



## History of Our Lady of the Cape

Already in 1694, at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, a Marian association was founded in order to promote the prayer of the Rosary: The "Confraternity of the Holy Rosary", at this young parish. However, there followed a period of abandonment and darkness. From 1729 until 1844, there was no resident pastor at the Cape. The parishioners abandoned their religious practices so that around 1850 there were only about ten persons who came to church regularly, although the small chapel built in 1714 had 60 places! And yet the number of parishioners numbered more than one thousand.

From 1844 to 1864, several pastors took over, but their pastoral success was minimal. In 1845, the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary was re-established and in 1854, an elderly parishioner, Zephirin Dorval, offered a statue of Our Lady, that became Our Lady of the Cape.

In 1864, Cure Desilets became pastor and nearly lost courage at the lack of results in awakening the faith in people. On the eve of the feast of the Ascension of 1867, nobody came to church to make their confession. It happened on that very day, the pastor saw a pig that entered the chapel, holding a rosary between its teeth. So he said to himself: "The people have dropped the rosary, and the pigs pick it up." He then urged his people to recite the Rosary. And on November 5, 1867, in thanksgiving for the renewal of the parish, the pastor consecrated himself to Our Lady and promised to work and to promote the devotion to the Holy Rosary.

The parishioners returned to coming to Sunday Mass, so that the small chapel was getting too small. A larger church would need to be built, however there were no stones in the region. Stones from the small chapel would have to be used until stones could be transported from the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, if the river froze over!

Stones were bought and prepared at Sainte-Angele on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, opposite the Cape, however, although the St. Lawrence River usually froze over that year it hadn't. It was the middle of March, and some thought "Now is the time when the ice melts." The pastor and parishioners prayed for the formation of the necessary ice bridge, which happened at the end of March 1879. They called it "the bridge of the Rosaries". It made it possible to bring the purchased and prepared stones from the south side of the St. Lawrence to the Cape. This made it possible to conserve the old chapel, and have it dedicated to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary as promised by Cure Desilets, if Our Lady made it possible for an ice-bridge to form in order to transport enough stone to build the church to the height of the windows. Thus, the Shrine of Notre Dame du Cap began. Many favours were obtained through the praying of the rosary and pilgrimages started to take place to the Shrine.

Just two months before his death, Cure Desilets fulfilled his promise to dedicate the old parochial church to devotion to the Holy Rosary. In June 1888, the restoration of the old chapel was finished and on the 22nd of that month the official inauguration. It is on that day, that the eyes of the statue of Our Lady opened in the presence of three witnesses, the pastor Cure Desilets, Blessed Fr. Frederic Jansoone (the first pilgrimage director of the Shrine) and Pierre Lacroix.

## **THE VISITING PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF THE CAPE**

We will be welcoming the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of the Cape on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. She will remain with us until Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. During the week, there will be special prayers added during the Masses and devotions. There will be a Mass on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to welcome Our Lady of the Cape. Special prayers will be included throughout the week at our Masses, Rosary, and Holy Hours (Tuesday & Thursday at 6:00 p.m.). There will also be a box to receive your donations and to offer your petitions to Our Lady for your prayers, needs, and thanksgiving. A few items will be available for purchase in the foyer on the weekend of February 25/26.

**Marian Consecration Daily Prayer**


**Our Lady of the Cape, Queen of the Holy Rosary, Queen of Canada; I offer and give my prayers, sacrifices, good works, time, talent and treasure to your Immaculate Heart, to do with as you please, for the greater glory of God.**

**I thank God the Father, for choosing you to be my heavenly Mother. I thank God the Son, for giving you to me as He was dying for my sins and those of the whole world on the cross. I thank God the Holy Spirit, for the graces He gives me through you.**

**Help me by your prayers to be faithful to the vows of my Baptism. Help me by your prayers to accomplish all that God has planned for me in advance to do. Amen**

**JUNE 22ND, 1947 - CONSECRATION OF CANADA TO MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD.**

The MDM Pilgrim Queen photographed July 1st, 2017 at Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation and the Consecration of Canada and the Archdiocese of Ottawa to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



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To learn more about the Pilgrim Statue and the mission of spreading devotion to Our Lady of the Cape, visit: <https://www.canada54.com/>

Read more about Bridge of Roses: The Story of Our Lady of the Cape:  
<https://www.sanctuaire-ndc.ca/en/bridge-of-roses-the-story-of-our-lady-of-the-cape/>