

The Most Documented Historical Figure from the Middle Ages

THE PASSION OF SAINT JOAN OF ARC



HM TELEVISION PRESENTS *THE PASSION OF SAINT JOAN OF ARC*

A DOCUMENTARY ON THE LIFE AND MISSION OF SAINT JOAN OF ARC VIRGIN, QUEEN, MARTYR

PRODUCTION

The Passion of Saint Joan of Arc is a documentary produced by HM Television.



“I entrust myself to
God my Creator; I
love Him with my
whole heart.”

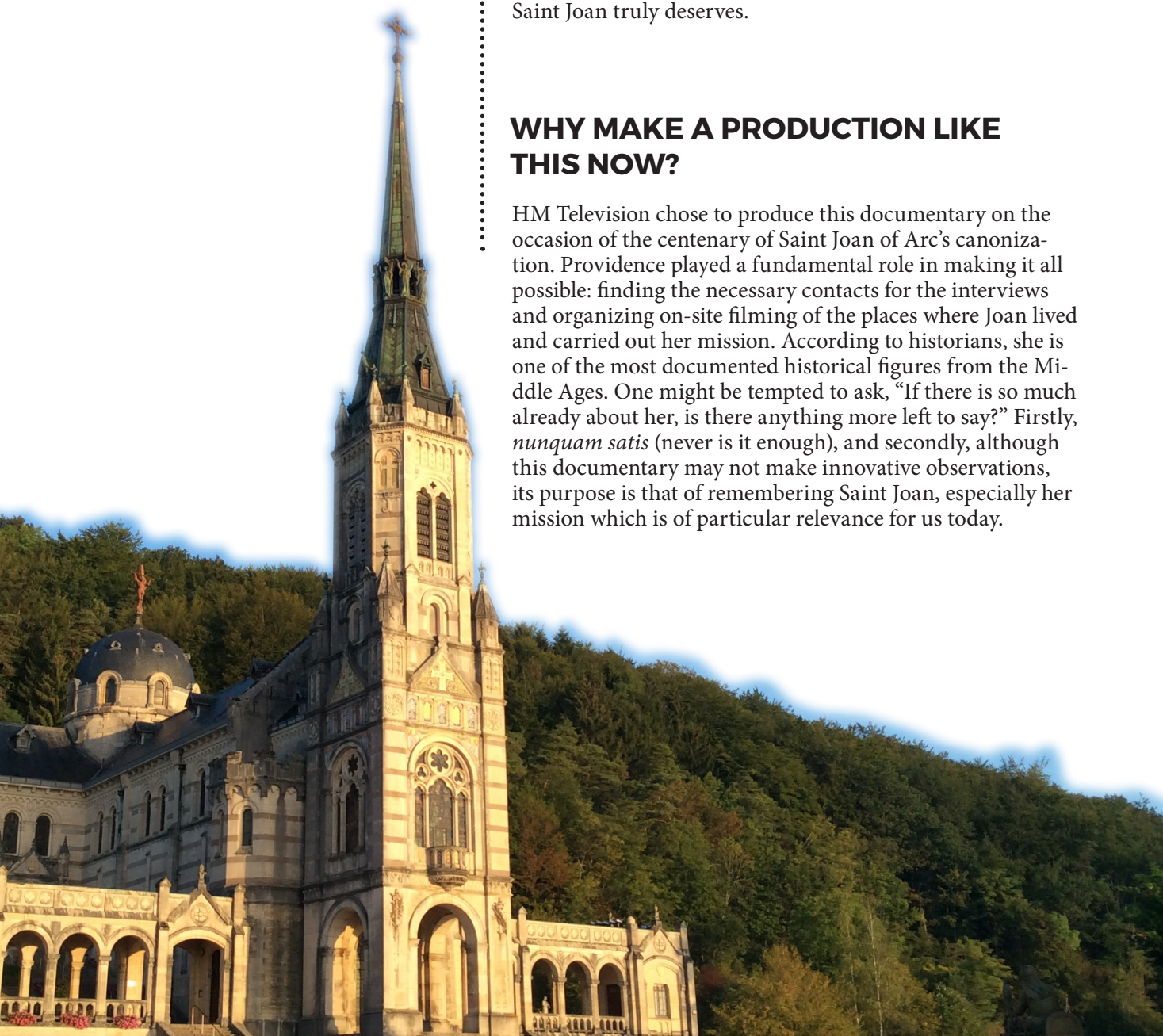
St. Joan of Arc

PRESENTATION

Sister Marie de la Sagesse affirms: “If you ask average Catholics who Saint Joan of Arc was, they might say she was a witch the Church canonized after having condemned her.” This may well be the reply of many, as well as what led us to undertake the production of a documentary presenting the figure of Saint Joan, her life and mission. Our main objective is to present Saint Joan, not so much as a national hero, but rather what she truly is: a saint who heeded God’s voice, understood His Will, and fulfilled it even at the cost of her own life. Many believe that in addition to the title of Virgin awarded her by the Catholic Church, she also merits two more titles: Queen and Martyr. The documentary is an effort to endorse and explain the importance of the latter two titles, which Saint Joan truly deserves.

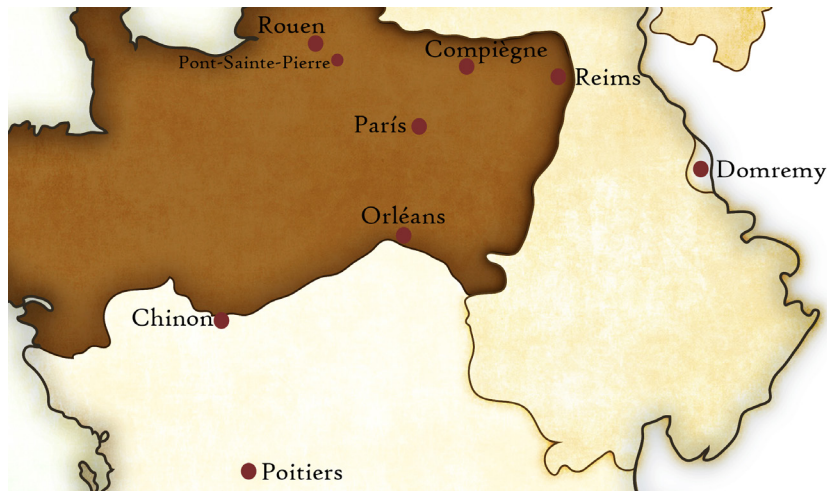
WHY MAKE A PRODUCTION LIKE THIS NOW?

HM Television chose to produce this documentary on the occasion of the centenary of Saint Joan of Arc’s canonization. Providence played a fundamental role in making it all possible: finding the necessary contacts for the interviews and organizing on-site filming of the places where Joan lived and carried out her mission. According to historians, she is one of the most documented historical figures from the Middle Ages. One might be tempted to ask, “If there is so much already about her, is there anything more left to say?” Firstly, *nunquam satis* (never is it enough), and secondly, although this documentary may not make innovative observations, its purpose is that of remembering Saint Joan, especially her mission which is of particular relevance for us today.



FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT JOAN

