



# THE FRIEND OF BROTHER ANDRÉ

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

## Opportunities for a Shared Experience

New exhibit

*Dom Bellot, Master Builder for Saint Joseph*

until October 13, 2014

## Carillon Recitals: An Enchanted Air

Sundays at 2:30 PM

**June 29:** Roy Lee, Toronto (Ontario)

**July 13:** Jonathan Lehrer, Vancouver (British Columbia)

**July 27:** Andrée-Anne Doane, Montréal (Quebec)

**August 10:** Andrée-Anne Doane and David Doane, Montréal (Quebec)

## The Great Romantics

from June 1 to August 31

Organ concerts on Sundays at 3:30 PM in the Basilica

## August: the month of Saint Brother André

**Saturday, August 9: Thanksgiving**

**Masses on the birthday of Brother André**  
Free admission to the Oratory Museum

**Sunday, August 10:** Festivities with music and surprises!

**Sunday, August 31:** Annual Pilgrimage to Mont-Saint-Grégoire

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Visit our website for complete information about our programming

[www.saint-joseph.org](http://www.saint-joseph.org)



Saint Joseph's  
**ORATORY**  
of Mount Royal

## Restoring a "Marble-ous" Jewel

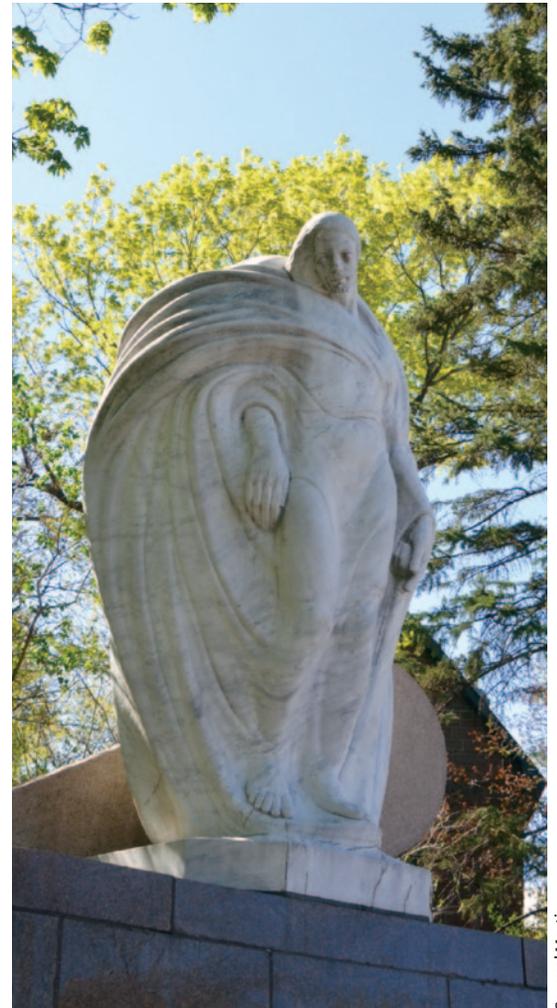
The majestic monument of the Resurrection at the end of the Way of the Cross outside Saint Joseph's Oratory will be restored during the month of May. The marble statue is showing noticeable cracks as well as surface residue caused by micro-organisms and pollution. This work, of vital importance to our religious and artistic heritage, will be restored by the Centre de conservation du Québec.

The cracks in the material are the result of seasonal temperature changes and humidity. The restoration work will include sealing with lime to replace older epoxy seals. In addition, low-pressure washing with water will remove black mould stains on the area of the work that is in the shade, under the branches of a neighbouring tree.

This work is a continuation of last year's repairs to the pedestal of the huge 3.9 m (12 foot) statue and the red granite ledge behind it.

This artwork depicts Christ in the glory of his Resurrection, standing tall, arising from his open tomb. An expression of life stronger than death, the monument overlooks the stations of the via dolorosa that illustrate the Passion of Jesus.

This Way of the Cross, a truly monumental ensemble, comprising 42 characters, was conceived and modelled in a studio at the Oratory by Montreal artist Louis Parent, between 1943 and 1953. The sculptures were then realized by Ercole Barbieri between 1952 and 1958. "The Resurrection" was fashioned in white Carrara marble, while the other statues were carved out of Indiana limestone.



