

2019 Joan of Arc Pilgrimage

'A Great Light'



Stay in Monasteries

June 21 - July 1, 2019

DESTINATIONS:

**Bermont, la Chapelle de Beauregard, Domrémy-la-Pucelle,
Fort des Tourelles site, Jargeau, Maxey-sur-Meuse, Orléans,
Reims, Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire monastery, Saint Thierry
monastery, Troyes, Vaucouleurs, Vouthon-Bas**

Bonjour y'all. God willing, in June 2019 we will again lead a pilgrimage/retreat to France, with the spirituality and footsteps of Joan of Arc foremost in our plans. This will be our twelfth opportunity for taking a group on this fascinating journey. 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 ...

(Previous page: This cute little girl is a native of *Domrémy-la-Pucelle*, Joan of Arc's hometown. During their official Joan of Arc festival, celebrated the 2nd week of May, all the young girls of the village are dressed in this traditional medieval garb as a reminder of how Joan would dress for Sundays and the liturgical holidays during the summertime. Today these little girls are appropriately referred to as "*Jeannettes*", after Joan of Arc. Here in the states however, we would know them as Brownies. Photo by Bob Perler.)



“When I was thirteen, I had a voice from God ... the first time, I was very fearful. And came this voice, about the hour of noon, in the summer-time, in my father’s garden ... I heard the voice on the right-hand side towards the church; and rarely do I hear it without a great light...He told me that I, Jeanne, should come into France... And when I have made my prayer to God, I hear a voice that says to me: ‘Daughter of God, go, go, go! I shall be with you to help you. Go!’ and when I hear that voice I feel a great joy. Indeed, I would that I might ever be in that state.”

Joan of Arc, Trial of Condemnation

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 France's Patron saint and her legacy to both France and the rest of 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 simple: God. 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.

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 21-24, 2019, ‘Base Orléans’: We will all meet at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris on Friday, June 21, 2019, at 10:30am, at the Starbucks located in Aerogare 2D (i.e. Terminal 2D). This has worked very well for past pilgrimages. This way, 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-Benoit-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.



The ancient Benedictine Monastery of *St-Benoit-sur-Loire*
(i.e *St. Benedict on the Loire River*)

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 or the 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).



Benedictine monks singing Psalms during a short service at St-Benoit-sur-Loire

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 couple of 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 waitress, (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 we both speak French and English fluently).

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Day-trip destinations while in Orleans include:

-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. It's not difficult to imagine what once was from this viewpoint. This is another interesting and appreciative site we've recently added to the pilgrimage.

-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 is the priest's chief assistant here, and the heart and soul of the *Cathedrale*. She has 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; from the cathedral roofs to its very foundations. We'll attend Sunday Mass here, and then have lunch with Dominique and perhaps others. We never know who might join us.



*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.

-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.



From our picnic area at Sully-sur-Loire

-*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'Alençon, 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.*" (Trial of the Rehabilitation 1456) The English suffered heavy losses.



*Jargeau statue of Joan of Arc, holding her head after being struck by a rock during the battle.*

D'Alencon 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

Leaving the Loire, our next stop will be the lovely medieval town of Troyes:



www.alamy.com - EJ5YN8

**T**royes 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.

She came here with Charles VII while on their way to Rheims for his anointing and coronation. 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, St. Martins Giffith, Paris, 1999, p.63.



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*.



One of the views from *Monastere Notre-Dame de la Sainte-Esperance* outside of Troyes.

While in Troyes, we'll be staying in the Benedictine monastery, *Monastere Notre-Dame de la Sainte-Esperance*, located out in the countryside. They still have a remarkable library there of some 50,000 books.



One of the monks of *Monastere Notre-Dame de la Sainte-Esperance*.

**June 25-28, 2019, '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 located in a rural and beautiful part of France. This area, which we refer to as Joan of Arc country, is 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.

From the small village of *Domrémy*:  
in the distance is the Basilica dedicated to Joan.





Overlooking the Meuse Valley and River. From here, we're just a couple of kilometers to Joan's home town, *Domrémy-la-Pucelle*.

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" was and is. It was here that she often heard her "voices", according to her trial testimony. A small fountain still flows there to this day, and the site remains very calming and pastoral.



At the *Fountain of the Fevers* and the *Fairy Tree* location.

