

The Present Chapel of the Mother House

During the construction of the École normale building in 1912-13, a large chapel was built on the first floor of the west wing under the patronage of Our Lady of Schools. This chapel was used until the conversion of this section of the building to house the offices of the Generalate in the mid 1970s. The present chapel is on the second floor along Sherbrooke Street.

The chapel contains numerous works of art. The stained glass windows were created in 1958 by master glass-maker Vincent Poggi for the original chapel. Their theme is inspired by the fifteen mysteries of the life of Jesus, also known as the mysteries of the Rosary. Several of the stained glass windows from the original chapel are there but because of the smaller space they could not all be used.

It also has two statues sculpted of white marble: one of Our Lady of Schools created by artists Balducci and Giacomini in 1915 and one of Marguerite Bourgeoys carved by Vecoli in 1959.

Some of the artwork was created by Sister Cécile Marois (Saint-Gilbert-Marie), CND. Sister Marois created the fourteen traditional stations of the Way of the Cross entirely in mosaic. In 1965 she made the ceramic panels that adorn the altar and the lectern. In 1973 the stand on which the tabernacle rests and the supports of the altar were crafted. These decorative elements create unity in both the medium, ceramic, and the theme, Christ's Redemption. Sr. Marois was born on February 17, 1914, in Saint-Thomas de Montmagny. She made profession on January 25, 1935 and taught at different schools. In 1949, she successfully obtained the diploma from École des Beaux-Arts de Montréal and in 1959 she completed her Master's Degree in Fine Arts at Columbia University, in New York City.

The current chapel of the mother house successfully combines tradition, through the iconography of its colourful stained glass, and modernity, through the lines of the statues and the simplicity of the decor.

