Religious Rites to Cap Opening of Bicentennial

By Joe McGinnis
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BOSTON - The opening ceremonies of the Boston Bicentennial were marked by a solemn religious rite in the Church of the Presidents and a symbolic lighting of the first of three bonfires in the Boston Commons. The event was part of the kickoff of the bicentennial celebrations.

The religious service took place in the Church of the Presidents, a historic building that served as the headquarters of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The service included a reading of the Declaration of Independence and a prayer for the nation.

Following the service, the first of three bonfires was lit in the Boston Commons. The bonfires were intended to symbolize the light of knowledge and the spirit of discovery.

The bicentennial celebrations are set to continue throughout the year, with a variety of events and activities planned to commemorate the 200th anniversary of American independence.

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The religious rites of the Acadians in Canada are rich and varied. They are conducted in French and reflect the cultural heritage of the region. The services are led by priests, who are usually bilingual, able to conduct the service in both French and English.

The Canadian Council for the Church and the Environment (CCCE) has been working to support these religious practices, encouraging the use of environmentally friendly materials and techniques in the construction of new churches and the renovation of existing ones.

The CCCE has also been advocating for the protection of the natural environment around religious sites, recognizing the spiritual and ecological benefits of these areas.

Many of these churches are located in rural areas, where the Acadian community has a strong presence. The services include a variety of elements, such as music, dance, and traditional Acadian songs.

In addition to the regular services, special events are held throughout the year, such as the Festival of Lights, which takes place in the winter months.

The religious calendar is rich with events, including the celebration of the feast of Saint-Jean Baptiste, which is the Acadian version of the feast of John the Baptist.

The French-speaking population in Canada is diverse, with many different communities and traditions. The Acadian religion is just one of the many cultural expressions that make up the rich tapestry of Canadian society.