



# THE FRIEND OF BROTHER ANDRÉ

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

## Gathering Opportunities

### Exhibition

*The Oratory's Nativity Scenes*  
Around 200 works from Quebec  
and from over 100 countries  
at the Oratory Museum  
10 AM to 4:30 PM

### Christmas Concert by *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*

Sunday, December 20 at 2 PM

### Christmas Eve Masses

Thursday, December 24  
9:15 PM (in English)  
and 12:15 AM (bilingual)  
in the Crypt Church

Passes are required for the French Masses in the Basilica at 9:00 PM and midnight: available at the Information and Blessings Office from Saturday, November 21.

### New Year's Eve

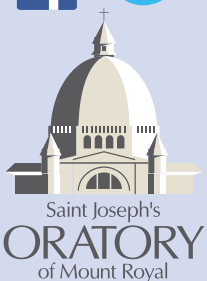
Thursday, December 31  
Midnight Mass  
in the Crypt Church

### Family Day

Friday, January 1, 2016  
Blessing of pilgrims and families  
at 2:30 PM in the Crypt Church  
Free admission to the Oratory Museum  
from 10 AM to 4:30 PM



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



## Development Project: Another Important Step Completed!

An important step toward the completion of the next phases of the Great Development Project of Saint Joseph's Oratory was nearing completion at the time of printing. In September, the Oratory launched a call for tender process through the *Système électronique d'appel d'offres* (SEAO), the Quebec government's electronic call for tenders system.

A multidisciplinary team will soon be tasked with preparing the plans and specifications for the next phases of the project. For its part, the Saint Joseph's Oratory team will be on site to plan the work. Priority will be given to defining intervention strategies to harmonize the requirements of the major works with the shrine's day-to-day activities, while keeping in mind its mission of openness.

Now, for a glimpse into the future ... Here are a few sketches, prepared at an earlier stage of the project and a summary of the main components in the next phases of the project.



### Holy Family Plaza

- New multifunctional pedestrian area built at the Crypt Church's level
- Restoration of the Oratory's carillon, a treasure of 56 bells
- Emphasis on the carillon in a new structure overlooking the Holy Family Plaza



### New Visitor Facilities and Modern Services

- A two-storey pavilion which is integrated to Mount Royal, built on two levels linked to the Ex-Voto Chapel, the Crypt Church and the Basilica by a glass passageway
- Welcome desk, shop, restaurant and rest area all accessible at street level from Queen Mary Road
- Even more accessible site for persons with reduced mobility thanks to an oblique escalator - the only one in North America



### New Illuminated Landscaping

- Reconfiguration of the Garden of the Sacred Walkway featuring an augmented plant cover and ambient lighting
- Secure pedestrian spaces and a reduction of paved surfaces
- Improved illumination to highlight the architecture

*More news in our next issue!*

# A Modest Star

In everyday language, the word star refers to a person who is outstanding in their field, especially in show business and sports.

Three stars are announced after a hockey game, players who distinguished themselves that evening. If they shine for a longer period, they become the stars for a season or a career that lasts a few years.

These stars shine for a time, but then they disappear. Alfred Bessette did not have what it took to be a star, he never took centre stage. His work was performed far from the public eye, at a doorkeeper's post or hidden away in an office.

Almost eighty years after his death, while the sports and entertainment stars of his day have been forgotten, Saint Brother André is still present for all. He is a star, modest but still shining, lighting the way for thousands of people.

The small oratory that he built in 1904, with friends and colleagues, became a large shrine that draws millions of visitors.

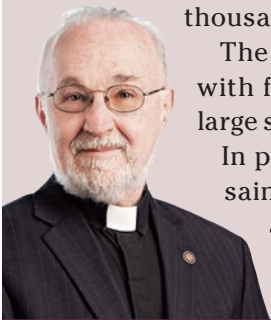
In proclaiming Brother André to be a saint, on October 17, 2010, the Church acknowledged that this faithful friend and brother to us all had an



important message to share as the third millennium began.

Five years after this momentous event, this star still shines brightly in many parts of the world.

**Father Claude Grou CSC,**  
Rector



# A Team of Directors for the Associates Program

We are very happy to announce the return of Father Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, to Saint Joseph's Oratory. Well-known to the Oratory's faithful and benefactors because he was the Rector from 1993 to 2005, he returns after several years in the service of the Canadian Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Father Aumont will co-direct the Associates of Brother André recognition program along with Father Thomas Xavier Gomes, CSC. Originally from Bangladesh, Father Gomes was ordained a priest in December 2013 and has served the pilgrims at the Oratory since that time.

Working hand-in-hand with the Oratory personnel, they will strengthen the bonds between the entire Associates family and develop the support and recognition program for our benefactors.



In the name of the Saint Joseph's Oratory administration team and that of our benefactors, I wish them a warm welcome.

