



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Restored Historic Bells of the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit
Will Ring at Public Ceremony May 17, 2024**

Detroit, MI -- The Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit has been awarded a restoration grant by the Chicago chapter of the French Heritage Society (FHS). The grant has been used to help restore the carillon bells in the basilica's west tower. A public ceremony will be held at the basilica on Friday, May 17, 2024, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in recognition of the FHS efforts. Dignitaries from Michigan, France and Quebec will be in attendance as a commemorative plaque is unveiled to acknowledge the historic event.

The festivities will include a tour of the neo-Gothic basilica which holds the oldest stained glass windows in Michigan. After being silent for decades, the newly restored carillon bells now ring over Southwest Detroit and the Strait, adding to the renaissance of the neighborhood.

The FHS is an international organization with twelve chapters in the United States (U.S.) and France. The mission of the FHS is to raise money throughout the U.S. and France to ensure that the treasures of shared French architectural and cultural heritage are preserved for future generations to enjoy. Lisa Kahn, Director of the Chicago chapter of the FHS said, "We are thrilled to be a part of helping to preserve the French history and heritage of Detroit."

Built in 1887, the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit has been chosen as a grant recipient because it is the last standing landmark built by the French-speaking community in Detroit. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places. French was the predominant language spoken in Detroit until the 1840s. Weekly masses were celebrated at Ste. Anne de Detroit until the mid-1940s. Currently the basilica offers a bilingual French-English mass during its annual nine-day Novena in July.

The carillon bell ceremony is being organized by Rendez-vous Detroit, a 501c3 nonprofit group whose mission is to increase awareness and appreciation for the many contributions made by the French in the early settlement of Michigan. Rendez-vous Detroit is also a sponsor for the FHS Fourth Annual French Heritage Corridor Conference – What's Cooking: la recette for Creating Collaboration in the French Heritage Corridor, which takes place in Detroit and Monroe, MI, May 17 – 19, 2024.

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