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**ARCHBISHOP VIGNERON AND STE. ANNE PARISH DE DETROIT APPLY FOR
PRESTIGIOUS MINOR BASILICA RECOGNITION**

Completed submission to be reviewed in Rome by Pope Francis

DETROIT, July 27, 2018— Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron has announced that he is asking Pope Francis to designate Ste. Anne Church de Detroit as a minor basilica. Ste. Anne Church is an historic landmark in the City of Detroit that has been visited for more than a century by people of faith. Ste. Anne Parish is the second oldest continuously operating Catholic parish in the United States. Within the past year, the church became an official archdiocesan shrine. A popular destination spot in Detroit, the church expects to receive more than 10,000 visitors in 2018.

“Starting Ste. Anne Parish was among the very first actions of Detroit’s founders in 1701,” said Archbishop Vigneron. “St. Anne is the patroness of Detroit. In asking the Holy Father to consider raising this church to a minor basilica, we are asking for further recognition of the privileged role which this unique place and this unique person have in our community.”

The word “basilica” is derived from a Greek term meaning “royal house,” and in the Catholic faith, is a church building that has been accorded special ecclesiastical privileges by the Pope. Only one percent of churches in the world have been honored as basilicas, and worldwide, only a handful of basilica submissions are received each year by the Vatican. There are currently just 85 basilicas in the United States and 1,770 in the world, out of more than 225,000 Catholic churches in the world.

“The process to compile all materials and prepare the submission was a rewarding experience. It was very inspiring to dive into the great history that has made Ste. Anne’s what it is today,” said Monsignor Dr. Charles Kosanke, pastor at Ste. Anne Parish de Detroit. “This is

an amazing opportunity for us as a parish, and I'd like to thank all of our team members who played a role in preparing this submission over the last six months.”

Ste. Anne Parish de Detroit would be the first parish in Detroit to receive the basilica recognition and only the third in Michigan, alongside Basilica of St. Adalbert in Grand Rapids and National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak. The 223-page submission consists of responses to more than 100 detailed questions from the Vatican, many historical photos, interior and exterior photos and in-depth descriptions, including everything from the side altars, wall paintings and large grisaille stained glass windows preserved from the Stone Church in 1818, to an overview of every beautifully-crafted statue, parish events and more.

The next step in the basilica application process is for Archbishop Vigneron to refer it to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., and then, once approved, it will be sent with a letter of recommendation to the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome, which will give a recommendation to the Pope. The entire process can take over a year.

The application process to become a basilica is extremely detailed and needs to be exact. Before a church can be considered, six requirements must be met:

1. The church must have an active Pastoral Liturgy celebrated regularly throughout the year.
2. The church must be of an appropriate size and have a large sanctuary.
3. The church must have historical significance where it is located and in the local community.
4. The church must have an adequate number of priests assigned.
5. The church must have a sufficient number of lay ministers.
6. The church must have an adequate Schola of sacred music.

About Ste. Anne Parish de Detroit

Ste. Anne is the second oldest continuously operating Catholic parish in the United States. It is a vibrant, multi-ethnic house of worship with a colorful history. From the original French explorers of the 1700s, to those who worship here today, and the thousands of people who visit the church every year, Ste. Anne stands as a place of spiritual, historical, and cultural significance in our city and our nation. The parish has been operating since 1701, and the current church building was constructed in 1886. For additional information, please visit <https://ste-anne.org>.