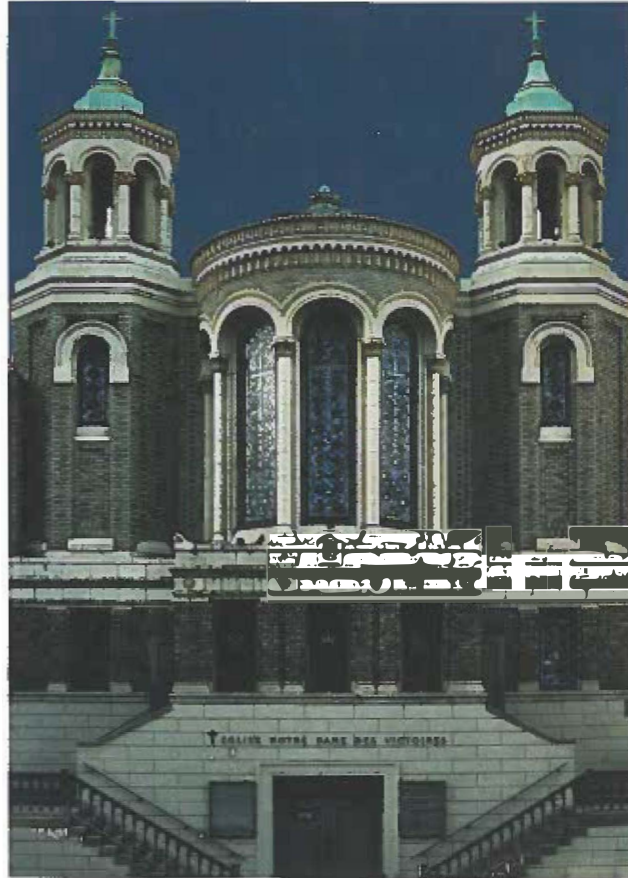


The French National Church of San Francisco



Eglise Notre Dame des Victoires
Stained Glass Window & Tapestry Book

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Stained Glass Window & Tapestry Book

In Celebration of the 150th Anniversary

May 2006

**Eglise Notre Dame des Victoires Stained Glass Window & Tapestry Book ©2006 Eglise Notre
Dame des Victoires**

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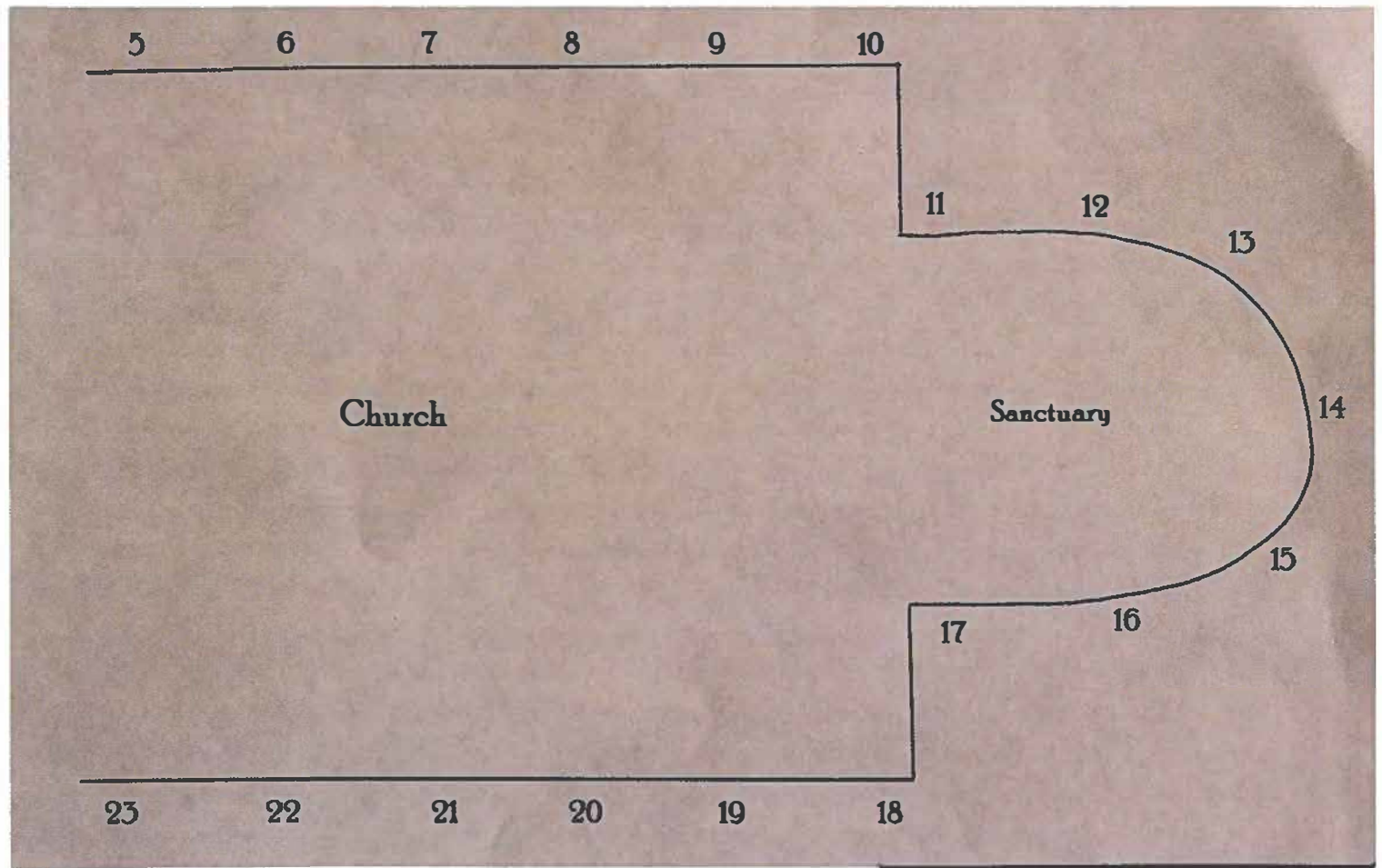
Graphic Design by Zabrina Tipton

Printed in the U.S.A.

