

Notre-Dame-des-Flots moves from Cancale to Saint-Malo

BISHOP PIERRE D'ORNELLAS blessed the new St Malo catholic secondary school, *Les Rimains-Notre-Dame-des-Flots* (Our Lady of the Sea) on the occasion of its official inauguration on 20 October, in the presence of the sub-prefect and the mayor of Saint-Malo.

Situated quite close to the railway station, close to and in association with the Moka College, the new industrial and maritime secondary is a striking building. This jewel of Catholic education of Ille-et-Villaine proudly proclaims "Notre-Dame-des-Flots" high up on the gable of its facade. It is a very fine realisation.

The fully-equipped lycée opened its doors on 7 September 2007 whereas a firm and definite decision to put it up was only taken one year before, on 6 September 2006.

The Cancale connection

This beautiful building is much more than quickly and skilfully poured concrete. It includes above all a reinforcing element of "flesh" and of history. At first thought, associating "Les Rimains" with Saint-Malo seems out of place, so strong and so long-lasting have been its bonds with Cancale.

They go back to 1837 when the Ploermel Brothers proposed courses of hydrography at the Bel-Air school.



The manor house of Rimains always has a proud appearance. It will no longer serve as a community residence for the brothers or an administrative office for the Rimains.



In 1951 they set up the maritime school of Notre-Dame-des-Flots on the compound of Les Rimains and in 1987 the Technical Secondary of Les Rimains was established on obtaining a contract of association with the State.

It can be said that this maritime specialty and the quality of the teaching given there have given Les Rimains and Cancale a world-wide reputation! So many generations of sailors boast on all the seas of the world of their certificate of professional and human formation.

The grand decision of the Ploermel Brothers

Recently, however, the future of the institution at the Rimains site in Cancale had become questionable. Then the courageous decision of the Ploermel Brothers to break the ties with Cancale for a better site at Saint-Malo can only be greeted with approval. The Brothers could, if they had wanted, have used the proceeds of the sale of the place to strengthen the "Mennaisian network" of their schools around the world but they chose rather to finance themselves three quarters of the new institution at Saint-Malo.

Considering this, the presence of Br Yannick Housse, superior general of the Congregation, was fully justified and welcome at the inauguration of the new lycée on 20 October.



*The solemn moment of the cutting of the ribbon.
Brother Yannick Houssay is present.*

Besides the initial investment, Ploermel appointed Br Rémy Harel to ensure the continuity of the links between the Brothers and the St- Malo lycée. Les Rimains-Notre-Dame-des-Flots and the Institution La-Providence are called to become closer. Their administrations will be merged.

In 2008 they will form only one complementary ensemble as desired by the diocesan direction of Catholic Teaching: "L'ensemble La Mennais". This closer association is already pointed out by the double responsibility of Mme Anne-Marie Carriou Durand who is both head of "Les Rimains-Notre-Dame-des-Flots" and assistant head of "Institution La-Providence".

Forty secondary students volunteer

The statue of Our Lady of the Sea has left the place at Cancale where it had reigned since 1951. It now occupies a place at the main entrance of the new Saint-Malo lycée. This move was not done without feelings of regret for the Cancale people, for the statue was closely linked for them with the protection of their seamen.



The statue of (Notre Dame des Flots) at its departure from Cancale.

The mode of transfer from Cancale to Saint-Malo merits attention: some forty young Rimains volunteered to transport it by sea in a skiff rowed with their own hands over three days!

The first day took them to Notre-Dame-du-Verger where they were met by Fr Yannick Véron, parish priest of Cancale; the second day took them to Pointe de la Garde where Fr Richard Bernier, responsible for pastoral work with the youths, met them. Finally the third stage took them to the Bas-Sablons and the

Duguay-Trouin quay. Then a last walk to the new Station. This was an occasion of hard work but also very often of intense fellowship.

One thing is certain, that transport of Notre-Dame-des-Flots makes it more than ever the symbol of the lycée. These



...stopped at a port ... and eventually in the Bay of St-Malo



young men richly deserved the cheers of the numerous persons present on the occasion of the inauguration on 20 October.

Review: *ACTUALITÉS*: Yves Chavagne.
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