

Krewe de Jeanne d'Arc - Lundi 17 décembre 2018
Eiffel Society - 2040 St Charles Ave, New Orleans.

Discours du Couronnement

Alexandre Vialou

Bonsoir Krewe de Jeanne d'Arc!

Quelle honneur et quelle joie d'être parmi vous ce soir. What an honor and joy to be amongst you tonight. Thanks to the Krewe leadership for the wonderful surprise this has been. Merci Amy, Antoinette & Amanda!

Congratulations to Liz Williams our future Queen Yolande. I've had the chance of knowing Liz almost since I moved to New Orleans 10 years ago. Liz is a true and strict champion of New Orleans culinary culture, which as we all know has some strong French connection.

Bravo to our new Maid Jeanne d'Arc which we all know we will be able to count on to successfully lead us on our upcoming parade.

Krewe de Jeanne d'Arc rightfully highlights the extraordinary accomplishment of an ordinary woman. As residents of **La Nouvelle-Orleans - La - Nouvelle-Orleans**, every year we look forward to the feminine comparison of our city with Jeanne d'Arc. How her faith in her actions led to victory. It inspires all of us to lead and be vehicle of positive change.

But as your future Charles VII, I would like to suggest a few other parallels that we share today with the times of Jeanne d'Arc. Charles wasn't known for his actions and sometimes New Orleans itself doesn't act with the sense of urgency we believe is needed. But Charles VII was in some fashion embodied with another type of faith. The faith that France would reclaim the territories it had lost during the course of the 100-year war. Well it was almost 100 years ago that a war on the French language was waged here in Louisiana. In 1919 it became strictly forbidden to educate

our children in French. As we all know this is luckily no longer the case and every year record numbers of students in New Orleans are getting their education in French.

Earlier this year New Orleans signed a sister city agreement with the City of Orleans. And true to the name of Jeanne d'Arc, it was a delegation of Krewe de Jeanne d'Arc that first represented our city and acted on this twinning agreement. Here you go Krewe de Jeanne leading the way once again for all us here in New Orleans!

But we are at the same time a bit like Charles VII not knowing what to do two months now from the official joining of Louisiana to the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*. That news came pretty much out of nowhere like a gift from God. We don't quite know what to do with it or what will come out of it. But with that same sense of destiny that embodied Charles VII, we have that feeling that things will fall right into place.

I have been fortunate to work in the field of urban planning. Everyday I am reminisced of the work that has been achieved to rebuild our city in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the work that remains to be done to make our city more equitable, more resilient. Lest not forget that the ideals that we aspire for our city, are also ideals championed by the francophone world, especially the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* which has member states all over the world that share some of the same challenges we have in terms of adaptation to climate change or wealth distributions for instance.

Few carnival groups have such a resonance into our City's actual strengths and challenges. So when we celebrate our own connection to the francophone world with that faith that we know it is the right thing to do, I truly believe that we are making our entire city better.

Vive La Nouvelle-Orléans, vive le carnaval, et vive Krewe de Jeanne d'Arc.