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Introduction by Reverend Etienne Siffert, S.M.

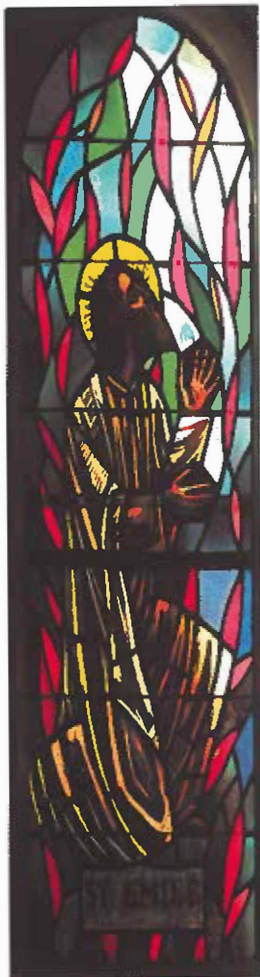
There are 63 stained glass windows in Notre Dame des Victoires Church. When the new Church was inaugurated on September 12, 1915, they were made of white and yellow little squares. Father Thiéry, pastor at that time, was able to pay the cost of \$110,000 in one year, but he also spent \$40,000 to acquire three lots of land on Pine Street to build the school. It took decades to pay the \$340,000 for the school because of the depression. It was not until 1935 when Father Le Bihan decided to install real stained glass windows by asking the parishioners to make donations in memory of loved ones. The first stained glass windows were installed on both sides of the lower level between 1935 and 1946, which are St. Joseph on the right side and St. Roch on the left side. They were manufactured by Edward Lapotka. His shop, Church Glass Studio, was located on Kearny Street. He made the Last Supper and Jesus with Martha and Mary on the upper level. In the sanctuary, above the main altar, Jesus and Mary were installed around 1947, after Victor Reiter passed away in 1944 and Jules Pagès in 1946. But we do not know who made them, and this is the same for Joan of Arc and St. Michel. In 1950 Father Le Bihan wanted to have more windows installed before the centennial of Notre Dame des Victoires in 1956. He contacted John Lukas (whom replaced Mr. Lapotka after his death in 1946) who had a shop at Fillmore and Webster. Mr Lukas made 10 windows in the sanctuary and 12 in the upper level. After 1956, more windows were added in the upper level: 10 were made in Belgium and 11 by different unknown manufacturers. The last windows, close to the choir loft, were installed in 1970. In 1994, Mr. Lukas passed away and his son, Nick, continued the business. In 1997, Nick repaired windows that were broken during the night by vandals. Windows were also damaged that same night at Old St. Mary's, Sts. Peter and Paul, and The Cathedral.



Upper Level Stained Glass Window Map

Map Key

Numbers on Map = Page Numbers



St. Emile, Martyr

Born in Carthage, a town in North Africa, a Roman colony (which is now Tunisia) Emile was baptized, but refused to apostatize to worship Decius, the Emperor, as a god. He was burned, with other Christians in 251. That is why he is presented in the middle of flames. This window was installed in 1972 by Father Emile Neyron in honor of his Patron Saint. Father Emile Neyron died in 1992.



St. Therese, the Little Flower

This young Carmelite holds a cross in her hands because she suffered a lot. The flowers symbolize what she said: "After I die, I will shower roses upon people". We have a special shrine that was dedicated to St. Therese of Lisieux in 1930.



St. Peter Julian Eymard

This window is dedicated to the founder of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament. St. Peter Julian Eymard holds a ciborium which contains the Holy Eucharist in the tabernacle. Father Marquis, pastor of Notre Dame des Victoires, died in 1964. This window is dedicated to him and was installed in 1966.



St. Rose
Philippine
Duchesne

Born in France in 1769, she entered the new congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and came to the U.S.A. in 1818. She founded the first American House of these sisters in Sugar Creek, MO. She served the Native Americans and they called her, "The woman who always prays". She died in 1852 and was canonized in 1988.



The Sacred Heart
of Jesus

Before the French Revolution, there were schools in France only for boys. In 1800 Father Varin started a Congregation of women for girls, with Madeleine Sophie Barat. There are those currently staffing the schools of the Sacred Heart for girls and Stuart Hall for boys on Broadway Street in San Francisco.



St. Madeleine
Sophie Barat

Born in France in 1779 her brother, who was a priest, introduced her to Father Varin, who decided she start a Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1800. She sent Mother Duchesne to the U.S.A. She died in 1864 and was canonized in 1925.



St. Christopher
carrying
Baby Jesus

There are many legends concerning this saint. One of them holds that he was a giant who helped people across a raging river. One day Christopher (meaning Christ-bearer in Greek) carried Baby Jesus across a river. He died around 250 and is Patron Saint of motorists.