HM Television set out on an eleven-day tour of France in September 2019 for the filming of the documentary. Visiting the sites associated with her life and mission, filming interviews and other images, all contributed to a deeper knowledge of and identification with St. Joan of Arc's charism. Our team was blessed to be accompanied by a special guide: Sister Marie de la Sagesse, expert in St. Joan of Arc and author of the book, *Santa Juana de Arco. Virgen, Reina, Mártir*.



Tour Route

- Lourdes – Interview with Fr. Jacques Olivier, writer and author of *Prophéties et prédictions de Jeanne d'Arc*
- Royal Fortress of Chinon - Guided tour and filming of the Royal Fortress
- “Puy du Fou” – Encounter and interview with the founder of the theme park, Philippe de Villiers; filming of the ring, the only remaining relic of Joan of Arc
- Orleans –Visit to the *Maison Sainte Jeanne d'Arc*; visit with Olivier Bouzy and filming of material contained within the Maison; visit to cathedral and other sites
- Fleury Abbey (Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire) – Filming on site and surroundings
- Domremy – Filming of the Basilica of St. Joan of Arc, her birth home and parish, as well as the Our Lady of Bermont Shrine; interview with Alain Olivier, President of the Our Lady of Bermont Association
- Vaucouleurs - Filming of the exterior of the castle of Sir Robert de Baudricourt; filming of the interior of the crypt which conserves an image before which Joan often prayed during her visits
- Reims - Filming of the cathedral and the Basilica of Saint-Remi, which conserves the relics of Saint Remi
- Visit to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Montmartre and interview with Jacques Tremolet de Villers, lawyer and author of *Jeanne d'Arc: le procès de Rouen*
- Compiègne – Visit and filming of several churches where St. Joan prayed during her visit there, especially the Church of Saint Jacques where she prayed the morning she was captured; filming of the bridge where she was captured
- Pont Saint Pierre – Veneration and filming of the cross St. Joan saw shortly before her death
- Rouen – Visit and filming of the sites of her imprisonment, trial, and death; filming of the cathedral
- Poitiers – Visit and filming of the sites visited by the saint, including the exterior of the palace where the Poitiers trial was held
- Bayonne – Interview with Bishop Marc Aillet (Diocese of Bayonne)





ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE

We initiated the filming process in May 2019 by interviewing Jorge Fernandez, former Minister of Internal Affairs in Spain. Additional footage was filmed that summer during the trip to France. We were able to interview Margarita Torres Sevilla, Professor of Medieval History, in Leon, Spain in December of that same year. We brought the filming to a close after recording Javier Paredes, Professor of Contemporary History, as the documentary's narrator at the Abbey of Santo Domingo de Silos in March 2020.

SAINT JOAN GUIDED OUR STEPS

As soon as we launched the project and started the process of filming, and later on through the post-production editing, collaboration of translators, finding voices for dubbing, etc., we clearly recognized that St. Joan guided our steps. Who better than her to guide us, seeing as she was going to be the protagonist of this production? The trip offered an abundance of opportunities to become more familiar with her life and visit places where she herself had lived, prayed, fought, and suffered. All this contributed to making the production more a fruit of experience than of theory. Getting to know Saint Joan and discovering Catholic France, whose history is so rooted in the Christian faith, was truly a blessing. May France rediscover these roots!

A MISSION FOR EACH OF US

One of the lessons we learned on our pilgrimage is that God has a specific mission for each person. We now hope to convey this message through the documentary. Each of us must discover this mission through a prayerful openness to His voice, and once we discover it, set out to faithfully fulfill it.

As Saint Joan said, *"I am not afraid; I was born to do this."* She feared nothing, aware as she was that this was the mission God had entrusted to her and He was going to accomplish it in her.

"There will be a virgin who will ride in arms against archers and the flower of her virginity will keep secret."

Prophecy of Merlin

NOT ONLY A HEROINE, BUT A SAINT

The life and mission of St. Joan of Arc introduces us into the mystery of God's plans for certain souls, plans that can be difficult to understand at first glance, and impossible to understand if there is not a faith-filled perspective. God's plans are certainly not our plans. Perhaps that is why when man comes across something that breaks the mold of his rational thought patterns, he has a hard time accepting it. Yet, once he accepts it, he enters into this mystery and can marvel at what God accomplishes in each soul. We cannot take Joan merely for a national hero; she is much more. She is a saint. A saint is someone who embraces God's grace, who heeds God's voice and recognizing His will hastily responds with a whole-hearted affirmation, no matter the consequences. A saint trusts in God and betrays not one of the graces received. St. Joan of Arc did just that and now encourages us to do the same.

"The time has come; our effort is urgently needed. It is time for action."

St. Joan of Arc

WHO WAS SAINT JOAN OF ARC?

“I was born for this. The Lord placed me on this path; He will show me the way.”
St. Joan of Arc

A Devout Girl

Saint Joan of Arc was born in a small town in France named Domremy, in the year 1412. As a child, she manifested a profound piety. She enjoyed visiting the church and other places associated with saints, as well as caring for the sick and giving alms to the poor. She often went on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Bermont, to whom she was especially devoted. Her parish priest claimed to “*have no parishioner as good as she was.*” Her parents raised her in the faith, with a special devotion to the Name of Jesus.

The “Voices”

Joan first started hearing her “voices” at the age of 13, in her father’s garden, at the hour of the Angelus. The first voice she heard was that of Saint Michael the Archangel, who informed her of her mission. Interestingly enough, several years later, during her trial she was interrogated regarding the message from the first apparition. Her words were: “*First of all, he told me to be a good girl and that God would assist me.*” Later on, reference was made to her future mission. Perhaps this is a lesson to us that the most important is not what God will ask of me in the future, but what He is asking of me now.

