



THE FRIEND OF BROTHER ANDRÉ

United to promote Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal!

SUMMER 2017

Gathering Opportunities

Sunday Concert

15:30, in the basilica
Cultures in Spring Series
May 7 to June 25
Cathedral Music Series
July 2 to October 29

Saint Joseph Likes Montreal

New exhibition at the Oratory Museum
May 28, 2017 to April 2, 2018

Pilgrimage of the Haitian Community

Solemn Mass
Sunday June 25, 17:30, basilica

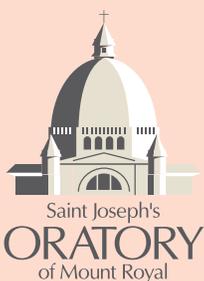
August: the Month of Saint Brother André

Many activities to celebrate!
More details on page 6

Sunshine and Music

New activity!
Musical performances on the terrace at sunset. Free
Wednesday evenings in August and September (weather permitting)

www.saint-joseph.org



Development Project: Lots of Work Behind the Scene!

The necessary preparations for the major development project are well under way. Since the beginning of the year, several projects have been carried out so that the shrine will be ready to welcome pilgrims and visitors during the construction work.

Already, away from the spotlight, work has been going on inside the space previously occupied by the Oratory Museum. The exhibition halls of the Oratory Museum will now be neighbouring an area set aside to receive and assist visitors, (currently installed at the Pilgrim Services Centre). There will be a café-restaurant, serving drinks and light meals, and the Oratory's main gift shop will have a spacious and functional room.

When that time comes, this is where the main entrance and the reception and information desk will be relocated. Rest rooms and lockers have also been set up for Oratory staff and volunteers.

Our people are currently working to finalize all the preliminary steps to launch a major project – plans and specifications, consultation and approval process, call for tenders, etc. – but also to properly plan for the continuation of our activities within the context of our present services. Never doubt that our mission of welcoming is the priority of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal and its great development project is a valuable tool to ensure its sustainability.



Photo: Samuel Martin

Reopening of the Oratory Museum

The Oratory Museum has been closed for a few months to allow the redevelopment of its new exhibition halls and the reorganization of its impressive storage facilities. The Museum's team is now preparing for the new exhibit entitled "Saint Joseph Likes Montreal," which will open on May 28, in connection with Montreal Museums Day.

A Place of Prayer to Honour Saint Joseph

Brother André had long wished for a place of prayer dedicated to Saint Joseph to be erected on Mount Royal. His wish would be fulfilled step by step. How a movement of prayer gave birth to a great shrine.

A Little Chapel

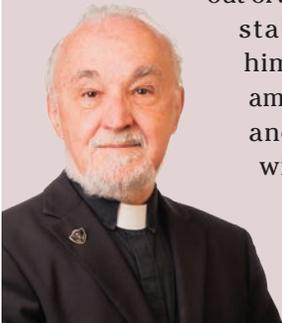
First, around 1900, there was a niche on the mountain containing a statue of Saint Joseph, and then in 1904, a small chapel that was open during the summer. In there was an altar to celebrate the Eucharist and, as it should, a beautiful statue of Saint Joseph.

Crowds, increasingly numerous, came to meet Brother André; he invited them to confide in Saint Joseph: “Ite ad Joseph.” The little oratory soon became inadequate to meet the needs of the pilgrims. It had to be enlarged three times but it was still not enough.

A Larger Church is Necessary

Ten years after the inauguration of the first chapel, the construction of a larger, more permanent church was needed. This great dream would soon become reality. The plans for a new church were prepared and, as early as 1915, the labourers started working. The construction of the crypt church was completed in December 1917.

During the last twenty years of his life, Brother André prayed out of sight in the choir stall assigned to him in the church, among his brothers and also mingled with the pilgrims.