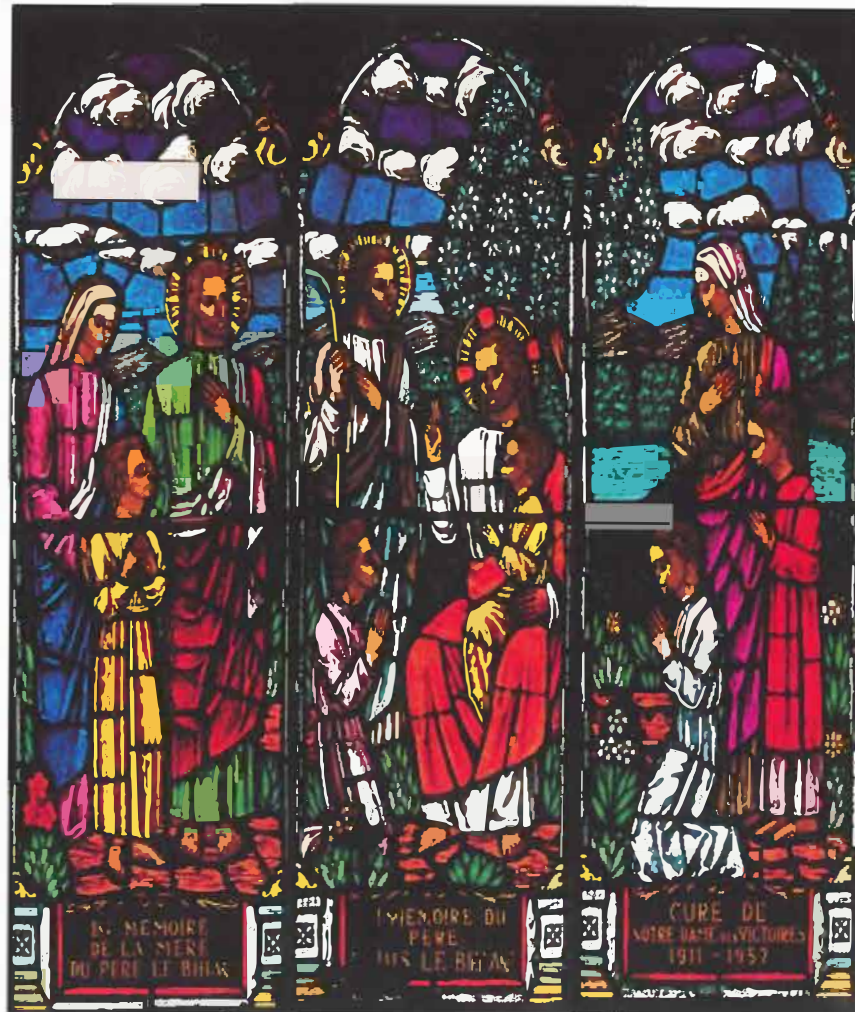
St. Therese of
the Child Jesus

One of the four stained glass windows dedicated to St. Therese of Lisieux in this Church. In the past, on her feast (October 2) there was a novena with hundreds of people coming from all over San Francisco and the Bay Area to pray.



St. Anthony holding
Baby Jesus

A Franciscan priest born in Portugal, Anthony was preparing for a sermon when somebody saw him listening to Baby Jesus in his arms. He died in 1231 in Padua and is Patron Saint of lost objects (keys, wallet, watch, etc.).



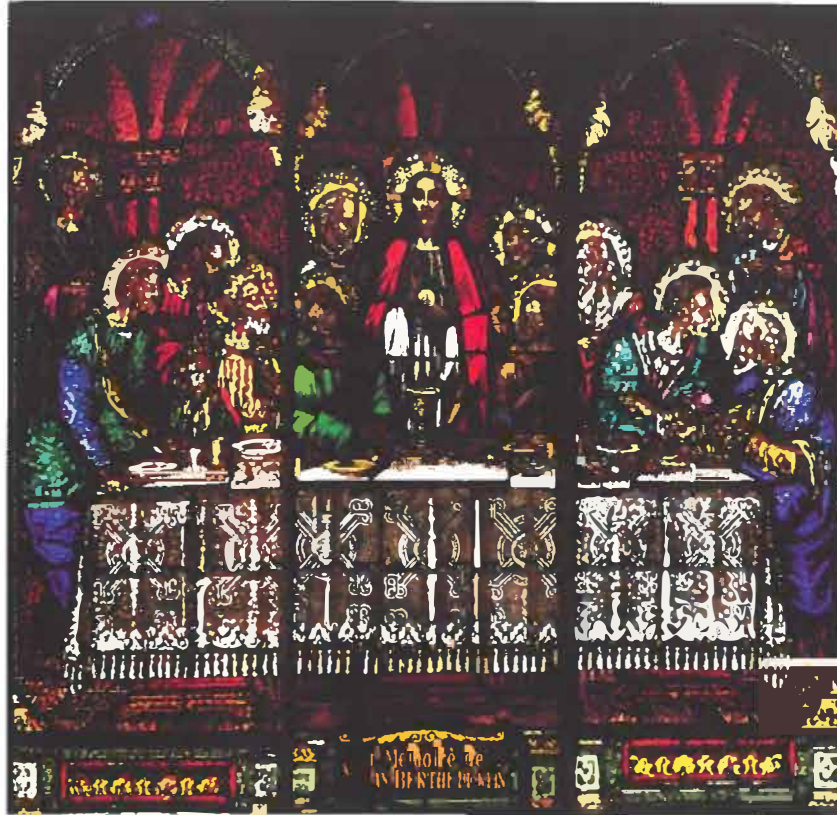
Jesus Welcoming the Little Children

In the Gospel we read that People were bringing their little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples were scolding the parents for this. Jesus became indignant when he noticed it and said to his disciples: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them. It is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs".

Father Louis Le Bihan, born in Paris in 1884, came to the U.S.A. in 1903 to study in the Marist Seminary in Washington, D.C. He was ordained in 1908, came to Notre Dame des Victoires in 1911 as vicar and then later became pastor. He died in 1957 after serving 46 years in this Parish.

Father Julian Marquis became pastor and had these three stained glass windows installed in 1959, because Father Le Bihan loved the children so much. They were offered by the Blessed Sacrament Society and the Archconfraternity of Notre Dame des Victoires.

The Last Supper



On Holy Thursday, Jesus celebrated the Passover supper with his disciples. When they were eating, he took some bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples and said: "Take it and eat it, this is my Body". Then he took the cup, again gave thanks and praise, and said: "Take this, all of you and drink from it. This is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and ever lasting Covenant. Do this in memory of me".

Many artist have painted the Last Supper and this one seems to be a composition after Leonardo da Vinci. From left to right in each stained glass window the 12 disciples are listed with Jesus: The Left Window: Judas standing, then Bartholomew, James the Less and Andrew, The Center Window: Peter standing, John sitting, then Thomas standing and James the Greater sitting, The Right Window: Philip, Matthew facing Simon the Zealot who listens to him and Thaddaeus (Jude). Note: Thomas shows his finger because after the Resurrection he wanted to put his finger in Jesus' wounds.



St. Peter Julian Eymard

Born in France in 1811, he was ordained a priest in the diocese of Grenoble. Later he joined the Marists founded by Father Jean-Claude Colin and in 1856 founded the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament who spreads the love of our Lord in the Eucharist. He died in 1868 and was canonized in 1962.



