

A Tribute to the “Bridges of Caring”

Created by the Grey Nuns

The Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba paid tribute to the foundresses of Manitoba’s health and human service systems – the Grey Nuns – by unveiling a monument on October 16 at the corner of Taché Avenue and Despins Street, on the pedestrian loop between The Forks and Saint Boniface Hospital located near the bank of the Red River.



Designed by artist Madeline Vrignon, the new monument represents a Grey Nun inviting passers-by to reflect on the many contributions of these religious to the fields of education, health care and social services. The City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, the Saint Boniface Hospital Foundation as well as the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba all contributed to the creation of this new space along the Red River.

During the unveiling of the monument, Léo Charrière, the president of the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba, reminded attendees that 2019 was “a very special year” for the Grey Nuns, since the community first arrived at the Red River Settlement on June 21, 1844, 175 years ago.

“We honour the legacy of their contributions in education, health and human services. We also turn to the future since the mission of the Grey Nuns is now in the hands of the many women and men who have taken on the challenge and responsibility for what comes next.”

Monument designer Madeleine Vrignon hopes passers-by will “reflect in serenity on the Grey Nuns legacy”.



“The elongated, slender horizontal band of stainless steel which tapers at its center as it twists upon itself is in the shape of a bridge-like arc. The meeting of both extremities in the center is meant to represent the connections the nuns made with

people, thus creating *bridges of caring*. It also conveys the transfer of the nuns’ works over to the lay communities as it relates to their services in the community, while maintaining the spirit of their work as it carries into the future. The bronze figure representing a nun is meant to be contemplative, thinking what is in store for tomorrow.”



October 16 was also the Feast Day of Saint Marguerite d’Youville, the Grey Nuns’ Foundress. To mark the occasion, a special mass, presided by Albert LeGatt, the archbishop of Saint-Boniface, was celebrated at the Résidence Despins, attended by some on hundred Grey Nuns and lay persons.

To see video coverage by the CTV, [click here](#).

To read a French Radio-Canada article, [click here](#).