**Father Claude Grou CSC,**  
Rector



## A Testamentary Gift — Planning Made Simple

Last September, I had a visit from Mr. Séguin, a benefactor of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal for the past several years. His wife, Marie, passed away twelve years ago, following a long battle with cancer. It was a terrible ordeal for him and his two children, who were 7 and 11 at the time. Since then, he has come to the Oratory every day to meditate. "Although I was not practicing my religion, I turned to this place that brought me inner peace." He continued, "I found faith in Saint Brother André, which gave me the strength to go on."

When I met Mr. Séguin, he was in the process of financial planning for his retirement and his estate. He wanted to make a gift to Saint Joseph's Oratory upon his death. He knew that his children would honour his final wishes if he asked them to make this gift. However, he wanted to make this plan official and enable his estate to benefit from a tax credit.

Mr. Séguin told me that he knew of people who had bad experiences when liquidating a loved one's estate. In one case, the process was unduly extended and had to go to court; in another case, the common law wife of the deceased was unable to inherit and a liquidator had to be appointed by the court. Mr. Séguin was worried and wondered how something like this could happen. Most of all, he wanted to prevent this type of headache for his family.

### The Importance of a Notarized Will

He confided that he did not have a will and would like his current companion (who has shared his life for seven years), his children and Saint Joseph's Oratory to benefit upon his death. He wanted to know how to make sure his final wishes were respected, with simplicity. I reminded him that a notarized

will is always strongly recommended to prevent problems for our loved ones upon our death.

Mr. Séguin chose to meet with a notary, Ms. Annie Grenier, who explained that in Quebec, estates are governed by civil law and that, in the absence of a will, only married spouses may inherit from their deceased spouse. Therefore, he must plan his testamentary provisions to indicate his heirs, and enable his new companion and the Oratory to benefit. Without a will, Mr. Séguin's children would be the sole heirs.

He chose the simplest, quickest and cheapest solution, that is to say, a notarized will.

### Two Types of Bequests

Ms. Grenier explained that he may choose to make a specific bequest to his companion, his children and Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. He may also choose to make a residual universal bequest to one of them, two of them or all three of them. To help Mr. Séguin make an enlightened choice,

Ms. Grenier described the characteristics of each of these bequests.

The **bequest by particular title** is a specific bequest, such as an amount of money allocated to a specific individual or specific good. It is very important to clearly describe the good in question in order to avoid any ambiguity. For example, a bequest by particular title could read as follows, "I bequeath by particular title to my son, Jerome, the amount of \$5,000 and the insured capital of my life insurance to Saint Joseph's Oratory." An example of a **residual universal bequest** would be, "I bequeath all of my movable and immovable goods, after acquitting the bequests by particular title and my debts, to my companion and my children."

Ms. Grenier gave further advice, "When you want to name a charitable organization in your will, it is often simpler to leave a bequest by particular title than a universal bequest for the following reasons:

- beneficiaries by particular title have the same status as creditors toward the estate, so they are paid before the heirs;
- any obligations of the beneficiaries by particular title are limited to the bequest they receive; they do not have the status of heirs and as such have no responsibilities with regard to the settlement of the estate, tax regulations, etc.
- moreover, a charitable organization will receive a bequest by particular title faster and can issue a receipt for the gift so the estate will benefit from the tax credits."

Ms. Grenier's sound advice was very helpful to Mr. Séguin. By clarifying several notions, they helped him differentiate between fact and myth.

Following our meeting, Mr. Séguin was able to finalize his estate planning and include his planned gift to Saint Joseph's Oratory. His notarized will is going to make things much easier for his loved ones when the time comes. I would like to sincerely thank Mr. Séguin for his generosity!



**Claudia Côté, B.A., LL.L.**  
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\*This article was written with the collaboration of Ms. Annie Grenier, notary and legal consultant in Boucherville.



Photo: André Charron, CSC

## A Tribute to Maurice Corbeil

Maurice Corbeil, a retired engineer who worked on many large-scale projects, died on February 5, 2015, at age 85. He enjoyed sharing his various passions with his many friends, in particular the arts, music, travel and fine wines.



I was privileged to meet him in the final years of his life, because this man of great faith and generosity had planned ahead so that, upon his death, he would be giving back to society, helping those in need, his family, his friends and also organizations that had a positive impact upon his life.

Mr. Corbeil was a regular parishioner at Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys Church, and generously gave of his time to help with the Sunday collection.

Roger Légaré, one of the parish wardens, told me, "Upon learning that he had terminal cancer, he wanted to leave a bequest to his community." So he was the one responsible for the installation of the Wall of Eternal Life at Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys Church, which is made up of stained-glass windows and also of a commemorative plaque honouring those who have devoted themselves above and beyond the ordinary to build a better world.

Right up until the end, Mr. Corbeil showed that he was a believer, full of hope who refused to feel sorry for himself.