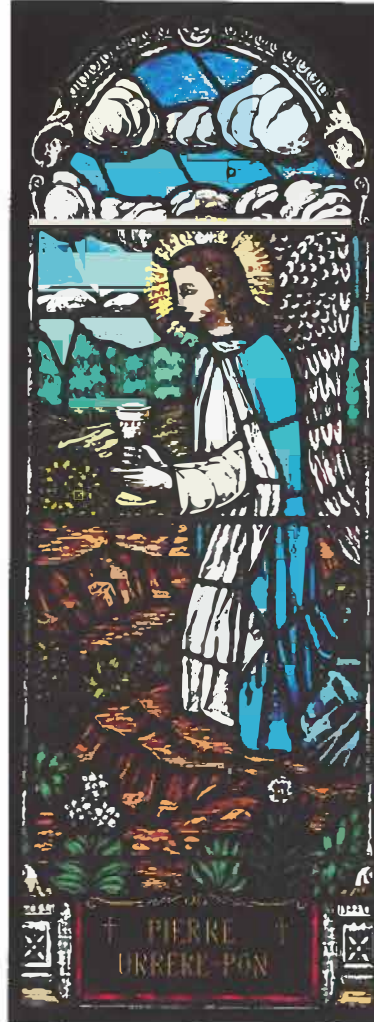
The Sacred Heart of Mary

The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Mary stems from the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which began in France in 1673 with St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. After the French Revolution several Congregations were founded under the name of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, like the Picpus Fathers.



St. Therese of Lisieux

She holds a book with illustrations: the Child Jesus on the left, the veil of Veronica on the right (on which Jesus left the imprint of his face). When Therese became a Carmelite, she received the name of "Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face". Jesus and Veronica met on the 6th Station of the Cross.



Jesus Praying in the Garden of Olives

At midnight, on Holy Thursday, after Jesus had eaten the Last Supper with his disciples, he went to the Garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives. He threw himself down on the ground and prayed: "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet let it happen not as I want, but as you do".

Then an angel appeared to him, coming from heaven to give him strength. As he prayed, his agony was so great that the sweat fell from him like great drops of blood.

Finally, he went back to his disciples and said: "The time has come, let us be going, the one who is to betray me is nearby".



On his way to Calvary, Jesus meets his Mother

After Jesus was condemned to death, the soldiers led him through the streets of Jerusalem. They planned to crucify him on the hill named Calvary or Golgotha. Jesus had to carry his own cross. When the weight of it became too much for him, he fell three times to the ground. He met his afflicted mother who remembered that Simeon had foretold: "A sword of sorrow will pierce your heart". This is the 4th Station of the Cross.



Jesus Crucified

There was a little group at the foot of the cross. Jesus' mother was among them and John the disciple he loved. Jesus said to his mother: "Woman, this is your son", and to John he said: "This is your mother". And then Jesus died.



Mary and Mary Magdalene outside the Tomb

Joseph of Arimathea, who was also a disciple of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate ordered it be given to Joseph. Joseph then wrapped the body in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out of rock, with a great stone to close it.

Mary and Mary Magdalene are weeping.



An Angel is guarding the Tomb

The chief priests worried that the disciples of Jesus would come and steal away the body, so they put some soldiers to keep watch. The angel may be St. Michael, but he is not mentioned in the Scriptures when Jesus was laid in the tomb.



These two stained glass windows were installed in the the Church around 1947.

They represent Jesus after his resurrection (see the wound on his hand) and Mary with the Child Jesus standing on the globe (copy of Notre Dame des Victoires in Paris dedicated in 1638).



St. Joan of Arc
Patroness of France

Joan of Arc was born in 1412 in Domrémy, a little village of Champagne. When the king of England, Henry V, invaded France she heard voices of St. Michael, St. Catherine and St. Margaret telling her to go to the king of France and help him reconquer his kingdom. She was only 14 years old. After overcoming opposition from churchmen and courtiers, she was given a small army with which she raised siege of Orleans. While defending Compiègne, she was taken prisoner and sold to the English. She was judged at Rouen by a tribunal presided over by the infamous Cauchon, Bishop of Beauvais, condemned to death as a heretic and burned at the stake in 1431. She was just 20 years old.



St. Sebastian
Patron of Athletes

Sebastian was born at Narbonne in Gaul, which is now France, around 250. He entered the army, concealing his religion and went to Rome where he helped many Christians who were persecuted and condemned to death. He was at last detected and accused before the Emperor Diocletian, who condemned him to be shot to death with arrows. But he survived and was restored to health by the care of a pious widow. He boldly rebuked the Emperor for his injustice against the Christians, but was beaten to death with clubs. His body was buried in the catacombs of Rome in 288.



The First Communion

A priest is giving the Eucharist for the first time to a boy and a girl. Before Vatican II, boys used to wear a nice suit with an armband and girls a fine dress and veil. Sometimes families spent too much money for these dresses, girls made comparisons, and some felt bad because their dress was cheaper. So, it was decided that for First Communion, all boys and girls would wear the same tunic. This continues today, after more than 30 years.



St. Louis, King of France

On this window, Louis IX, who was canonized in 1297 and became St. Louis, is holding the Crown of Thorns. This relic was in Constantinople but Baldwin II, the Latin Emperor, had many debts and offered it to Louis if he paid his debts. The king accepted and built the Sainte Chapelle in Paris to put this relic. He spent more money to buy the relic than to build the Chapelle, a marvel of gothic art with splendid stained glass windows.



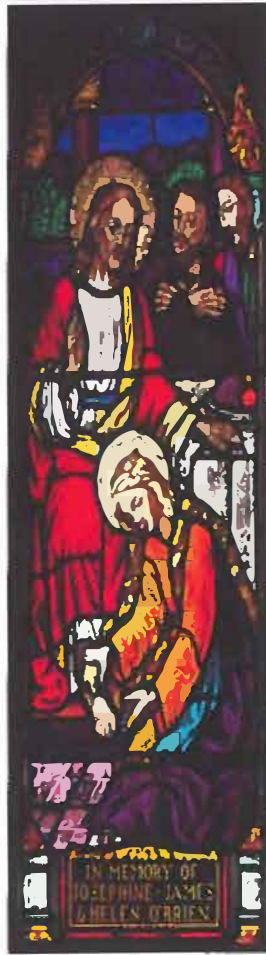
St. Anne teaching Mary how to read

Even if the Gospels never mention the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Anne and St. Joachim are venerated by the Church from early Christian times to be her parents. Churches are dedicated to St. Anne who is often represented as teaching her little daughter how to read the Scriptures.