Two Missions

With the words of the angel, Joan clearly understands her missions. Her earthly mission is that of crowning the King of France and her supernatural mission, that of restoring the Kingdom of France to its true King and Lord, Jesus Christ.

For God Alone

The name her voices would give her was *La Pucelle* (maiden). St. Joan’s safeguard of her virginity and purity is one of the most outstanding characteristics of her life. She never lost her virginity, even in the midst of a war and surrounded by 10,000 men. In the trial, she declares: “*The first time I heard the voice, I consecrated my virginity to God.*” Thus, the fact that she had completely consecrated herself to God in virginity is not mere conjecture, but rather something Joan herself affirmed. The voices called her, “*Joan, la Pucelle, daughter of God, daughter of an immense heart.*” Her purity inspired all and the men who accompanied her bore witness to her profound goodness. Jean Coulon testifies: “*Being with her was a great consolation.*”

“You are he and none other...”

Five years passed between the first apparition and the appointed time for acting. She was told to reach Charles the Dauphin, who doubted his own legitimacy as heir to the French crown. But how? Her uncle providentially asked her to accompany him to Vaucouleurs, where she met with Sir Robert de Baudricourt, with whom she had to speak in order to reach the Dauphin. He agreed to have her escorted to the King’s Palace in Chinon. Upon hearing of her arrival, the King put her to the test and hid among the crowd. However, she discovered him and kneeling before him said, “*In the name of God, gracious Prince, you are he and none other here present.*”

She had a private audience with the King in which she revealed certain things he carried in his heart, giving him the necessary proof of her authenticity.

“*Joan, la Pucelle, daughter of God, daughter of an immense heart.*”



The First Trial – Poitiers

The King placed her veracity to the test, sending her to appear in Poitiers before a tribunal of theologians and canon lawyers led by the Archbishop of Reims, Regnault de Chartres. In the presence of the tribunal, Pierre de Versailles made it clear that she was there to respond to their questions, to which she replied, *“I know you have all come to interrogate me. That being said, I neither know A nor B. All I know is that I come on behalf of the King of Heaven to lay siege to Orleans and to lead the Dauphin to Reims, that he may be crowned and consecrated there.”*

Although the complete text of the tribunal’s conclusion is lost, the fragments that have reached us speak for themselves: “We find nothing worthy of reproach in her – only humility, goodness, virginity, devotion, honesty, and simplicity. [...] The King must not prevent her from journeying to Orleans, for fearing or rejecting her would mean rejecting the Holy Spirit and would render us unworthy of God’s assistance.”



“In God’s name, I shall do so, and may whoever is willing follow me.”

The Liberation of Orleans

Joan amazed many with her military skill, which she demonstrated throughout the battles as she reclaimed territories for France. One eyewitness, Margarita La Touroulde, recounts: *“As far as I could observe, Joan was very simple and ignorant and knew nothing whatsoever, except things related to war... Concerning weaponry, I saw her ride a horse and carry a lance as well as the best of soldiers, and this amazed everyone.”* Orleans was under siege by the English. She became the commanding officer for 10,000 men, all of whom trusted and believed in her. Several miracles occurred, enabling them to enter and liberate Orleans. Finally, on May 8, feast of St. Michael, the English lifted the siege and the city was freed. Following this victory, many soldiers believed in Joan and their hope grew.

