

## The monument of Peace (5) (inaugurated in 1973)

100 years to the day after the first "ex-voto" (Thanksgiving) of the Basilica, a feast gathered delegations of veterans from Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg and France, who engraved on the monument their thirst for peace and brotherhood.

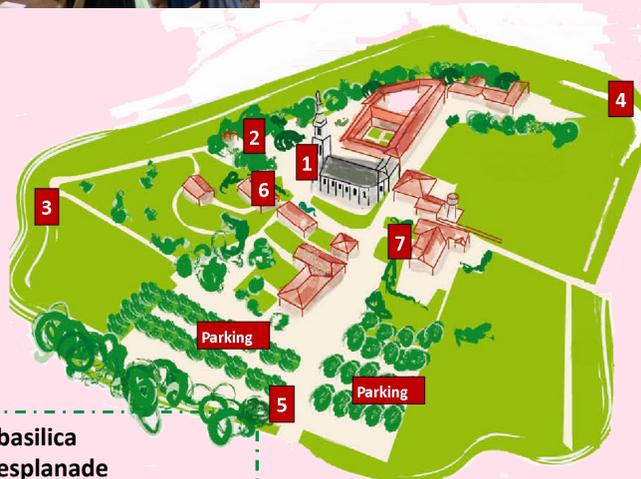
A stone was erected, the word "Peace" written down at the top, as something to reach and ask for. This stone stands up thanks to the laid down stone below, meaning the horizontal dimension of peace, to be always built: "You are all brothers, it only depends on us!"



## The Branch of Sion (6)



A Retreat-Convent in which some Sisters Nuns of the order of St Clare testify to a contemplative life, close to people, deeply rooted in solitude and silence lived in God.



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## The House "Notre Dame" (7)



### Maison Notre Dame

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It is the meeting place of the team of coordinators of the sanctuary. Here, you can find:

- **the reception desk**

- **the shop "Horizons Solidaires"**, which offers fair trade products of craftsmen and small producers from Southern countries; sacred quality objects; products from monastic associations; books, CDs and tapes; postcards of the place; greeting cards...

Tél : 03 83 25 17 15

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### the chapel

It is a place of meditation

## Notre Dame de Sion



### A spiritual shrine for 1000 years

Before our era, the Celts had chosen the hill as a sacred place in honour of Rosmertha, the goddess of fecundity, and Wothan, the god of war.

The Romans, as for them, venerated Mercury there, the god of trade.

Some Christians have lived there from the fifth century, and since the tenth century, with Saint Gérard de Toul, it has been a place dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Later, pilgrimages will develop, under the influence of the earls of Vaudémont, who had become dukes of Lorraine.



Today, the pilgrims' faithfulness keeps on providing a living for the hill of Sion, which carries on with its vocation to be a place of reconciliation for the present man. Thousands of people still climb up the hill, all for many different reasons. Knowing it or not, all are attracted by the peace emanating from this spiritual shrine.



### The basilica (1)

The tower, 45 metres high, is surmounted by a statue (7 metres high) set up in 1871, in honour of Mary Immaculate.



At the centre, the fourteenth century apse inserts in its rib the golden statue of Notre Dame de Sion, "very good Mother, Treasure of the Country, Queen of the Peace and Guardian of the Lorraine".

To the right: the altar of the Holy Sacrament, with, at its side, a visitors' book, where people can write their intentions to Our Lady...



To the left: the altar of "ex-voto" (Thanksgiving) and of Reconciliation, recalling in three cries from the heart the patriotic great moments of the country (in 1873-1920-1946). In 1973 the word "Reconciliation" is sealed, as a hope for Europe to be created.

On the wrought iron gate, you can read the date 1753. It is from Jean Lamour, who made the smart gates of the Place Stanislas in Nancy.



### The chapel of Lights



It was made to burn candles, silent witnesses of the pilgrims' prayers there. Ground, water, fire, sky and nature, represented through a modern and coloured window, join the small unstable flames to thank or call upon Mary.

### The esplanade (2)

In the continuation of the church, under a vault of greenery, this laying-out allows celebrations outdoors during the pilgrimages, grouping together a big number of believers.



### The covered way (3)

A path trimmed with lime trees allows people to make a walk round the plateau. At a height of 450 metres, it also enables people to meditate between the monument Saint Joseph, the Way of the Cross and the Calvary. In the Northeast angle, a viewpoint indicator allows to locate about 80 visible villages... (4)