St. Clare of Assisi

Born in 1193, in the birthplace of St. Francis, at a very young age Clare wanted to be a nun and entered a Benedictine convent. Later she founded the Poor Clares, second order of St. Francis. As the Saracens were attacking Assisi, some of them placed a ladder against the convent wall. Clare held a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament from a window and the enemy fled, struck with a sudden panic.



A Woman washes Jesus' feet

Jesus was eating with a Pharisee when a woman with a bad reputation came in, washed his feet, wept and wiped them with her hair. The Pharisee was shocked, but Jesus told him the parable of the creditor who pardoned his debtors: "The more you are pardoned, the more you love the one who pardons you" and said to the woman: "Your faith has saved you, go in peace".



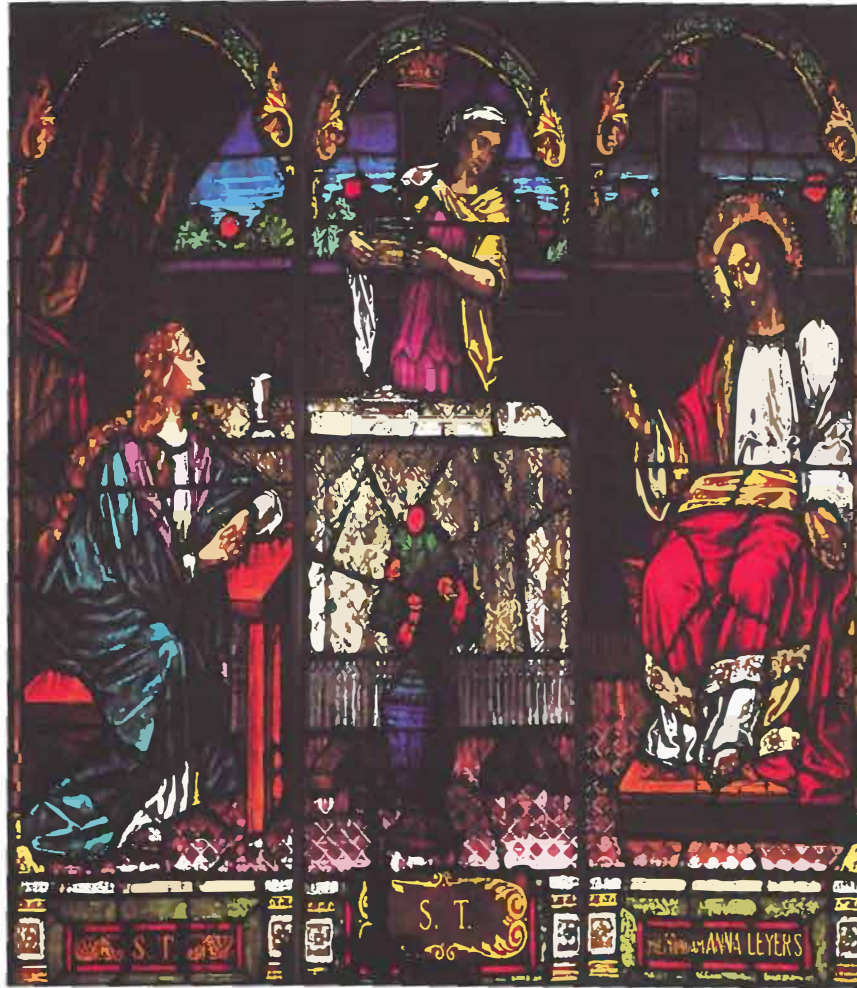
St. Louise de Marillac

Born in 1591 in France, she became a widow and decided to take care of the poor and the orphans with the help of St. Vincent de Paul. She founded the Daughters of Charity who visit the poor, staff hospitals and schools for poor children. In 2001 the Missionaries of Charity gave her name to the school they founded nearby St. Boniface Church in San Francisco.



St. Stephen, First Martyr

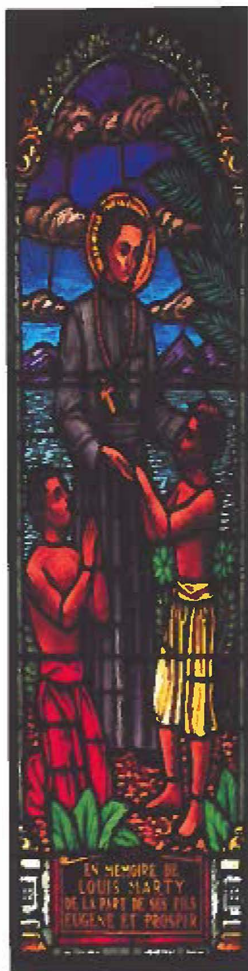
He was one of the seven deacons chosen by the Apostles after Pentecost to take care of the poor, the sick and the widows. One day he was arrested, because he spoke of Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God, dragged out of Jerusalem and stoned. But like Jesus he pardoned his murderers.



Mary, Martha and Jesus

The two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus lived in Bethany, a village close to Jerusalem. This family was of some importance in the country and devoted to Jesus, whom was frequently their guest. One day, Jesus was talking and, as you can see in the left window, Mary was listening to him. But Martha, in the middle window, was busy preparing the meal and said to Jesus: "Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me." But the Lord answered: "Martha, Martha, you worry about many things and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part and it is not to be taken from her". (Luck 11/38-42).

Later, when Lazarus died, it is Martha who said to Jesus: "I do believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God", and Lazarus came out of the tomb alive. (John 11/1-44).



St. Peter Chanel

First martyr of Oceania. Born in 1803 in the small village of Cuet, he became a priest and joined the Society of Mary in 1836. He was sent as a missionary to the South Pacific to evangelize the natives of Futuna. He was killed in 1841 and canonized in 1954.



