

## Summary of Rendez-vous Détroit

Rendez-vous Détroit is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase the awareness and appreciation for the rich French Colonial history and heritage of Michigan. The activities we have been involved in include:

1. Annual Detroit French History Tour on the Detroit River
2. Detroit River Story Lab, a collaboration between the University of Michigan and Inland Seas. Rendez-vous Détroit teaches onboard students the history of the early French settlers in the Detroit River Region.
3. Annual French Christmas at the Strait, held at Ste. Anne de Détroit
4. Conducts tours for private individuals, commercial tour groups and school groups, pointing out the French landmarks and discussing the French history and heritage of the Detroit area including Grosse Pointe and Monroe (Frenchtown).
5. Participates in festivals and events around the State of Michigan which pertains to early French history in Michigan. In 2025 participated at Canadiana in Kalamazoo. Past participants at the Feast of the Ste. Claire and River Raisin National Battlefield.
6. Held Rendez-vous cultural events at Ste. Anne de Détroit (2017, 2018, 2019), Historic Fort Wayne 2021, Dossin Great Lakes Museum 2022. Events feature traditional French-Canadian music, dancing, food, heritage and genealogical exhibits.
7. Helped in obtaining a \$15,000 grant from the French Heritage Society to restore the carillon bells in one of the towers at Ste. Anne de Détroit.

Ste. Anne de Détroit was founded by the French in 1701. The current building was erected in 1886 by Detroit's French community and is the last standing landmark of Old French Détroit. For many years the church has fallen into disrepair. Proceeds from our Rendez-vous events have been donated to the church for its restoration.

Several years ago, The Catholic Initiative, funded by the Pulte Family Foundation, took possession of Ste. Anne de Détroit through an innovative transaction made between the Archdiocese of Detroit and The Catholic Initiative.

The Catholic Initiative has since provided \$300 million for the complete restoration and preservation of our ancestral church. Besides Ste. Anne de Détroit, The Catholic Initiative has other projects including supporting an inner-city school in Chicago, a number of missions in Africa and securing ownership of other historic churches so they won't be closed.

On July 24, 2026, Detroit will be celebrating its 325<sup>th</sup> birthday. To commemorate the occasion, Rendez-vous Détroit will be having several celebrations. It is our intent to sell raffle tickets to raise money for The Catholic Initiative as a thank-you for what they have done for our ancestral church which is also a National Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

All proceeds will be donated to The Catholic Initiative. We will be selling the tickets to friends, family, neighbors and colleagues. Buyers will be informed of the raffle's purpose and where the proceeds will be donated.