

Mandela's niche in New York



CARVED IN STONE: Stoneyard manager Eddie Pizzaro carves likeness of Mandela battling a snake symbolic of apartheid.

Nelson Mandela, carved in stone, will occupy a special niche in New York.

A portrait of the South African anti-apartheid fighter will go up in the south tower of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine at Amsterdam Avenue and West 112th Street.

The labor of love was decided on by the

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church's staff of stoneyard managers — some 16 young people, mostly from Harlem and the South Bronx — who are learning the craft as part of a job-training program.

It took Emmanuel Fourchet, working under

the eye of stoneyard manager Eddie Pizzaro, a month to finish the 12- by 18-inch limestone likeness of Mandela battling a snake, which is symbolic of apartheid.

Thomas Paul Gorman, vice president for public affairs for the cathedral, said the carving is expected to be erected next year.

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