



## Roger de VILLIERS

### Sculptor (1887-1958)

A pupil of sculptors Michel-Louis-Victor MERCIER and Victor PETER, he first exhibited at the French Artists' Salon in 1910. After World War One, in which he distinguished himself, he took part again in the same Salon (1920: bronze medal, 1922: silver medal, 1927: gold medal). Heading the Sculpture section of the "Sacred Arts Workshops", he executed many works, one of the most emblematic being the giant statue of the Blessed Virgin, 26.3 ft. high, commissioned for the Vatican pavilion at the International Exhibition in 1937. Towards the end of his life, he created a grandiose work: a life-size Station of the cross, which was transferred to the Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal in Montreal.

He executed several sculptures for the Saint-Nicaise church

#### 1. The low relief on the High Altar

It represents Saint Nicaise carrying his head after his beheading. Unwilling to leave behind the elders and those unable to save the town from the invaders, he was slain by the Vandals. "... As soon as the barbarians had cut off his head, he took hold of it and carried it to the place of his grave". His death was in 407.



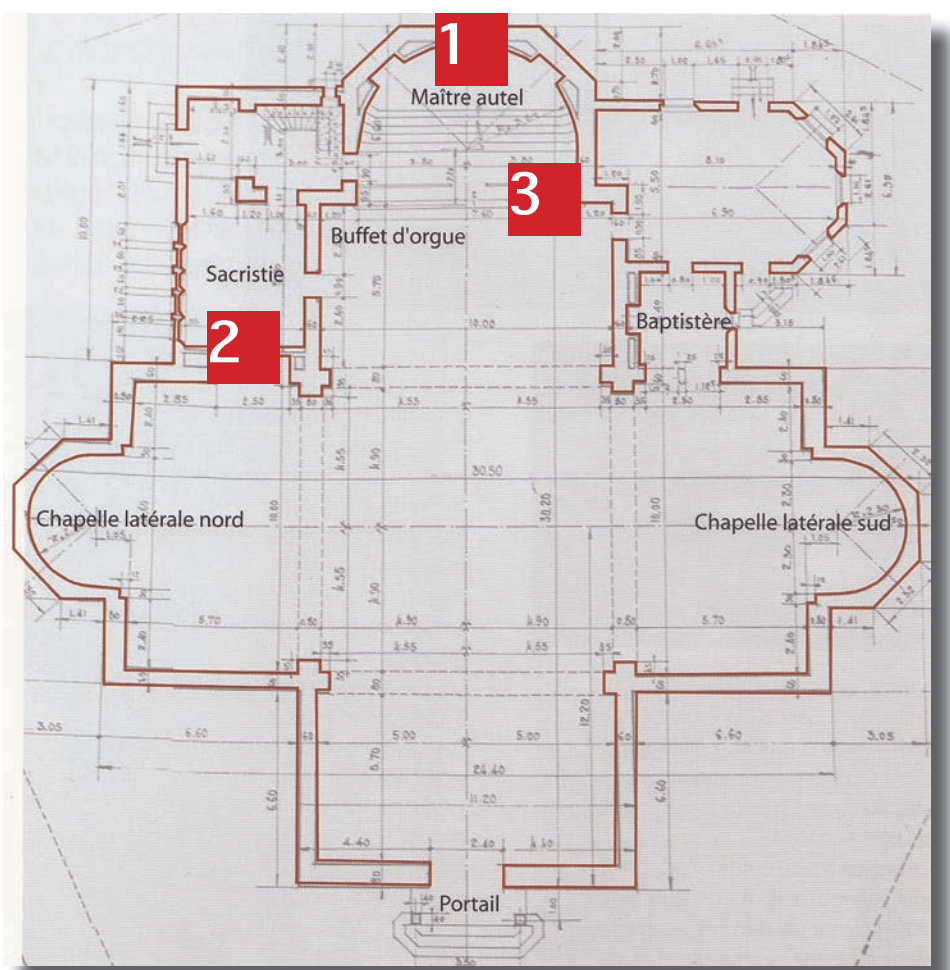
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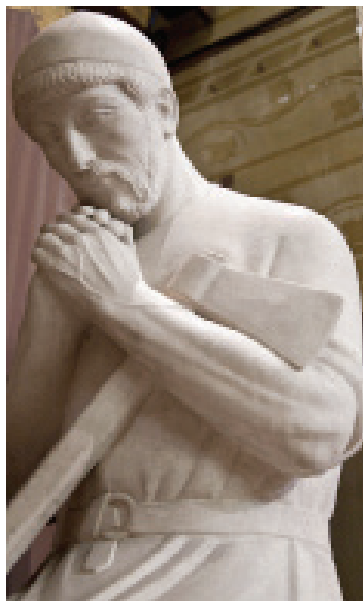
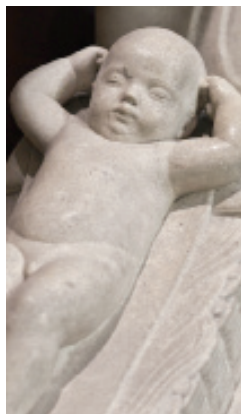
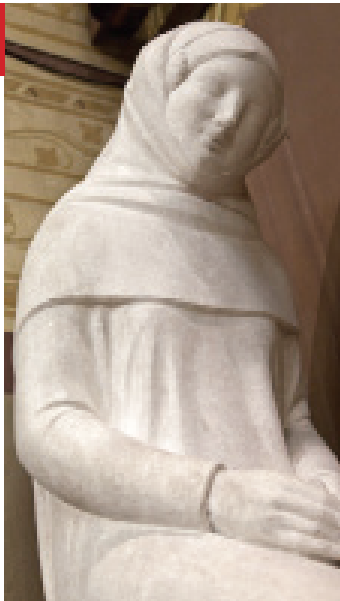
Place of Roger de Villiers's work

### 2. The Nativity group

This very beautiful group, full of tenderness, was originally made of a Madonna and child.

It was on Georges CHARBONNEAUX's request that Saint Joseph was added to the group located on the right side of the North chapel.

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### 3. Joan of Arc

Canonised in 1920, Saint Joan of Arc is a key element in Post-War statuary. Roger de Villiers executed here a work expressing both the frailty and the resolve of the heroine.

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