I Love My Banner Much More

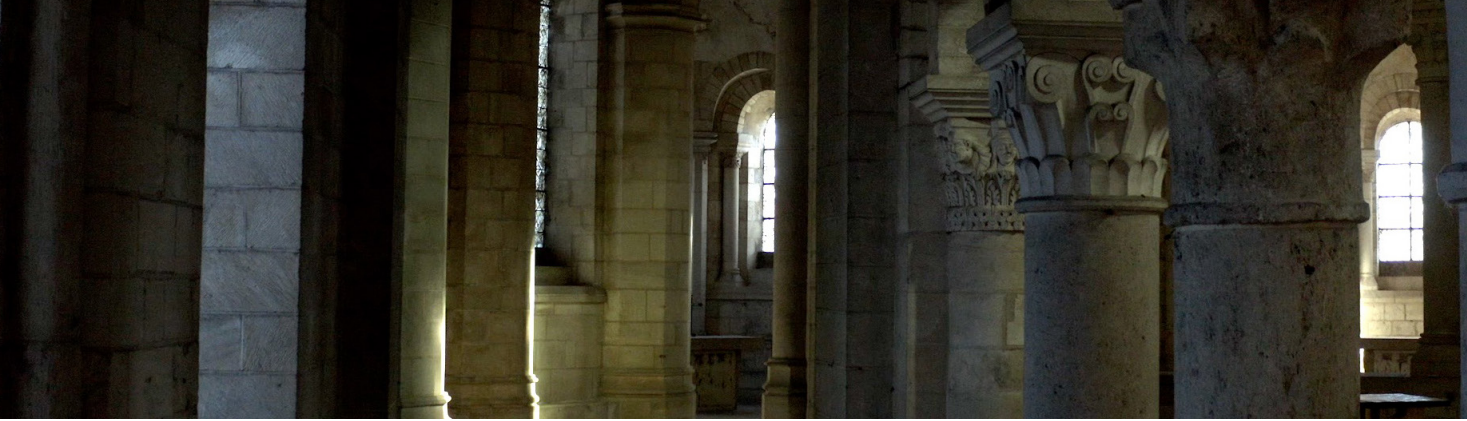
History tells us that the Lord provided her with a sword so she could carry out her mission. She herself sent for her sword, revealing its location behind an altar in the Church of Saint Catherine de Fierbois. The sword is said to have been used by Charles Martel to free France from the Muslim occupation in the 8th century. However, the records from the trial demonstrate that there was something she loved much more than her sword: her banner. When asked, *“Which do you love more: your banner or your sword?”*, she replied,

“I love my banner forty times more than my sword.” How could that banner be described? *“The entire banner was commissioned by Our Lord, through the voices of St. Catherine and St. Margaret, who told me, ‘Receive this banner on behalf of the King of Heaven.’ I commissioned this figure of Our Lord and two angels, and had it painted. I did everything according to what they told me.”*

One side of the banner had a painting portraying Our Lord seated on His royal throne, with the globe of the world in His hand, making a gesture of blessing. St. Michael and St. Gabriel flank Him on either side, presenting Him with a fleur-de-lis. The banner also bore the inscription “Jesus-Mary”. The other side of the banner had a painting of the French coat of arms, sustained by two angels with a dove carrying the inscription **“On behalf of the King of Heaven”**. Her banner is clear proof of her supernatural mission. Hers is not a struggle for an earthly monarchy, but rather for the Eternal King who was the focus of her life and heart. She led the army, bearing her banner and placing herself fearlessly in the front line of battle. Her voices told her, *“Take up the banner on behalf of the King of Heaven with courage. God will come to your aid.”*

“They told me, ‘Take up the banner on behalf of the King of Heaven.’”





“I give you my Kingdom”

On the way to Reims, she made a stopover at the Fleury Abbey (Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire), where a little-known event took place: the triple donation. Joan approached the king and said, **“Sire, do you promise to grant me what I ask?”** The king hesitated at first, but then agreed. Joan said, **“Good Sire, I wish to have your palace and kingdom.”** The King felt obliged for having agreed beforehand and replied, **“Joan, I give you my kingdom.”** She continued, **“Take note: King Charles VII gives his kingdom to Joan. Joan gives France to Jesus Christ.”** Her voice changed and, turning to the king, she said, **“My Lords, it is now Jesus Christ Himself who speaks: I, ETERNAL LORD, GIVE IT TO KING CHARLES.”** So, for a brief moment, Joan was truly queen and her only sovereign act was that of placing the Kingdom in the hands of Jesus Christ.

Crowning of the King

The crowning and consecration of the king were held in Reims upon her arrival. From the first Christian King Clovis I, all the kings had been consecrated. The king did not govern on his own authority, but as a man chosen by God, a delegate of Jesus Christ.

Joan accompanied Charles in the consecration. It seemed to be a sort of “transfiguration” leading up to the Passion.

“You mustn’t thank me, but God!”

“I shan’t tarry, as long as I may ride and engage in battle.”