St. Peter, the Apostle

His name was Simon when Jesus called him and his brother Andrew.

They were fishermen on the sea of Galilee. Jesus changed his name to Peter, the rock on which his Church was to be built. In his hands, he holds the keys of the Kingdom of God.



St. Joseph holding the Child Jesus

To the loving care of Joseph entrusted the childhood of Jesus. Devotion to St. Joseph spread in later times and he became the Patron Saint of workers, of christian families and schools. Many congregations of nuns took the name of Joseph, like the Sisters of St. Joseph at Notre Dame des Victoires in 1924.



St. Joan of Arc

She is represented holding a big sword in her arms because she defeated the English armies in Orleans. Then she took Charles VII to the cathedral of Reims where he was solemnly crowned King of France, in 1429. She was only 18 years old.



St. Peter Julian Eymard

He is holding a monstrance to bless the people. Born in France in 1811, he became a priest in the Society of Mary and in 1856 founded the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament. This window was donated by the Society of the Blessed Sacrament organized by Notre Dame des Victoires on May 7, 1954 to take care of the altar linens, altar boy and girl gowns, statues, etc.



St. Patrick Apostle of Ireland

Born around 389, he was carried off by raiders to become a slave among the still pagan inhabitants of Ireland, at the age of 17. He was able to run away, went to France, became a priest, then a bishop and was sent by Pope Celestine I to evangelize Ireland. He was very successful and died in 461.



St. James the Less, Apostle

After Pentecost, he became the first Bishop of Jerusalem. He wrote an Epistle (which he holds with his left arm) insisting on the importance of charitable activities in the community and was clubbed to death in 62 (that is why there is a club held by his right hand).

This window was installed in 1964.



St. Mary Magdalene

She was a notorious sinner and the Pharisees wanted Jesus to condemn her. Jesus said: "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be first to throw a stone at her", and all the men went away. Jesus pardoned her. In this window she can be seen as the first person to whom Jesus appeared after his resurrection. This window was installed in 1966.



The Miraculous Medal

Catherine Labouré born in 1806 in France, was a sister of Charity in Paris when she had a vision of our Lady who told her to have a medal struck with a capital M, with a cross above it, and two hearts, one thorn-crowned and the other pierced with a sword below. She was canonized in 1947. This window was installed in 1967.



St. Francis de Sales

Born in 1567 in France, he studied in Paris and became a doctor of the Law. Ordained a priest in 1593, he preached many missions in Savoy to convert the Protestants. In 1602, he became Bishop of Geneva, founded the Order of the Visitation with St. Jeanne de Chantal. He died in 1622. He is the Patron Saint of journalists.



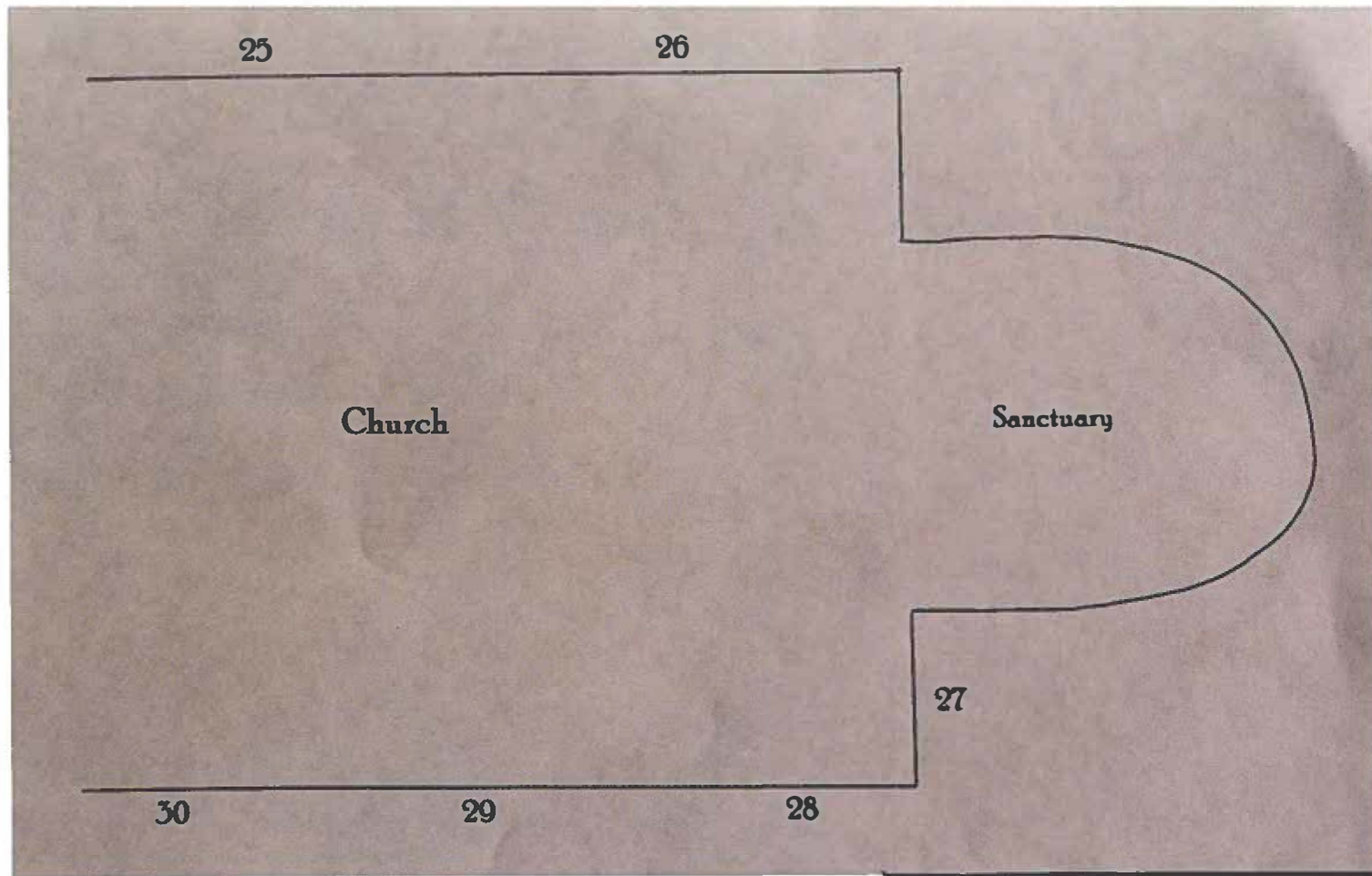
St. Colette

Born in 1381 in France, she became a sister of St. Clare of Assisi and was asked to restore the first rule of St. Clare in all its original severity. At first, she met a violent opposition, but finally was able to reform many convents and founded 17 new ones.