Samuel Martin

Since the spring of 1959, the sculpture of the risen Christ has been the crown jewel of the Gardens of the Way of the Cross. It asserts its presence, while yet inviting the viewer to recollection. Help us take care of this jewel of our religious heritage! ■

Nathalie Dumas

## Essential Support

On May 1, 2002, some thirty members of the Rector's Group met for the first time at Saint Joseph's Oratory. This group had been created a few months earlier to acknowledge the contribution of benefactors who donated \$1,000 or more per year to the Oratory.

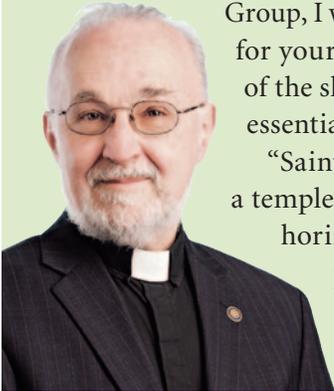
In his discourse on May 1, 2004, Father Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, summarized the role of this group in these words, "As I welcome you into the Rector's Group, I would like express my gratitude for your support for the development of the shrine and its pastoral vision so essential for our world."

"Saint Joseph's Oratory has become a temple that draws people from every horizon. It is our responsibility to promote and preserve this place of freedom, encounter and peace. Thanks to your support,

Brother André's dream is nurtured, progresses and grows," he told the members.

Continuing his observation, he said, "More than ever, we need places like Saint Joseph's Oratory. The mission of a shrine is to welcome and provide respect and free time to reflect, pray, petition and give thanks." This reflection on the Oratory's position is just as relevant today.

Twelve years after it was founded, this group, which includes more than 300 members, continues to grow and play an essential part in supporting the mission of Saint Joseph's Oratory. This year once again, under the auspices of Saint Joseph the Worker, the meeting of the Rector's Group was an occasion to thank each and every member and to strengthen the ties between us. Although the Oratory is the work of God, it has always been realized thanks to the commitment and generosity of men and women inspired by Saint Brother André's dream. ■



Maxime Boisvert

*FATHER CLAUDE GROU CSC, RECTOR*

## The Strength of a Large Family of Benefactors

From the very beginnings of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, Saint Brother André surrounded himself with faithful friends. With their support, he was able to build the small chapel in 1904, complete the crypt in 1917, and begin construction of the basilica in 1924.

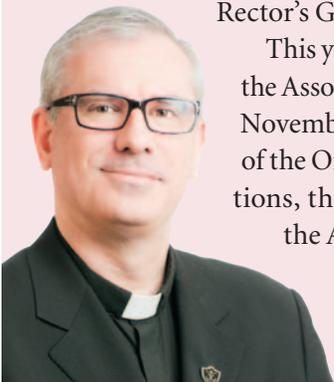
In 1954, upon the initiative of Father Émile Deguire, CSC, Saint Joseph's Oratory created a recognition program that today includes the Associates of Brother André, the Grand Associates of Brother André and the Rector's Group.

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Associates of Brother André! It was on November 20, 1954, during the triduum of the Oratory's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, that the first official gathering of the Associates of Brother André was held during a ceremony presided over by Bishop Panico, Apostolic Delegate to Canada.

During his speech, the dignitary said, "Very dear Associates of Brother André, count on the importance of your gift no matter what its size. It is important, not only for its material value, but even more because it shows the spirit of generosity and religion that impelled the builders of cathedrals. It is important because it demonstrates that you place your steps in the footprints of Brother André..."

The Associates of Brother André are known for their willingness to work together to ensure the Oratory has the human and financial resources it needs to operate. Thanks to their support, the Oratory can develop its pastoral services and upgrade its site to accommodate over two million pilgrims and visitors every year. Their support makes all the difference!

Being part of Saint Joseph's Oratory's large family is a matter of pride that is handed down from one generation to the next. You are most welcome! ■



Maxime Boisvert

*FATHER MARIO LACHAPPELLE CSC, DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATES OF BROTHER ANDRÉ*

## Your Will: Your Final Testimony

**I**t is not entirely easy to write one's will in a way that truly reflects one's final wishes. Because it will be your final testimony to what is important to you and a way to pass on your values through the inheritance you leave, it is important to take the time to prepare it and, if necessary, consult a professional.

It can be very difficult to choose the words that will let your wishes be known in legal terms.

*Should I choose a particular bequest or a universal bequest? And should my life insurance policy specify a revocable or irrevocable beneficiary? Should it be mentioned in my will or only in my insurance contract?*

### Mr. Jean's Example

To help you understand, I will tell you about a donor to the Oratory whom we will call "Mr. Jean" for the sake of anonymity.