Father Claude Grou CSC
Rector

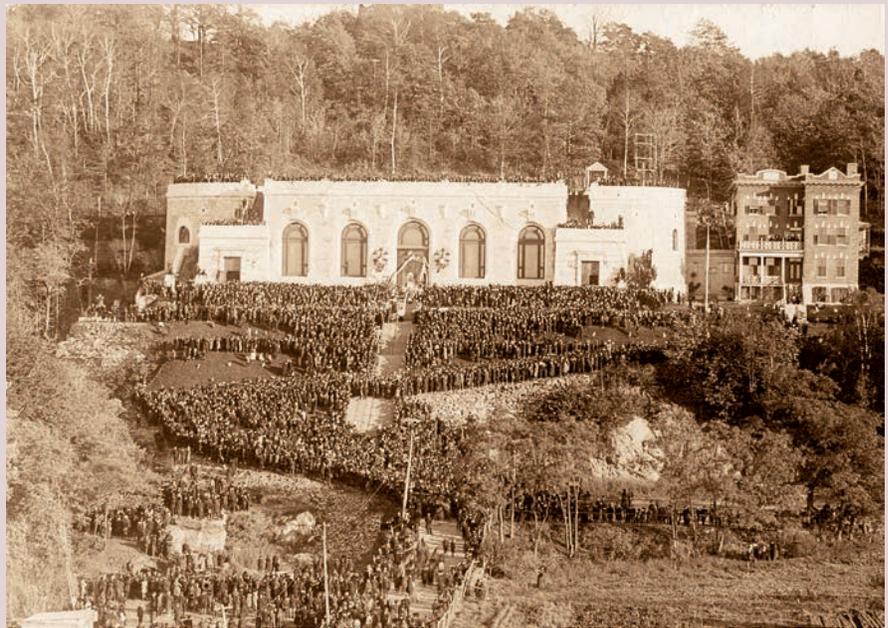


Photo: Archives OSJ

This is also where he prayed the Way of the Cross with his friends. A large statue of Saint Joseph, sculpted in marble in Italy, towers above the high altar reminding us of the place of honor of Saint Joseph at the very heart of this place of prayer. In the *Annales de Saint-Joseph*, the author of the *Chronique de l'Oratoire* speaks of this new crypt as “a stone poem that will henceforth hymn the glory of God and the virtues of Saint Joseph” (February 1918, page 57).

A Heritage of Living Faith

The pilgrims of today, who come to recollect themselves and entrust their prayer intentions to Saint Joseph and to Saint Brother André, keep alive the legacy of faith that has stirred in this place for a hundred years. They come from different countries of the world and express their devotion in

their language and culture. The ways of speaking to the Lord and praying to Saint Joseph may have changed, but the fervor that animates the pilgrims, their confidence in Saint Joseph and his holy friend Brother André remain unshakeable.

**“This monument is...
a stone poem
that will henceforth
hymn the glory of God
and the virtues
of Saint Joseph.”**

Annales de Saint-Joseph,
February 1918

You Are Living Stones!

At Saint Joseph's Oratory on Mount Royal, a meeting place with God, we find peace and comfort. The builder's dream of Brother André is stronger than ever. His unshakable faith, which he has left us as a legacy, is stronger than fear; his desire to serve, more powerful than obstacles; his praying hands, more effective than anything. His passion to glorify Saint Joseph is still alive among us.

Gifts from Saint Joseph

All the faithful, the volunteers, the people who came to meet him, he received as gifts from Saint Joseph. He welcomed them with an open heart, comforted them, healed them and made visits to them. All the stones of the Oratory speak of their presence and their love for Saint Joseph. The crutches, the ex-votos testify to the numerous destitute and poor who were healed. To those struggling with family and social problems, he brought comfort and compassion. Brother André welcomed them with an attentive ear.

Since the beginning of the shrine, the services rendered by volunteers have always been an important contribution to the mission of Brother André. Even today, many volunteers regularly lend a hand at Saint Joseph's Oratory. Others support the work by their offerings. They see the Oratory as their second home: a resting place for the soul, a place of homecoming, a



Photo: Samuel Martin

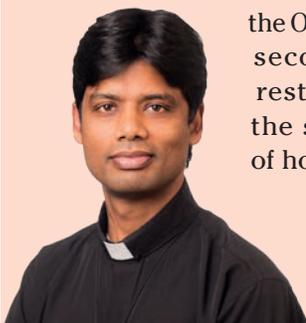
Some volunteers of Saint Joseph's Oratory in company of Ms. Michaëlle Obone and Father Jérôme José, CSC.

place of friendship with God. They work by praying and in this work, they are helping thousands of pilgrims in their spiritual journeys that lead them to meet Saint Joseph and Saint André. They are the living stones of the Oratory.

In celebrating the legacy of Brother André, we give thanks to the Lord for all those who have given the best of themselves to bring to reality this legacy. Through your financial support, you are also part of these living stones that contribute to his devotion to Saint Joseph, and enable its development to continue. The Oratory's major construction project, which will begin shortly, will serve to better welcome all pilgrims, especially the sick and those having problems, who seek comfort and support from Saint Joseph.