Just up the hill from the Fairy Tree now stands the Basilica dedicated to Joan. It tells her story in eloquent and powerful fashion thorough paintings, mosaics, stained glass windows and statues. This time, the creation is worthy of its subject.



St Michael, standing in front of the Basilica outside *Domrémy*

Joan had no military training, but she did have a brilliant guide for her battle strategies: Archangel Michael. 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 in mind for her. 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."

There are no monasteries or hotels in *Domrémy*. But no problem. We have rented three *gites* (i.e. fully furnished houses) there. Actually, they are the only *gites* there, and are located on the grounds of a large two-story house that was built by *Napoléon III* for his mistress in 1860. They are small but nice, with lovely large gardens in the back yard. They have fully furnished kitchens, microwaves, TVs, DVD players, washing machines...it will be a place where you can relax and feel at home. In general, *gites* provide a marked improvement over a hotel. And best of all, it is only a two-minute walk from here to Joan's house.

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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 déjeuner* (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 *traiteur* comes in. When there are interesting activities coming up, and time is of the essence, then we will take advantage of a *traiteur* (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.



Basilica seen from Domremy

Domrémy is the center of what we call ‘Joan of Arc country’. It is an exceptionally beautiful part of France. 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.



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.



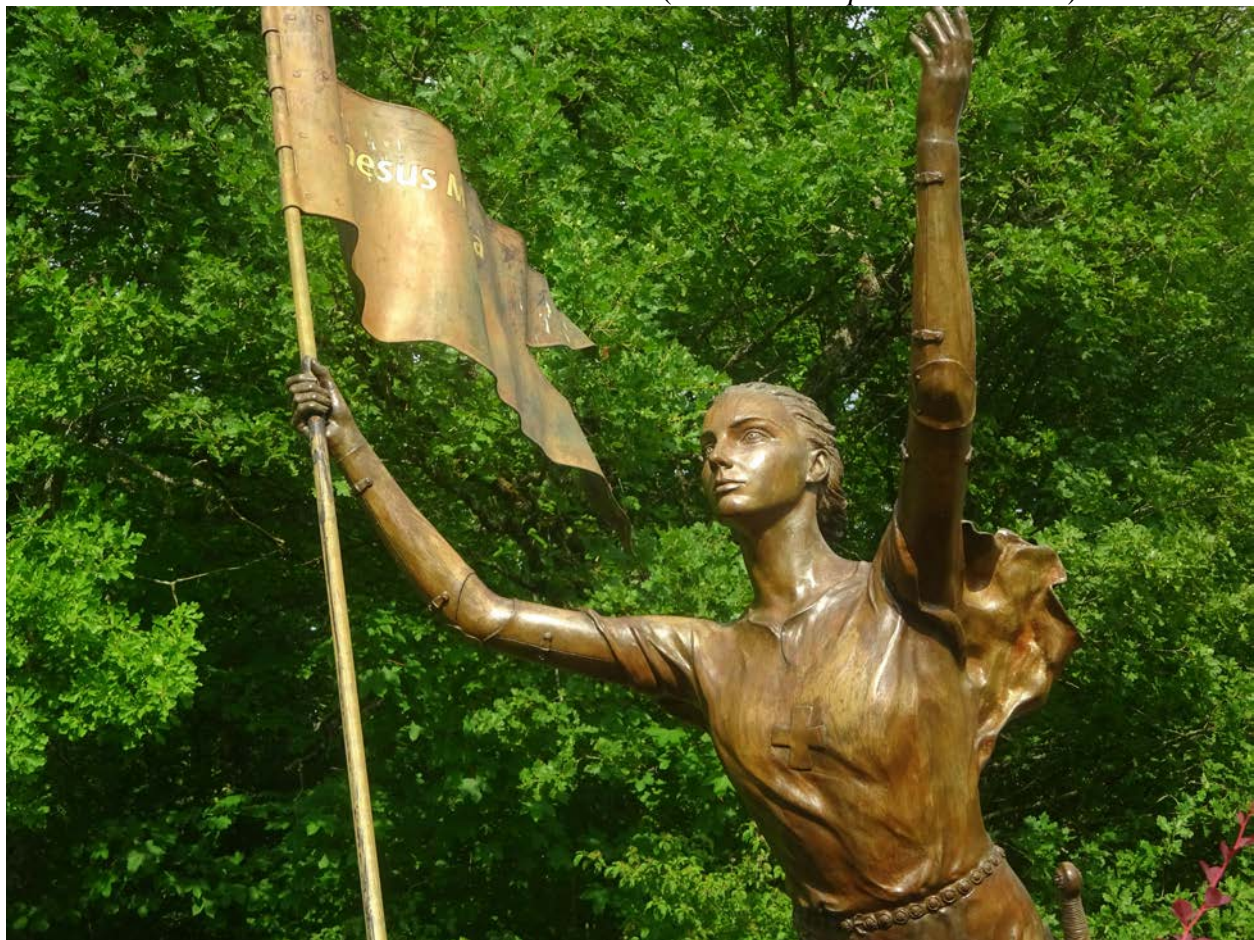
An obscure, small medieval church in 'Joan of Arc country'.