Mr. Jean tells me that he has just prepared his will using a format called "Laws of England," which means before witnesses. He did not consult a legal expert beforehand.

In his will, Mr. Jean made a particular bequest to Saint Joseph's Oratory for the amount of \$5,000. In addition, he named his niece universal beneficiary of all his movable and immovable property and named her executor of his estate. His will is written as follows: "I bequeath by particular title the amount of \$5,000 to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal and I name my niece, Mrs. . . . . ., as my universal beneficiary and the executor of my estate."

*In legal jargon, a universal legacy gives one or several people the right to take the entire estate. In the case of a particular beneficiary, the person is only entitled to the specific good that was bequeathed in the will and this, whether is it a specific amount or a specific item.*

To get back to Mr. Jean, he told me that he has no assets, no property, no investments; the only asset he will leave upon his death is the insured amount of \$25,000 on his life insurance policy. He stated that his will declares that the Oratory will receive \$5,000. He also mentioned, "My niece will have to respect my final wishes." In talking with him, I saw that this bequest to the Oratory was very important to Mr. Jean. Without going into details, he told me, "I went through some very difficult, dark times in my life. And it is because of Saint



Brother André that I was able to get through them and that I am here today. I want to show him my gratitude and, in a way, help him continue his mission."

### Check Your Life Insurance

At Mr. Jean's request, I checked his life insurance policy and I see that he has named his niece "irrevocable" beneficiary. Under these circumstances, it should be pointed out that the life insurance policy is separate from the will and the estate's assets. His niece would not be required to take \$5,000 from the amount insured to pay a specific bequest. She might have a moral obligation but she would not be legally bound to do it. Mr. Jean is stunned. He looks at me and says, "So all I have to do is just add the Oratory as a benefactor at 20% to my insurance policy."

I explain to him that he will need written approval from his niece if he wants to make such a change because she has been designated as his "irrevocable" beneficiary. Mr. Jean tells me,



If you have any questions, or to learn more about your options to make a planned gift to the Oratory, feel free to contact me, there is no obligation on your part and our conversation will remain confidential.

Many thanks to all for your support! ■



Richard Gingras

**Claudia Côté, B.A., LL.L.**

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Director, Program for Planned Giving  
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Follow me on the web for other planned giving posts at the following address:  
**CotcClaudia.blogspot.com**

“I am confident my niece will agree; she knows how much I suffered and how important it is for me to make this gesture toward the Oratory in recognition of the favours obtained through Saint Brother André.”

Fortunately for the donor, he is right about his niece and she agrees to the change. Unfortunately, some people do not understand these nuances and upon their death things do not always go according to their wishes. Ambiguity in the wording of a will can even result in disagreements between the heirs and the beneficiaries.

When in doubt, I advise you to consult a legal expert when making your will or signing a life insurance contract. In this way, you will be sure that your last wishes have been written out clearly and legally so they can be carried out. Your personal values will be clearly passed on to your near ones and heirs, according to your wishes.

**Thinking of becoming  
an Associate of Brother André?**

Why not do it today!

You will join a unique group filled with fellowship in the spirit of Saint Brother André.

One phone call is all it takes!

**514 733-8211**

or **www.saint-joseph.org**



## Tribute to Father Gilles Labelle, CSC

We were saddened to learn of the death of Father Gilles Labelle, CSC, on January 31, 2014. He was Vice-Rector for Pastoral Ministry at Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal between 1995 and 2005. Father Labelle will be remembered as a good man, a man who brought people together and listened to his staff. He knew how to encourage and praise employees with heartfelt words and thoughtful acts.

Gilles Labelle, CSC died at the age of 77. He had taken his vows in the Congregation of Holy Cross at the age of 22, on August 16, 1958 and was ordained a priest on September 23, 1961. After studying theology, education and pastoral ministry, he was assigned to a number of positions. Within his community, he was in charge of some residences of religious, Director of Formation, Assistant Provincial Superior, Vice-Rector of the Oratory and Provincial Secretary. He also wor-

ked as an educator in the Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil for more than 16 years where he showed himself to be a compassionate man, always there for those who were having the most difficulty.

At the funeral, held in the Oratory crypt church on February 7, Father Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, Canadian Provincial Superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross stated, "All through his life, Gilles felt the need to create bridges, to promote dialogue between youth, adults, parents, and personnel in school, at the Oratory, and in his religious province."

