any tour and/or travel activities, and any activity related thereto, including transportation of any kind while in France, regardless of whether such property damage, illness, personal injury, or death results from THE NEGLIGENCE OF CHRISTIAN C. SNIDOW AND/OR CATHERINE M. HENON-SNIDOW (but not their reckless, willful, or fraudulent conduct), and/or from ANY DEFECT IN EQUIPMENT AND/OR VEHICLES USED DURING THIS TOUR. This agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the law of the State of Texas, and is permanently binding.

Signature: ______________________________

Date: ______________________________
HOLD HARMLESS

I agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD CHRISTIAN C SNIDOW AND CATHERINE M. HENON HARMLESS with respect to any claim made against them by any other person or any third party that relates to my participation in travel in France and/or any tour related activities that would be covered by the Release and Covenant Not to Sue if made directly by me.

This agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the law of the State of Texas, and is permanently binding.

I have carefully read this agreement and I fully understand this contents. I understand that this is a release of liability and a legal contract between me, Christian C. Snidow and Catherine M. Henon, and that it affects my legal rights. I am signing this document of my own free will.

Date: _________________

Printed Name: ___________________________

Signature: ______________________________

Address: _____________________________________

City: _________________________ State: _________

Postal Code: ________ Country: __________________
Travel Insurance

You will be glad to know that up to this point, we have never had a car accident while on pilgrimage. Nor has anyone on pilgrimage with us ever had an injury necessitating a visit to the Emergency Room, or even seeing a doctor. With one exception: myself. I was once clawed by a feral cat, and had to see a doctor to get some antibiotics.

We have indeed been blessed. And we take this safety record very seriously. We are committed to doing all we can to ensure that this record continues. Having said that, we remain aware of the possibility of something happening that would require the services of a doctor or hospital care for one of our participants. We’ve heard stories of people that while traveling internationally, thought they had adequate health insurance coverage with their credit cards or US Health insurance, only to find out otherwise once overseas. Consequently, travel medical insurance covering “overseas medical treatment/evacuation/repatriation services and accidental death and dismemberment” is mandatory for all participants.

In reality, we are now copying what most Travel agencies and guided tour organizations do automatically. We are calling this plan our ‘Better Safe than Sorry’ plan. This would mean, among other things, that you would be at least partially covered medically if something did happen while on pilgrimage with us. This kind of insurance is inexpensive for short limited travel such as this. With our insurance company, for the state of Texas, the price for $50,000 coverage in 2015 was $28.49 for primary, and $46.75 for a couple. For $100,000 coverage it was $38.17 for primary, and $54.89 for a couple. And so forth, up to $1,000,000 coverage.

You may contact our insurance agent if you like. She works through all insurance companies, and can run quotes for you no matter where you live, and also enroll you as your agent, if you so desire. You may contact her directly long distance at: 1-800-880-0414. Her name is Eloise Chapman, of The Chapman Group (www.chapmangroup.com). She has been a great help to us, but whatever works best for you is fine with us.

We will need to have verification from you in writing by April 15, 2020. Please send us a copy of your insurance wallet I.D. card either by postal mail or email. We are not mandating that you get Travel Insurance for trip cancellation, etc. Although you may want to consider this as well, we are only mandating the above health care coverage. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Please sign below that you have read, understood and will comply with this policy.

Signature: __________________________________ Date: ___________