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 drawings of Joan of Arc made by those who knew her at that time: the monks 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.

There is a new statue located at the *Chapelle de Bermont* (see bottom, page 26). The face for this statue was actually taken from some 15th century images found accidentally underneath several old layers of plaster/paint. These images are thought to have been painted by the monks who lived there then and actually knew Joan. These were then computer-generated to create the face.



Above: *La Chapelle de Bermont*. Below: A new statue of Jeanne outside the Chapel
Is this what Joan of Arc looked like? (From the *Chapelle de Bermont*)





Le pays de Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc country)



More Joan of Arc country



Overlooking Vaucouleurs

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 (1248-1254A.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. Perhaps so. It would make sense. These stories have been passed down from generation to generation, and we know that Joan frequently went to churches and other small chapels in the area. And *Beauregard* is easily within walking distance from both *Domrémy* and *Bermont*.



The *Chapelle de Beauregard* provides a wonderful view of part of ‘Joan of Arc country’: the Meuse Valley. You can see Domremy’s Basilica, sitting on the other side of the valley? the other side of the valley (just a little right of dead center).

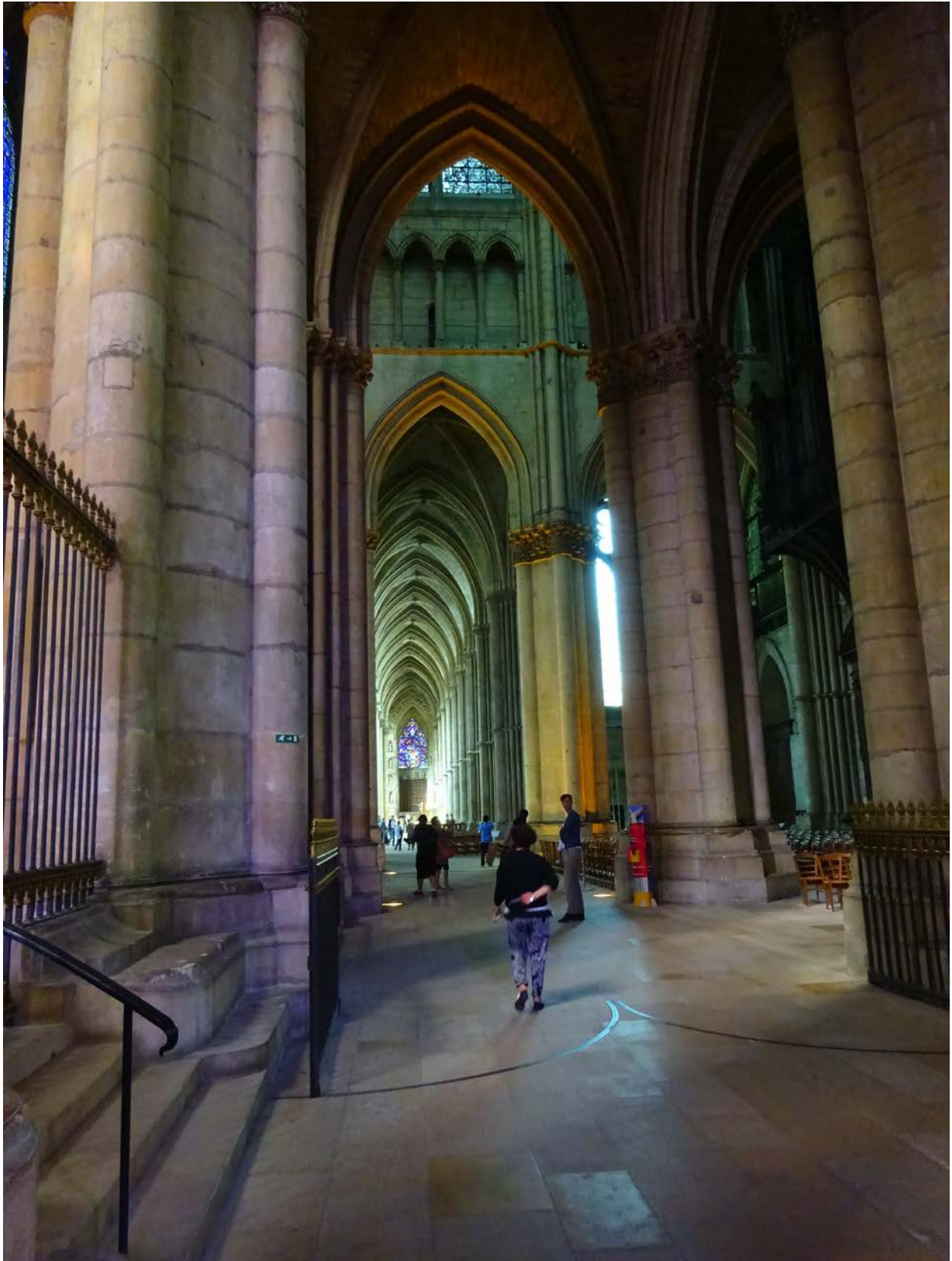
June 28-June 30, 2019-‘Base’ St Thierry-Reims-For our last Joan of Arc stop, we head to Reims, the highpoint of Joan’s brief career: the anointing and crowning of Charles VII in the *Cathedrale Notre Dame de Reims*.