Gilles Labelle, CSC, walked before God, and also enjoyed hiking. In an article published in *The Oratory magazine* (November-December 2001), he shared his love of hiking on the mountain, "Upon clearing the final obstacles, and having caught our breath, the summit began to appear through the



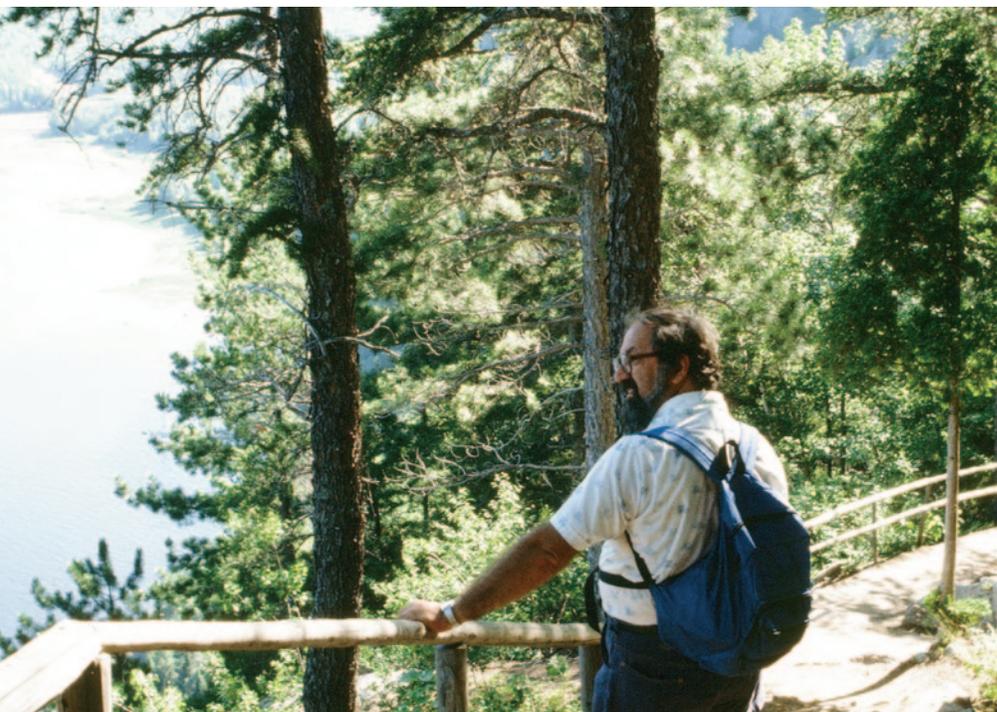
Nathalie Dumas

trees and suddenly it was there, right before us. A light breeze welcomed and refreshed us. Both eyes and heart were rewarded. What a joy to look out over the horizon. It was a moment to sit and reflect in silence, and slowly we discovered that an encounter between oneself and the Other is possible."

When he departed from the Oratory he said, "I want to take a moment to thank the Lord for the many blessings he bestowed upon me during my time at this beautiful place of spirituality. I would also like to thank my confrères, colleagues and all the staff for their cooperation.... I keep the pilgrims in my prayers every day." To underline his attachment to the shrine, after his death, Gilles Labelle, CSC chose to make a bequest to the Oratory, in memory of his sister Thérèse. A beautiful gesture!

Farewell, Father Labelle, in the name of all your collaborators, friends and brothers at the Oratory, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! ■