Betrayed by Her Own

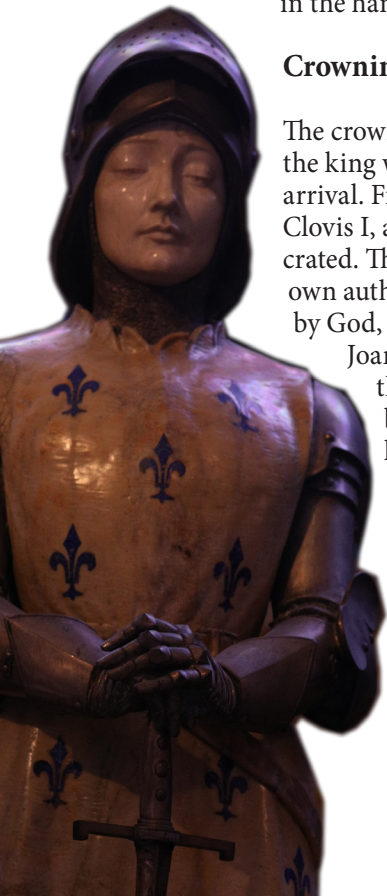
The king began to ignore Joan and soon handed her over to the Burgundians, allies of the English. She had foretold her capture to those closest to her, painfully admitting that, **“I will no longer be able to serve the king nor the kingdom of France.”**

Capture and Imprisonment

She sought aid in the city of Compiègne. She went out to defend the city and someone shouted: “Retreat!” without her having said anything. All the troops turned back towards the bridge, but it closed before she could enter and she was taken prisoner. She spent months in prison at the mercy of the Burgundians, who place her on trial in Rouen.

The Trial and Sentence

The trial began January 9, 1431 and was overseen by the University of Paris, presided by Bishop Chauchon. She was unaware as to why she was placed on trial, moreover by an ecclesiastical court. She was submitted to great pressure both in prison and during the trial, but through it all she proved herself capable of holding her own. Her voices foretold her martyrdom, counseling her, **“Accept all things willingly and do not be afflicted for your martyrdom, for in the end you will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”** When her trial began and she was asked to swear an oath, she personally composed the following: **“Concerning my father, my mother, and what I have done since I arrived in France, I will gladly swear; but concerning the revelations from God, I have never nor shall ever reveal them to anyone, save only to Charles, my King.”**



Her answers were enlightening and her accusers found no explanation as to the keen reasoning of this young woman who could neither read nor write. The trial records are a sort of “autobiography” that introduce us into St. Joan’s heart, a heart that the English claimed to be made of “iron,” as it stood firm in the midst of torments and strife.

“Delectable Lord, in honor of your Sacred Passion, I ask that if you so love me, show me how I am to respond to these men of the Church.”

Sentence and Death

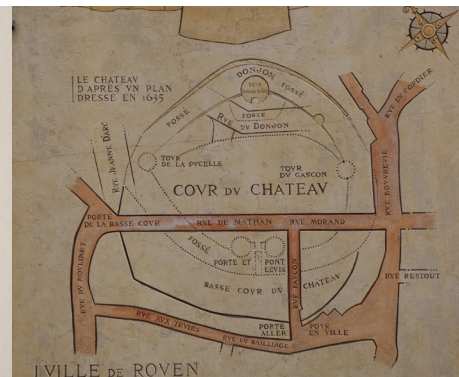
Joan’s sentence to death was decided prior to her trial. The accusation against her was that of witchcraft, in spite of the fact that no evidence could be found against the faith. Thus, her accusers sought other grounds for her indictment. They decided to stage her public repentance and later on, her supposed relapse into heresy. If convicted, the sentence was death by burning at the stake. The morning of May 30, 1431 she entered the square bound hand and foot, wearing a tunic. She arrived in a prayerful silence. All those present wept and she begged forgiveness. Joan requested a cross, however no one had a cross to offer her. An Englishman moved by her words fashioned a cross out of wood from the stake, however Joan requested a bigger cross. **“I ask that you bring me a cross from the nearest Church, to place before me until I die...that the cross God hung upon may be continually in my sight.”** Her confessor went

in search of a processional cross from the nearest church and that was the cross she had before her until the moment of her death.