St. Cecilia

Born around the year 200 in Rome, she was a good Christian, converted her husband and his brother, who were soldiers and killed for their faith. She was a martyr a few days after their killings. At her wedding, the legend goes: while the musicians played, Cecilia in her heart "sang" to the Lord. She is the Patron Saint of musicians. This window was installed in 1974.



Lower Level Stained Glass Window & Tapestry Map

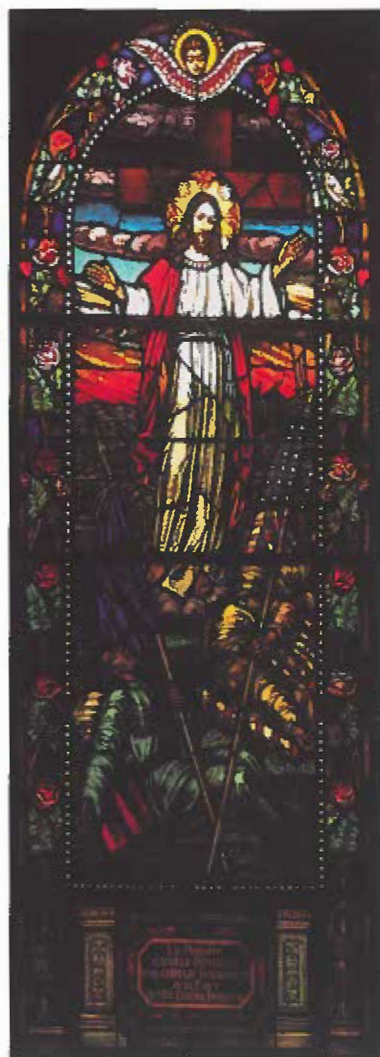
Map Key

Numbers on Map = Page Numbers



Jesus is Baptized

Baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, Jesus was 30 years old and will begin to preach the Good News. A voice spoke from heaven: "This is my beloved son, my favor rests on him". The dove represents the Holy Spirit.



French and American Memorial

This stained glass window is a memorial to the French and American soldiers that fought together in World War I against the Germans. In 1914, 600 Frenchmen left San Francisco to fight in Europe. 120 of them were killed. Their names are on the plaque, on your left, behind the candle stand. Father Constantin Chauve was a soldier for four years, came back in 1918 to San Francisco and died at the age of 106 in 1985.



Sister Marguerite- Marie Alacoque

She was praying in the chapel of her convent of the Visitation, at Paray-le-Monial, France, in 1673, when she saw Jesus asking her to start a special devotion, every First Friday of the month, to the Sacred Heart.



Sister Therese of the Child Jesus

She is called the Little Flower. Born at Alencon, Normandy, France in 1873. She entered the Carmel of Lisieux at the age of 14 and died at the age of 24.

Her motto was: "Love is repaid by love alone". She wanted to go to Indochine in a new Carmelite monastery, but became ill and was bedridden for several years. She offered her suffering for the missionaries. She was beatified in 1923 and canonized in 1925. She never left Lisieux, but was named patroness of all foreign missions by the Church.



St. Roch, Patron of Invalids

Born at Montpellier, France, in 1295, he distributed all his possessions to the poor and became a pilgrim, devoting himself to the care of the plague-stricken he met in Europe. Upon being stricken with the plague himself, he was discovered lying in a deserted forest by a dog. For this reason he is portrayed with a dog at his side. He holds a pilgrim's staff, and a shell on his shoulder.

Tapestry of the 16th Century of Jesus at the Mount of Olives



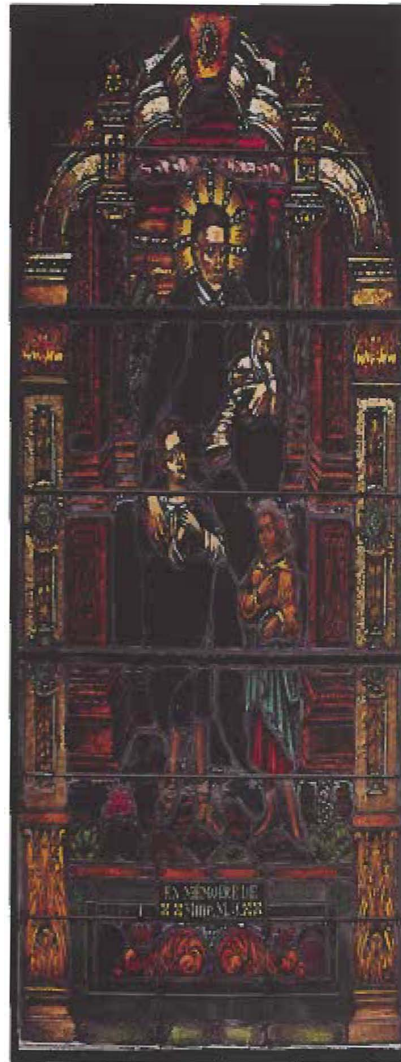
The making of tapestries in western Europe occurred throughout the Middle Ages and tapestry manufacturers multiplied during the 16th century in Paris, Arras, Tournai and, eventually in Flanders. In our tapestry the dark-blue ground, strewn rather sparsely with flowering plants is typical of the Flemish art of tapestry weaving around 1550. The artist has represented Jesus in agony at the Mount of Olives, according to Luke 22:39-46. Christ prays to his Father to take the cup away from him. The cup is in the left hand of an angel who also has a cross and comforts Jesus. The apostles Peter, James and John are asleep instead of praying with him. On the right, another scene shows the soldiers coming to arrest Jesus and Judas Iscariot kissing his master. Simon Peter draws his sword and wounds the high priest's servant, Malchus, cutting off his right ear. (John 18:10). On the border are four other scenes represented from the Gospel: On the Top: The Annunciation, On the Right: The Last Supper, On the Bottom: The Flagellation, and On the Left: Jesus Preaching in the Synagogue. Flowers occupy the rest of the border with symbolic personage, men on the top, women on the bottom. Nature and human beings are present.

