

BACKGROUND

Mrs. Ford's trip to Wisconsin,
Chapel Dedication to St. Joan of Arc at Marquette University,
April 5, 1976

The chapel dedicated to St. Joan of Arc at Marquette University served the people in the French village of Chasse for more than five centuries. Historians estimate it was built in the 15th century and perhaps prior to that.

It was acquired in 1926 by Gertrude Hill Gavin, daughter of American railroad magnate James J. Hill. It was moved stone by stone in 1927 to Mrs. Gavin's 50-acre estate in Long Island. Reconstruction plans were carried out by John Russell Pope, the architect who planned the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Frick Museum in New York.

In 1962 the Gavin estate became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Marc B. Rojzman, who donated the chapel to Marquette University. The dismantling of the chapel on Long Island began in June 1964 and required nine months. A fleet of trucks, each truck carrying 40 thousand pounds, brought the chapel stones to Milwaukee and reconstruction on the chapel started in July 1965. It was dedicated on May 26, 1966. According to Marquette University, the chapel is the only Medieval structure in the Western Hemisphere dedicated to its original purpose.

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