Let us be proud to be able to contribute to the development of the home of Saint Joseph here and ask him to accompany us with his protection in our everyday life.

Through your financial support, you are also part of these living stones that contribute to his devotion to Saint Joseph, and enable its development to continue.



Father Thomas Xavier Gomes, CSC
Co-Director of the Associates of Brother André

Grand Associates proud to support the Oratory

Gertrude and Jean-Pierre Beauchemin joined the ranks of the Grand Associates last March, motivated by a desire to promote Saint Joseph's Oratory and contribute to its effective good works. "Brother André's mission must be spread throughout the world and for this reason, administrators need the financial support of benefactors who believe in this work," they said enthusiastically.

"As a native Montrealer, coming from a family of practicing believers who went to Saint Joseph's Oratory at least twice a year, we asked for Brother André's help when there were difficulties," said Gertrude. She has many memories of these visits, including the image of the pilgrims who, to obtain a favour, climbed the steps on their knees. "There were also all the proofs (ex-votos) of the healings in which Brother André was intimately involved," said Gertrude. She remembers one of the first Masses in which she participated in the basilica, "I was very impressed by its sheer size!"

For his part, Jean-Pierre grew up in the countryside, in the middle of Quebec, in a family of seven children. He confided, "My mother told us about Saint Joseph's Oratory and Brother André. We prayed to him for healing." But it was not until June 2015 that he came here for the first time. "We had a guided tour of the Oratory," explains Jean-Pierre. "As I



Photo: Samuel Martin

Gertrude and Jean-Pierre Beauchemin with Father Claude Grou, CSC, Rector of Saint Joseph's Oratory at the reception for the Grand Associates on March 19 2017.

am handicapped, I was able to take advantage of the facilities that aided my movement on the site. Thanks to these services, I could see the entire Oratory; pray in front of the tomb of Brother André as well as in the basilica."

A work based on faith

According to the couple, the canonization of Brother André in 2010 not only marked the life of the shrine, but also opened new paths of faith. "Since Brother André's canonization," they said, "it is as if one of our own relations could intercede with the Father to help

us accept what is happening to us and to help us put all our effort in moving forward with confidence and hope."

"Saint Joseph's Oratory will always be an important place of worship and pilgrimage for Quebecois and tourists," said Mr. and Ms. Beauchemin. "The Oratory is a work of faith. As long as there are religious, believers and benefactors to continue the mission of Brother André, to make it known and to maintain it, we dare to hope that it will continue to exist as long as possible," the Grand Associates' couple concluded on an optimistic note.

THANK YOU to each and every one of you for your interest and the many gifts you regularly send to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount-Royal!

The generosity you manifest toward the Oratory helps maintain, expand and develop the work founded by Saint Brother André.

Nincheri's Art given to the Oratory

The Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal Museum was proud to welcome a trio of exceptional works to its collection a few weeks ago. The Religious of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul in Quebec City offered three stained glass windows to the Oratory, featuring Saint Joseph, created by the master glass-maker Guido Nincheri. Renowned Montreal artist, Nincheri created frescoes, paintings and stained glass windows that decorate more than 200 churches throughout North America.

A gift of art works with a great value

The gift of these art works is important for the Oratory, in particular because Saint Joseph is venerated here. The three stained glass windows form a set created in 1964 for the Church of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul in Quebec City. Each of the panes measures 81 inches high by 34 inches wide. The artist depicts three historic milestones in the devotion to Saint Joseph in our country.

The window "*Canada, Dedicated to Saint Joseph*" represents the Recollect priest Father Joseph Le Caron and the inhabitants of New France in 1624 when Saint Joseph was proclaimed patron of the country and protector of the emerging Church. Another shows Pope John XXIII in 1962; he added the name of Saint Joseph to the Canon of the Mass. Finally, a third window

entitled "*World-wide Centre of Devotion to Saint Joseph*" portrays an image of the basilica of the Oratory whose many architectural details are reproduced with impressive accuracy. The artist integrated into all three subjects Saint Joseph with glorious rays probably inspired by the statue in the crypt church of the Oratory.