Joan publicly ratified her divine mission at the stake and earned her the title of **“martyr of the truth.”** Her confessor testifies: *“At the stake, in prison, in the face of death, and in the presence of the judges, she continued to sustain and affirm that her voices came from God, that all her works were done in obedience to the Lord, that she did not believe that she had been deceived by her voices, and that the revelations she had received came from God.”* The name of Jesus was on her lips until the end. She shouted and invoked His name with such strength that it was heard throughout the entire square, which was crowded with onlookers: 800 soldiers and 5,000 civilians. A friar who witnessed the scene testified that, *“at the end, at the moment of her death, she shouted one last time: ‘Jesus!’”* Thus was the death of the Maid of Orleans.

Behold, Her Heart!

The testimony of Massieu relates a miraculous occurrence: *“I heard from Jean Fleury, the clerk of the bailiff and town clerk, that the executioner had told him that when Joan’s body was burned and reduced to ashes, her heart remained intact and full of blood. The executioner was told to gather the ashes and all that was left of her and to throw them into the Seine, which he did.”* Joan’s heart had remained incorrupt. We could say that this was yet another sign of her virginal heart, intact and dedicated to God alone.



Rehabilitation or Nullification

The rehabilitation or nullification process was opened on November 7, 1455 in the Cathedral of Paris. This trial was no less difficult. Restoring Joan's good name was no easy feat, seeing as human pride still sought to taint and cast doubt on the truth. However, investigators found so much procedural irregularity in her trial at Rouen, that the decision was made to annul it completely, as if it had never taken place.

A Saint Without Altars

Her process of canonization was opened several centuries later in Orleans. Cardinal Pie was the first to speak openly of Joan. In 1844, he had no qualms in declaring that, *"Joan is a contemplative warrior, of heaven and of earth. She is—forgive the anticipation—a weeping martyr, a saint without an altar to be venerated."* In 1869, Bishop Dupanloup of Orleans asked all the bishops of the cities through which la Pucelle had passed to sign a petition to Pope Pius IX requesting her canonization. Finally, in 1894, Leo XIII opened her cause, assigning her the title of Venerable. In his homily, he affirmed, *"Joan is of our own. She is called to become a glowing flame not only in the heavenly Jerusalem, but also in the earthly Jerusalem."* It was Pope Pius X who signed the decree proclaiming her heroic virtue and opened a study of miracles attributed to the Venerable's intercession. The long awaited beatification was held on April 18, 1909. Bishop Touchet oversaw her process up until the canonization, which took place on May 16, 1920. Two years later, she was proclaimed the second patroness of France.

Virgin, Queen... and Martyr?

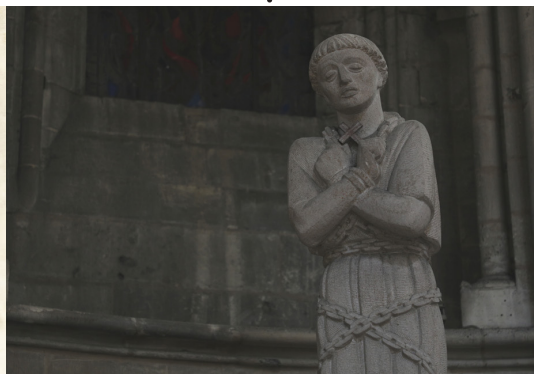
In her canonization, Joan is recognized as holy virgin, however she was also queen and martyr. The canonical grounds for identification of a martyr in hatred of the faith could also be applied to St. Joan. She died on account of hatred towards the divine message that she transmitted. She is martyr of the universal kingship of Christ, as well as of the sacred and divine character of the French monarchy.

The One Remaining Relic

Nothing was left of Joan's body after her death, however Providence had it that one remaining relic was left behind: her ring. During the trial, she was questioned: *"Do you have any rings?"* to which she replied, *"You have one that is mine. Return it."*



Joan's ring ended up in England and 585 years later, the opportunity emerged for it to return to France. Jacques Tremolet de Villers, an expert on St. Joan of Arc, upon discovering that the ring would be put up for auction by *Timeline Auctions*, informed his friend, the founder of *Puy du Fou Theme Park*, who set everything in motion for its reclaiming. It is now conserved in a chapel in the park.





PRESENTED BY

JAVIER PAREDES, Professor of Contemporary History

“She is the most documented figure from the Middle Ages.”

FEATURING



BISHOP MARC AILLET
Diocese of Bayonne, France

“Clovis’ baptism and consecration as King of France are the roots of this unique alliance of God with our nation.”