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 to have lunch on your own, visit the cathedral at your leisure and/or do whatever strikes your fancy while in *Reims*.



Inside the *Cathedrale Notre Dame de Reims*



Fit for a King! With a photo it's impossible to capture the immensity of *la Cathédrale de Reims*.



Jeanne d'Arc inside la Cathedrale de Reims.

France's relationship with God was unique among the nations. Established in the 2nd century, France still remains in unbroken communion with the bishop of Rome. In spite of its current leftist/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 *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.



Sainte Jeanne, still riding today in front of the 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, 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 of Arc 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."*



July 17, 1429-Anointing and crowning of Charles VII with Joan in attendance with her banner.

This year we have 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 think we have found one of the very best. We are especially thankful that Dr. Patrick Demouy has come on board to share his expertise with us on such an interesting and ‘relevant-to-Joan’s-story’ subject as this.

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).

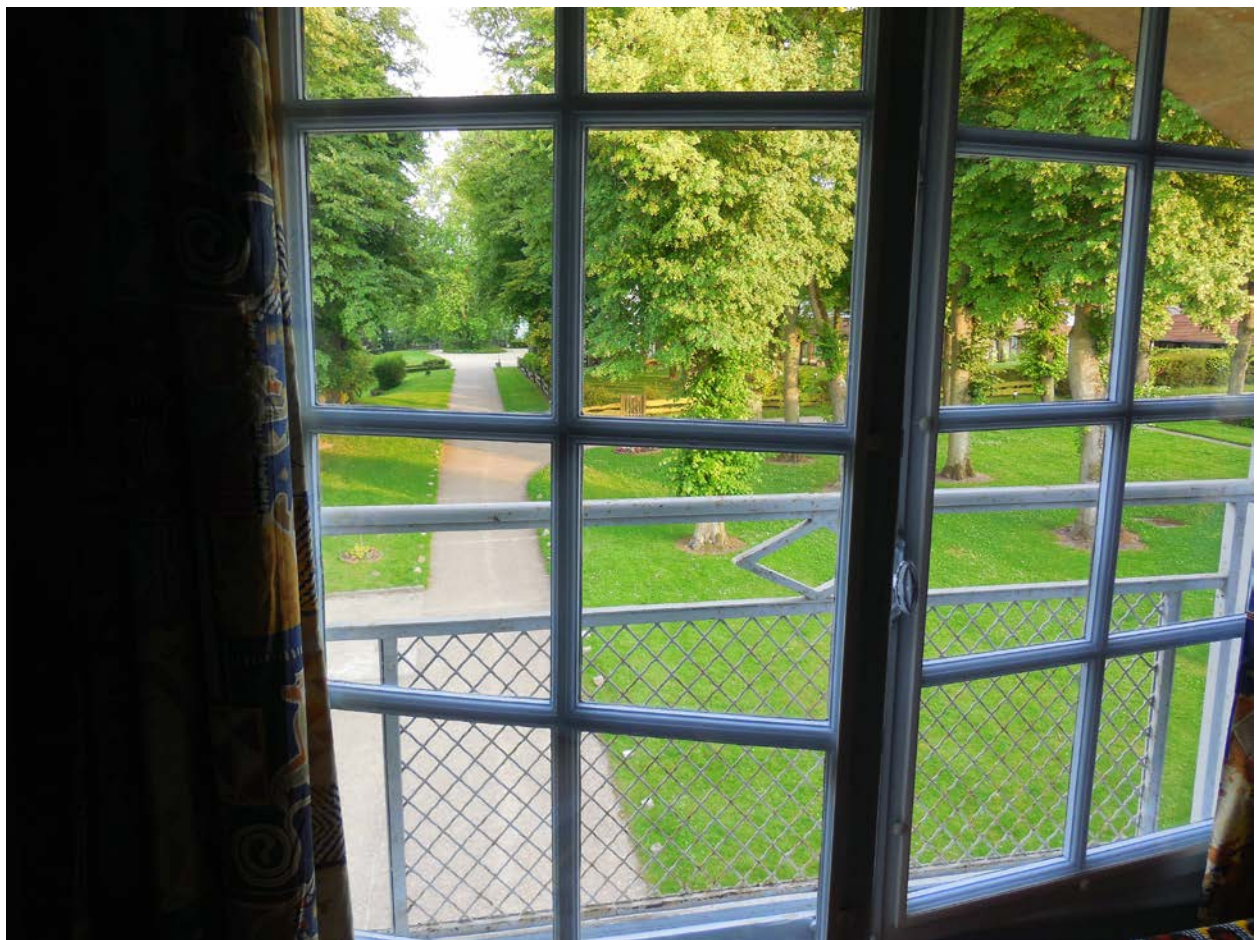


Dr. Patrick Demouy during a French television show, sharing his knowledge on his favorite subject

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 a little about their community life of prayer, hospitality and work and answer any questions you may have.



From our rooms, overlooking a small part of the
St. Thierry monastery grounds.



Part of the monastery...



We're in champagne country now. From St. Thierry's Monastery we can see vineyards for miles and miles ...



Overlooking some of the sister's gardens ...



One of the sisters speaks to us about their monastic life at St Thierry.

July 1, 2019, Paris-CDG airport: We'll spend our last night near Paris, in a hotel next to Charles de Gaulle airport. Here we'll have our farewell dinner, after which the pilgrimage draws officially to a close.

Next morning however, 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.

FYI, on 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.

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9320 Biscayne Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75218
