



# The New Saint Martin Church

The idea of building a new, larger basilica-style church to meet the needs of the pilgrimage took shape in 1895 under the impetus of Father Victor LOEVENBRUCK, the new parish priest. The location was chosen so as to be included in the whole: old church, grotto, presbytery and chapel of the Rosary while opening onto the main street of the village. The style chosen was that of the flamboyant neo-Gothic of the churches of the Middle Ages and recalls in particular the cathedral of Saint Etienne and the collegiate church of Saint Gengoult in Toul. This makes it an impressive building for a village of 500 souls. The new church was solemnly consecrated by Monseigneur TURINAZ on August 31, 1897.

## Building

The architect chosen was Mr. ROUGIEUX from Nancy and the CHAIZE company from Verdun was responsible for the construction. The first stone was laid on August 11, 1895. The stained glass windows were entrusted to the company GUERTE le Pont à Mousson. It should be noted that apart from the crosses of consecration, no color appears on the statues or on the walls. Stone is the dominant material, which gives a certain sobriety to the whole building.

The plan adopted is that of the median rectangle, finished on the one hand by an octagonal chevet and at the other end by the projection of the portal and the enclave of the bell tower. Two very narrow side naves adjoin the main vessel, which makes it possible to contain the assistants in the nave and to make the side aisles a clearing aisle or a processional aisle. The main dimensions are approximately 50 meters in total length, 16 meters in width including 8.50 meters between the pillars. The height under the keystone is 17 meters and the windows of the choir reach almost 10 meters in height at the tip of the warhead.

## The nave

On the pillars of the nave, the crosses of consecration are the only polychrome representations. The capitals were sculpted by a pupil of the school of Reims on the model of those of the cathedral St Rémy. The two pillars of the last span have not been sculpted.

On the right is the first memorial to the dead of the 14/18 war. The large stone crucifix was erected to mark the end of the mission preached in 1901. This life-size Christ is a masterpiece of the HUEL workshop, father and son. The expression of suffering of the crucified is particularly well rendered. At the foot of Christ is a bronze lunula with the indication of the indulgences granted by Pope Leo XIII. Facing it is a preaching pulpit, installed in 1930, all in stone, imposing and architecturally interesting by its size and its narrow grip on the ground. The Way of the Cross was made by the PIERSON workshops in Vaucouleurs.

The gallery in which the organ was never installed, for lack of financial means, is lit by a very beautiful rose window in the Gothic style.

Above the side door, a wooden cross and an inscription recalls that on March 13, 1906, during the application of the Law of Separation of Church and State, the parishioners and their priests sustained a siege of almost a day to prohibit access to the church and that the intervention of the army was necessary to force the opening and allow the inventory.

### **The side chapels**

The side chapels are included in the footprint of the choir.

The altar on the left, surmounted by a Virgin and Child, a copy of that of Chartres, was offered by Abbé MIGOT, founder of the pilgrimage, in thanks for his recovery. Under the altar are the relics and the body in wax of a holy martyr from the catacombs of Rome whose name engraved on a marble slab has been transmitted to us: Marguerite. Under the head is the casket of the preserved remains of the martyrdom and the authentic of the bishop sealed with his arms and seals indicating the certain provenance of these venerable remains donated by Pius IX.

The altar on the right is dedicated to St Nicolas, patron saint of the brotherhood of men. Under the altar is the stone recumbent statue of Saint Augustin SCHOEFFLER, a missionary from Moselle Lorraine, martyred, beheaded in Tonkin at the age of 25.

### **The choir**

The stalls, the work of the Nancy cabinetmaker ROUSSELOT, were executed in 1935. The high altar table, made by Maison VALIN in Nancy, is made of Savonnières stone. On the front of the altar is reproduced the Last Supper, in high relief, work of the HUEL workshop. The bronze door of the tabernacle bears, in low relief, the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Above the sacristy door, the Nazareth workshop was sculpted by the HUEL workshop The communion grid is the work of the DROUARD workshop in Baccarat, this master locksmith whose work is particularly brilliant in the Rosary Chapel.

In 1934, 26 statues 1.20 meters high were placed in their niches, ordered from the PIERSON molding workshops in Vaucouleurs. They are: St Peter (prince of the apostles), St Leon (pope), St Charles Boromé (cardinal), St Aurélien (bishop), St Jérôme (father of the Church), St Jean de la Croix, St Etienne (martyr ), St Dominique (founder of the Dominican order), St Sigisbert, St André, St Louis de Gonzague, St Maurice, St Gérard Majella, St Fiacre, St Camille de Lelis, St Hélène (who discovered the true cross), Ste Catherine (virgin and martyr), Ste Claire (foundress of the Poor Clares), Ste Barbe, Ste Madeleine, St Odile (patroness of Alsace), Ste Bernadette Soubirous, Ste Marguerite Marie, St Michel and Moïse.

On the pillars of the choir: St Martin, patron saint of the parish, carved in full stone from Brauvilliers by HUEL and St Vincent, patron saint of winegrowers, work of Arthur PIERRON.

The stained glass windows of the choir damaged by the bombardments of June 1940 and 1944 were replaced in 1952 in a more contemporary style by the glass workshops BENOÎT of Nancy on drawings by the glass painter MARÉCHAL.