“Holiness—this is clear in a frail young woman or in the case of the early martyrs—is the strength of God that I receive and that makes me carry out actions that are divine and beyond my own capacities.”



SR. MARIE DE LA
SAGESSE

Author of *Santa Juana de Arco. Reina, Virgen, Mártir*

“From the moment of her yes, after she received this first message from Saint Michael, a shower of graces flooded her soul and the first virtue, we could say, was fidelity: saying yes to God’s will.”



PHILIPPE DE VILLIERS
Founder of “Puy du Fou”
Theme Park

“Before each battle she would kiss the ring. It was a symbol. She was kissing the ring of Saint Catherine, the ring of her voices, the ring of her parents...to invoke aid. For her, the ring was of utmost importance.”



JORGE FERNANDEZ

Former Minister of Internal Affairs, Spain

“The cause made significant headway with the process of beatification and canonization. And yet, I would say it fell short, because she is not only a saint, but also queen, virgin, and martyr. In the decree of canonization she is recognized as virgin, but neither as martyr nor as queen.”



JACQUES TREMOLET DE VILLERS

Lawyer and author of *Jeanna D’Arc: le procès de Rouen*

“Everyone wept along the way, even Bishop Cauchon wept. Everyone was in tears. She completely accepted her martyrdom. She entrusted herself to God and begged forgiveness from everyone, even the English, the judges, and all those who could have been harmed by her.”

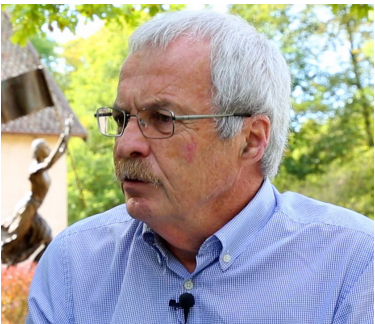


MARGARITA TORRES

Professor of Medieval History

“The people at that time were very simple folk... it was a difficult time and the people needed a sign from Heaven.”

“Joan was a 15th century non-conformist. And it was precisely because of this that she had such a great impact.”



ALAIN OLIVIER

President of the Our Lady of Bermont Association in France

“Her obedience was not lived as oppression, but rather obedience for love.”

“Joan’s juridical process was quite trying. [...] She failed to understand why she was on trial before an ecclesiastical court.”



FR. JACQUES OLIVIER

Author of *Prophéties et prédictions de Jeanne D’Arc*

“Joan received an exceptional mission, exceptional graces, exceptional apparitions. [...] God’s will for her was to obey and Joan did so.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Puy du Fou” Theme Park • President of the Our Lady of Bermont Association • Basilica of St. Joan of Arc, Domremy • Royal Fortress of Chinon • Conseil départemental d’Indre et Loire • Maison Sainte Jeanne d’Arc, Orleans • Fleury Abbey (Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire) • St. Joan of Arc Association, Poitiers • Town Hall of Pont-Saint-Pierre
Carmelites of Compiègne • Carmelites of Bayonne • Benedictines of Montmartre • Franciscans of Cholet • Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Pontmain • Benedictine Monks of the Abbey of Saint Joseph de Clairval • Abbey of Santo Domingo de Silos

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Jacques Boisard

Olivier Bouzy

Anne Tiercelina

Fr. Jean-Pierre Laurent

Damian Sanchez

Isabelle Coquelet

Philippe Levacher

Bernadette Hebert

A.F. Blancher

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“Fear not, the time has come, a time that is pleasing to God and precious in His sight. Now is the moment to spend our efforts. Work and God will act.”

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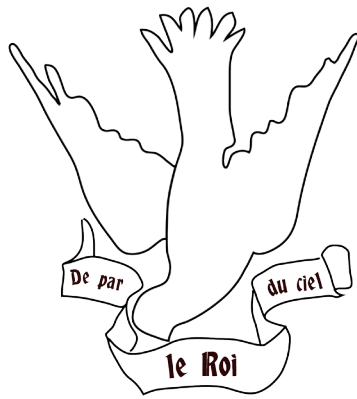
Sr. Miriam Loveland

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Production

May 30th, 2020

Feast Day of St. Joan of Arc



“It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water without price from the fountain of the water of life. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.”

Revelation 21:6-7