This tapestry was bought in Paris, thanks to a special donation from The Carl Gellert Foundation. It is placed in the Blessed Sacrament chapel to enhance the presence of the Lord when people come to worship, apart from Mass. The altar of sacrifice, in the sanctuary, is the center of our attention when the Mass is celebrated. Vatican II wanted to restore emphasis on the Mass, so the tabernacle was moved to a place of honor, marked by a tabernacle lamp, in such a way that people can pray and worship there outside the time of Mass.



St. Joseph, husband of Mary

Joseph descended from the royal house of David, that is why he had to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem, for the census, since the Roman Emperor wanted everybody to be registered in his own town. He is the "just man" who took Mary, even if her baby was not his son. Because of his purity of heart and the chastity of his life he is always represented with a lily. He is the Patron Saint of the Universal Church and his feast is celebrated on March 19.



St. Vincent de Paul

Born in France in 1581, in a poor family living close to the Pyrénées, Vincent was placed under the care of the Franciscians, who gave him a good education. Ordained a priest at the age of 20, he became chaplain of Queen Margeret of Valois. Living in Paris among the rich people, he saw many poor people in the streets and children abandoned. He founded a congregation of priests called Lazarists or Vincentians who started orphanages and schools. He also directed the foundation of hospitals for the sick and the aged, with the help of Louise de Marillac and the Sisters of Charity. He is the Patron Saint of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Bernadette was only 14 when on February 11, 1858, she saw a "beautiful lady" in a grotto, at the foot of the Pyrénées, called Massabielle. She saw her many times and they recited the Rosary. One day, the "lady" told her: "I am the Immaculate Conception", but Bernadette who spoke only patois did not understand it. The priest understood it was Mary because the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was defined by the pope a few years earlier, in 1854.



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary is the mother of Jesus, Jesus is God, therefore she is the Mother of God, but she is a creature and all her dignity comes from God. She died after the resurrection of Jesus and it has been for ages the explicit belief of the Church that her body was preserved from corruption. In 1950, Pope Pius XII defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her life on earth was finished, was taken up body and soul into heaven.



Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem

Joseph was a descendant of David, but he was poor and when he came with Mary to Bethlehem there was no place available at the inn. So he found a stable and Mary gave birth to Jesus, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. We see the shepherds adoring the infant and the angels singing: "Gloria in excelsis Deo", "Glory to God in the highest", with stars, sheep and kneeling men.



The Annunciation

Mary was a young girl, maybe only 15, when the angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth and said to her: "Rejoice, full of grace, The Lord is with you." As she was troubled by such a greeting the angel said: "Do not be afraid Mary, the Holy Spirit will come upon you, you will conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus". The window represents Mary kneeling, Gabriel with the latin text: "Ave Maria gratia plena" (Hail Mary Full of Grace) and the dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit.



St. Anthony of Padua

Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195, entered the Franciscan Order and was sent to Italy to preach and to teach theology in Assisi, Bologna and finally Padua where he died in 1231. He was an accomplished orator with all the qualifications: learning, eloquence, great power of persuasion, a burning zeal for souls and a sonorous voice which carried far. One night, somebody saw light in his room and looked through a crack in the door: Anthony was standing listening to a little Jesus in his arms. That is why he is represented this way.

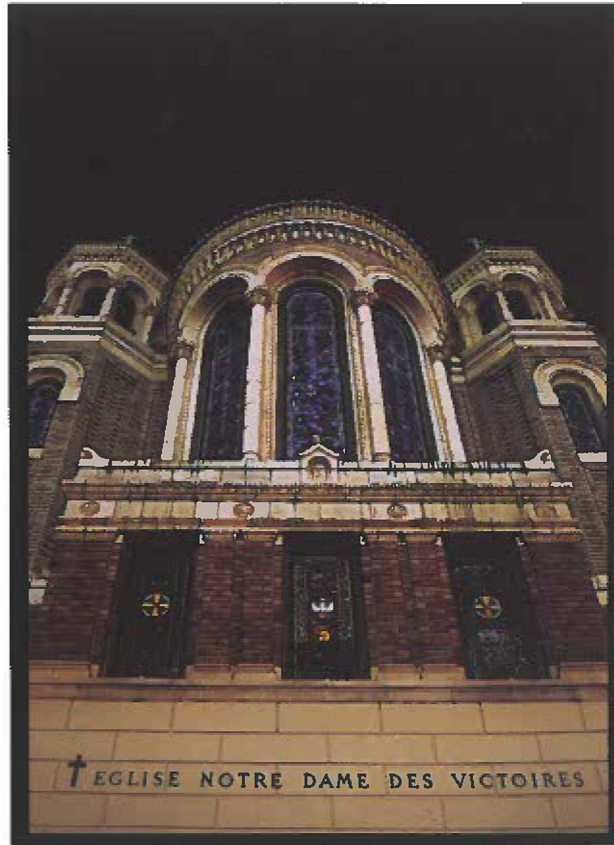


St. Louis IX of France

Born in 1214, he was the son of Louis VIII and Blanche de Castille. When he was 21, he became king, Louis IX, and applied himself to see justice well administered, protecting the poor against oppressive lords. He had 11 children. He went to the Holy Land in 1244 as a crusader, was taken prisoner, lost his army. When he was released, he went to Jerusalem, bought the crown of thorns that the soldiers put on Jesus' head during his passion. In Paris, he built the Sainte Chapelle where he put this relic. This stained glass window has been moved due to the elevator.



Interior of Église Notre Dame des Victoires



Evening at Eglise Notre Dame des Victoires