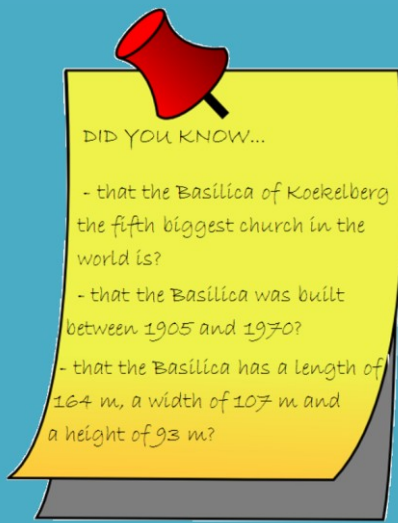


BRENG EEN BEZOEK AAN ONS UNIEK PANORAMA!

VISITEZ NOTRE PANORAMA MAGNIFIQUE!

VISIT OUR FANTASTIC PANORAMA!



A. STAINED GLASS

The first stained glass in the basilica was installed in 1937. The collection of stained glass grew gradually with the construction of the basilica, as the donations of the religious, the Christian organisations and societies followed. The designs were put on carton by ten of the best stained-glass artists who worked in our country halfway the 20th century. The quality of the stained glass is therefore very diverse.

The theme of the stained glass in the apse is the Eucharist and the adoration. In the big nave the life of Jesus is told, as in the galleries the eight salvations, are the subject of the stained glass. Afterwards, stained glass was also put in the side chapels. The most important artists that co-operated are Anto-Carte, Louis-Charles Crespin, Jan Huet,

Michel Martens, Jean Slagmuylder, Maria Verover and Pierre Majerus (pictures).

B. CHAPEL OF THE HOLY MARY

This chapel is dedicated to the Holy Mary. The stained glass windows tell the story of her life. All the stained glass windows in the basilica are a donation, here from the prisoners of war from the camp of Blankenburg.

C. ALTAR AND STATUE OF THE SACRED HEART

Around the altar you can see two symbols which indicate that this church is a Basilica: the



tintinnabulum and the



conopeum.

The bronze statue of the Sacred Heart above the altar was made by Georges Minne. Minne, member of the innovative Belgian group of artists "Les XX" (Les Vingt), also made the bronze calvarie at the outside of the basilica.

D. CHAPEL OF SAINT JOSEPH

The stained glass windows in this chapel tell the story of Saint Joseph. They are a donation from the prisoners of war from the camp of Fishbeck.

E. CLOCKS OF PAUL ROME

This nine clocks represent the members of the family of the engineer-architect Paul Rome. After the death of architect Albert van Huffel in 1935, he became the main architect of the basilica.

F. THE ALTAR OF THE PAPAL ZOUAVES

This altar is a design of Paul Rome, successor of Albert Van huffel.

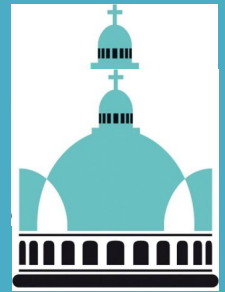
G. CHAPELS

The Basilica has 10 chapels. The chapels refer to the 9 provinces of Belgium and the former colony Congo. The parish uses the chapels at the north side (G), the chapels at the other side (M) are used by the Tourist Office and the radio station Spes.

The parish is still very active. There are daily celebrations, alternating in Dutch and French. In the Saint Georges chapel, there is a permanent worship.

H. THE DOME

The skeleton of the dome is entirely of reinforced concrete. The dome starts from the fourth gallery at 59.10 metres. The outside of the dome is covered with copper and in the interior you can see the finishing with blue terracotta.



The dome weighs 43.000 ton and is carried by four big pillars. Each pillar carries one time the weight of the Eiffel Tower.

I. NATIONAL PART

All the big national celebrations take place here. There is room for more than 2.000 persons.

Above the main altar and the ciborium you can see the big expressionist Calvary surrounded by four angels, designed by Harry Elstrøm. The sculptures of the four evangelists at the outside of the basilica above the narthex are also made by Elstrøm.

J. PANORAMA AND MUSEUMS

At a height of 52,80m, right under the dome of the Basilica, an external gallery allows you to discover a breath-taking view of Brussels and Brabant. On a clear day one can see as far as Mechelen Cathedral and the 'Plan Incliné' of Ronquières. Take two different elevators to the fifth floor.

On your way to the top, you can visit one of our remarkable museums: the Museum of the Black Sisters (every Wednesday from 2 till 4 pm) and the Museum of Modern Religious Art (every Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 2 till 4 pm)!

At the first floor, you can also visit a photo exposition about the construction of the basilica.

K. ROYAL GATE

The Royal gate is only opened to welcome members of the Royal family. The original design was different, but due to a lack of money it was not finished. You can see a maquette of this original design in the photo exposition on the first floor.

L. BAPTISMAL FONT ALBERT VAN HUFFEL

This baptismal font was designed by Albert Van huffel, the architect of the basilica.

Albert Van huffel won the first prize for architecture at the "Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes" in 1925 with his maquette from this master piece of Art Deco. You can still see this maquette at the first floor. Simplicity and geometry were the most important characteristics of his work. Van huffel was looking for a coherent, functional and beautiful aesthetic, in which furniture, decoration and architecture were integrated.

M. SHOP AND TOURIST OFFICE

THANKS FOR YOUR VISIT !!!