USA

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## **-Joan of Arc, 'A Great Light'- French Pilgrimage, June 21-July 1, 2019**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Price: \$3,799.00

Payment, refunds and cancellation fees: A \$350.00 per person deposit is required for registration. Full payment, including single room supplements if applicable, is due postmarked no later than March 15, 2019. If full payment is made later than March 15, 2019, 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. 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 \$50.00 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, 2019. 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, 2019-April 13, 2019 then you forfeit 25% of total cost of the trip price.

From April 14, 2019-May 1, 2019 then you forfeit 50% of total cost of the trip price.

From May 1, 2019-May 12, 2019 then you forfeit 75% of total cost of the trip price.

From May 22, 2019-July 7, 2019 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 21, 2019, at 10:30am, at the designated place.
- 2) All sleeping accommodations (double rooms) at religious communities or monasteries, hotels, *gites*, and *chambres d'hotels*.
- 3) Twenty-four out of twenty-nine meals are included (82%).
- 4) All admission fees for all Jeanne 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 21-July 1, 2019**

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.

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.**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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](mailto: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  
THERE TO.**

**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 21-July 1, 2019. This agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the law of the State of Texas, and is permanently binding.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **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** (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: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Guest Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Guest 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](http://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 some kind of verification from you in writing once you have purchased your insurance. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