Of course, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal was his haven of peace, a priceless jewel, not only for Christians, but for our entire cultural heritage. Maurice Corbeil's final thoughts included the Oratory.

We thank Mr. Corbeil for his generosity. His example of faith will continue to be a source of inspiration for his family and friends to whom we wish to extend our deepest sympathy.

**Claudia Côté, B.A., LL.L.**  
Director, Planned Giving Program

\*This text was written with the collaboration of Mr. Roger Légaré, warden. Thank you!



November 11, 1915; workers finish the foundations of the Crypt Church of Saint Joseph's Oratory. The following Sunday, the Rector, Father Georges-A. Dion, CSC, expresses appreciation to benefactors because it is thanks to them that the work on the new church has advanced to such an extent. And the story continues even more gracefully!



## “The Gift of Resourcefulness”

**M**rs. Marie-Claire B. Drouin, age 86, uses her talent as a seamstress to contribute to Saint Brother André’s work in a special way.

Every month, she sends a gift of the money she made working as a seamstress in her home. Mrs. Drouin is very skilled at hemming pants, doing alterations, making repairs, etc. She sets aside everything she makes and sends it to the Rector, Father Claude Grou. Her gifts have accumulated and this benefactor will soon join the ranks of Grand Associates of Brother André.

### A Big-Hearted Woman

I had a long chat with Marie-Claire and I can assure you that she is very determined to help the people around her. Mrs. Drouin told me that she thanks God each day for her talent, the “gift of resourcefulness,” and for the excellent health she has always enjoyed. Mrs. Drouin is a big-hearted woman who firmly believes that small gestures can make all the difference. “I realized that I was on earth to help others, beginning with my brothers, my sisters and my father,” she said.

When she was 15 years old, her mother, who was very ill, was hospitalized. She looked after her brothers and sisters, as well as her father. To make sure they were properly dressed for church, Mrs. Drouin made clothes out of items she found in the charity box. She would use old clothing to make coats for her brothers and sisters. “I did not use a pattern,” she proudly stated. “I realized that I had a talent that I could use to help others,” she continued.

### Working and Praying

This woman had to work very hard from a young age. She worked with her father in the stables, helped him during “sugaring off” season and even did her share of work when he cut down trees. Together, they could cut down up to ten trees per day; her job was to remove the bark from the logs. Every day had its share of hard work and fatigue. “When I went to bed, exhausted, I always tried to thank God for my strength, my health and my abilities,” she said.

In recent years, she has had three surgeries, all of them successful. “I am very lucky! ... At my age, it’s normal for the car to go into the shop once in a while,” she adds with a chuckle.

As long as her hands and her eyes permit, she will continue to sew and, every day, she will go to church and offer a prayer of thanksgiving. “I want to thank God each day,” she says, “to compensate for the times I complained.”



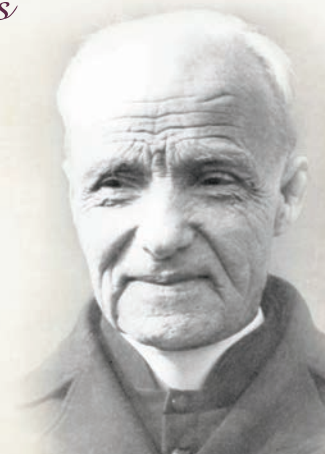
Through her monthly gifts to Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal, Marie-Claire Drouin hopes to share her values with her children, grandchildren and generations to come.

Thank you for this inspiring testimony Mrs. Drouin. You contribute to the continuation of Saint Brother André’s dream, and this is something to be proud of!

**Claudia Côté, B.A., LL.L.**  
Director, Planned Giving Program

*“How good the Good Lord is!  
He always dotes  
on us!”*

SAINT BROTHER ANDRÉ





CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT  
AT SAINT JOSEPH'S ORATORY

Friday December 4, 8 PM

Saturday December 5 2:30 PM, 8 PM

TICKETS ON SALE: [admission.com](http://admission.com)

DETAILS AT

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



### Organ Concerts 2015-2016 Season

The year-round program of organ concerts continues with performances featuring instruments, choirs, and ensembles. The series *Choirs and Organs in Dialogue* will present talented choirs paired with renowned organists, until November 15, 2015. In connection with the *Montreal Bach Festival*: two concerts. *The Art of the Fugue* will be performed by the American virtuoso James David Christie, on November 22 and a concert in homage of Bernard Lagacé will be presented on November 29. (Tickets for the latter: \$10) Another series, *Noëls à l'orgue*, will offer Christmas carols from around the world as well as time-honoured carols by Louis-Claude Daquin from December 6, 2015 through January 3, 2016. These concerts are played on the basilica organ of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal on Sundays at 3:30 PM. All are invited!

Discover over 200 Nativity scenes from around the world! [www.saint-joseph.org](http://www.saint-joseph.org) Saint Joseph's Oratory Museum