**Claudia Côté and Nathalie Dumas**



André Charron

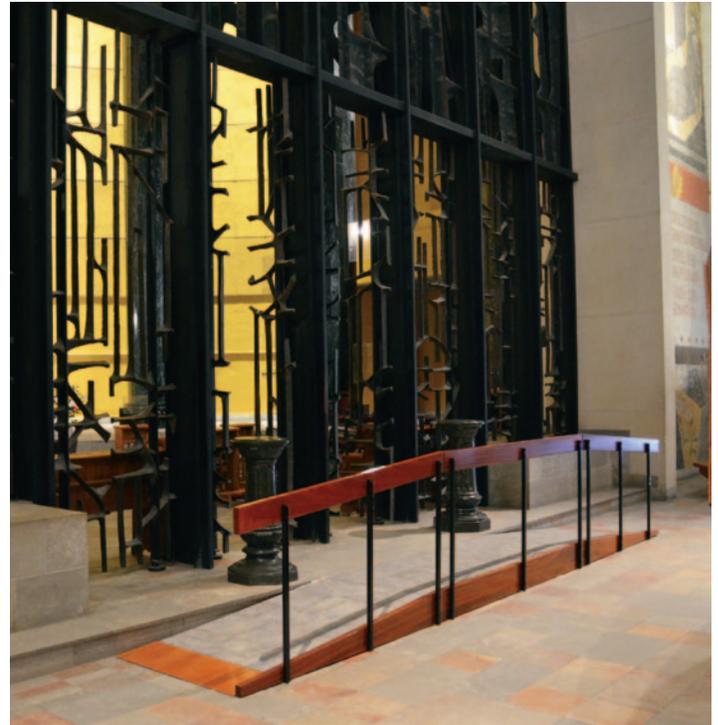
## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New Exhibit

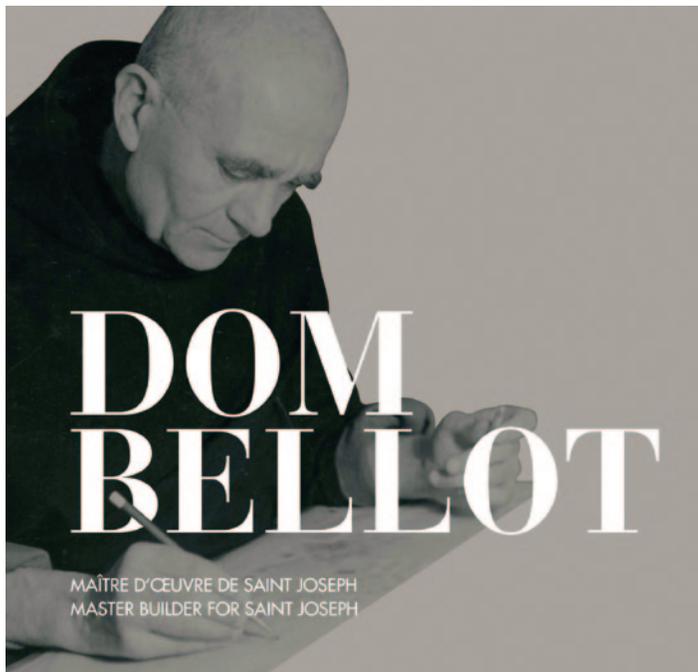
#### **Dom Bellot, Master Builder for Saint Joseph**

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal came into being thanks to the efforts of a number of architects. To Dom Paul Bellot, OSB (1876-1944), was confided the task of conceiving the great dome which tops the structure. In addition, he contributed a number of outstanding designs both for the architecture and the interior decoration of the basilica and for the tomb of Saint Brother André. Our exhibit "Dom Bellot, Master Builder for Saint Joseph" attempts to highlight the exceptional contribution to Montreal architecture made by this French Benedictine monk of international repute. Thanks to the Oratory archives and in collaboration with the Abbey Saint-Benoît-du-Lac, you will be able to examine many objects and documents never before exhibited. You will have a deeper insight into the story of this grand venture erected to the glory of Saint Joseph.

(Chantal Turbide, Curator) **Museum of Saint Joseph's Oratory, from May 16 to October 13, 2014**



Nathalie Dumas



### Construction Sites

Work is currently underway in two areas. The restrooms located in the Concourse, on the terrace level, will be completely renovated and made accessible. Also, major changes are being made to several rooms in the John XXIII Pavilion in order to improve hospitality services for visitors who stay there for a retreat or a short visit.

### A Wheelchair-Accessible Chapel

An access ramp was installed in February at the Blessed Sacrament chapel located behind the sanctuary of the basilica. Wheelchair users can use it to take part in the adoration of the exposed Eucharist there, every Thursday between 10 AM and 4 PM. People with limited mobility can contact the Work of the Pilgrimages of the Sick for information about events and other accessible areas at Saint Joseph's Oratory.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that in order to lower ever-increasing postage costs, Saint Joseph's Oratory will no longer automatically send receipts for money received by mail. Once a year, a receipt for tax purposes will be sent out for each cumulative donation of twenty dollars (\$20) or more.



Thank you for your understanding and your steadfast support of Saint Brother André's work. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Secretariat of Saint Joseph's Oratory, at **514 733-8211**.