

Angel comes in for a landing

A 13-foot sculpture perched on a tower 100 feet above Orleans caps off local church.

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ORLEANS - To Mike Cannon, who frequently catches a few hours in the sun on Rock Harbor beach, it was like the angel suddenly appeared.

"I think it's amazing. I was here last week and I didn't even see it," he said, gazing up at the 13-foot-tall bronze

sculpture on top of the bell tower at the Church of the Transfiguration at the Community of Jesus.

The detailed 4,000-pound angel by sculptress Daphné Du Barry was lifted by crane to the top of the 100-foot-high campanile Friday and bolted to a pre-cast platform. It marks the capstone of a decade of artwork centered on, and in, the church, that began with its dedication in 2000.

"It really was the goal to have all of the art installed

see **ANGEL**, page 12



MERRILY LUNS福德/CAPE COD TIMES

A bronze sculpture of an angel sits on the tower of Church of the Transfiguration at the Community of Jesus in Orleans.

WEATHER

Some sunshine giving way to clouds. High around 67. Rain tonight. /B8

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sculptor artist Cheryl DeLuca works on gelatin-like wounds at Camp Edwards. She says she doesn't mind the 12-hour days that begin at 5:30 a.m. because "we get to save lives."

motivated at work, even with a 5:30 a.m. start time and 12-hour days, said Cheryl DeLuca of

than an hour to suit soldiers and actors with their makeup. "I think our record is 38

officials the true ramifications

real." "That looks completely

Angel: New sculpture watches over Orleans church

from A1

by the 10th anniversary, and with one small exception, we are there," said Chris Kanaga, the community's project manager for construction and artwork.

Except for a few war memorials, Orleans isn't blessed with many public sculptures. Local churches tend to have modest vanes or crucifixes atop their steeples, so the sight of a bronze angel, more than twice the height of a man, hovering above the treeline in a very public spot could have potentially generated some controversy.

The tower, and the community, have been through that before. When it was first proposed, Orleans and Eastham officials objected to the height of the church and tower and asked for the Cane Cod Com-

mission to review the project. A 1993 court settlement between the commission and the community set the bell tower height at 75 feet. But the commission reconsidered after the church architect said the tower and church were out of proportion, and the community asked for an additional 25 feet. In April of 2008, the commission approved the additional height.

Kanaga said Du Barry, who has considerable experience in public sculpture, did a lot of research in scaling the size of the angel to the tower. The figure is intended to represent a passage from the Book of Revelation in which there is an angel for every church, Kanaga said. It depicts the angel as if it has just landed on the roof of the bell tower, its gaze cast downward on the bronze doors of the church.

No one on the Rock Harbor

pier yesterday found any fault with it.

"I haven't any problem with it at all," said Cannon. "It's nice."

Leah Detellis was eating lunch with her son Connor, 2.

"I think of angels as pretty inoffensive," she said. Detellis didn't feel the angel and the church tower were out of scale with their surroundings.

"The tower is barely above the treeline," she said.

Another woman thought the angel gave focus and meaning to the bell tower, which she felt looked incomplete before.

"I would say the tower was unfinished," agreed Kanaga. "It was always intended to have a religious symbol on the tower, but the subject matter was undecided."

The roof for the bell tower was built on the ground. Before it was lifted to the top, a tem-

plate was made of the platform and the bolts that would secure whatever symbol the church chose to install, Kanaga said. When Du Barry, an internationally known sculptress who has done work for the royal family of Monaco and the Vatican, was chosen, that template was shipped to her foundry in Pietrasanta, Italy.

Du Barry first executes a full-size clay sculpture, which is used to make a wax mold. Bronze is poured into the mold, and the statue is stabilized by a stainless steel skeleton. Once finished, the angel was crated and shipped by boat to Boston.

Du Barry will be at the church this Saturday, along with other artists whose works decorate the church, to celebrate the 10th anniversary. The public is invited to speak with the artists, Kanaga said.



ON THE WEB

■ For more information, go to <http://www.communityofjesus.org/flashsite.html>. Click on "Hospitality," then on "Events," and scroll down.

■ To see other works by Du Barry, go to: <http://www.daphne-dubarry.com/en/home/>

Daphné du Barry's sculpture for an Orleans church depicts an angel that has just landed, its gaze cast down on the church doors.