Photo: © Daniel Abel-Photographe-Québec

For safeguarding our heritage

This donation contributes to the preservation of Quebec's religious heritage. More than once, moreover, this religious community have taken care to save our patrimonial goods from harm. When Saint-Vincent-de-Paul parish was dissolved in 1988, its church bells were offered to Our Lady of the Cape Shrine and its windows were installed in the chapel of the congregation's scholasticate. Last winter, following the sale of the building on Chemin Sainte-Foy, the stained glass panes were removed from the windows so that they might find light from other skies.

The personnel of the Oratory Museum made a concerted effort to procure these works. The public will be able to admire them this summer as part of the new exhibition entitled "*Saint Joseph Likes Montreal*."

This gesture of the Religious of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul is praiseworthy. In the name of art, thank you!



Keep in touch with the Oratory throughout the year thanks to our monthly newsletter!

Register on our website: www.saint-joseph.org



Photo: Sarah Seené

Our intern at the Roland-Gauthier Archives Centre with archivist David Bureau.

Montréal Relève

Again this year, Saint Joseph's Oratory will participate in the career exploration internship program for high school students, *Montréal Relève*, set up by the Chamber of Commerce for metropolitan Montreal and the city of Montreal. In 2016, our intern was able to explore the fields of museology, communications, archiving, store management and fundraising. (Sébastien Côté)



Photo: Samuel Martin

Saint Brother André in the spotlight!

Once again this summer, the month of August will offer activities that will honour Saint André, founder of the Oratory. On Wednesday, August 9, his birthday, all the friends and benefactors of the Oratory are invited to a Eucharistic celebration to give thanks for the life of Alfred Bessette. In the evening, *Sunshine and Music* will be presented on the terrace. On Sunday, August 13, Brother André, patron of home caregivers, will be celebrated with the special participation of caregivers. The annual pilgrimage to Brother André's birthplace will be held on Sunday, August 27 in Mont-Saint-Grégoire, including mass, meal and prayer at the memorial.

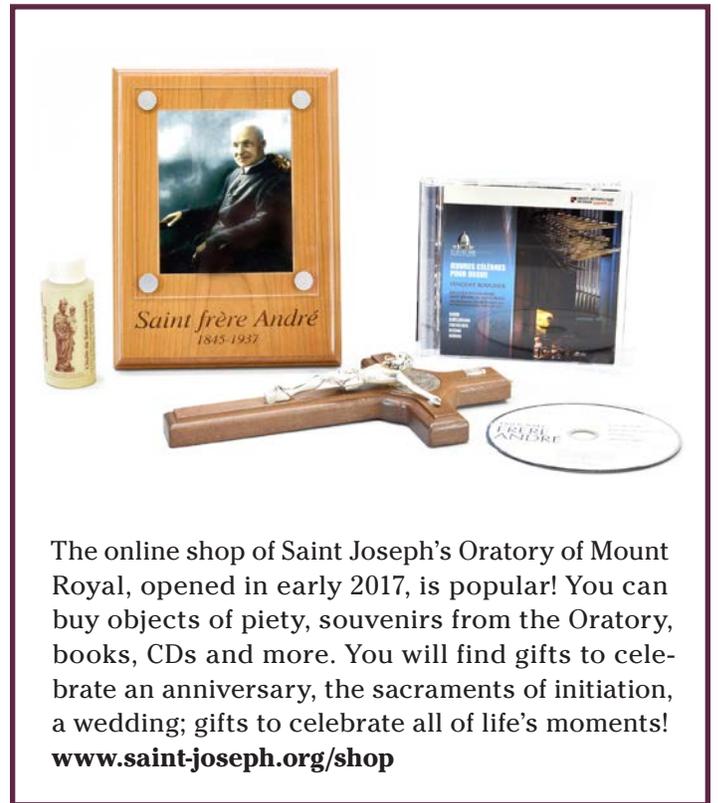
Information and reservations: 514 733-8211, ext. 2790 or pelerinage@osj.qc.ca. Visit our website for full schedule details.



Photo: Nathalie Dumas

Sunshine and Music

For the first time this year, musical performances will be offered in the evening on the terrace of the Concourse Hall; a beautiful view of the city at a beautiful time of the day. Full schedule details of the new *Sunshine and Music* Series will be published on our website: www.saint-joseph.org. **Wednesday evenings in August and September** (weather permitting).



The online shop of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, opened in early 2017, is popular! You can buy objects of piety, souvenirs from the Oratory, books, CDs and more. You will find gifts to celebrate an anniversary, the sacraments of initiation, a wedding; gifts to celebrate all of life's moments! www.saint-joseph.org/shop