



Honoring Brother Andre in Prayer

We have composed three services keeping in mind the motto chosen for the canonization of Saint Brother Andre — *Brother Andre: A friend. A brother. A saint.*

The first two models take the form of a Service of the Word. They highlight the first two facets of the life of the founder of the Oratory: a friend who welcomes you with compassion; a brother who guides you towards the Father's light and love. The third celebration is intended to be used during adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It invites you to let Brother Andre be your saintly companion during this time of quiet prayer.

Groups who wish to use these prayer services can choose the one that speaks to them most directly, or they can use them as inspiration to prepare celebrations that fit local needs.

We hope that these models will assist you in honoring and celebrating this saint to whom you and your people have become attached.

Father Claude Grou, CSC
Rector

I — Brother Andre: a friend who welcomes and listens.

Suggestions

- *In front of the assembly, place a bust, a statue, or an image of Saint Andre, decorated with plants or flowers.*
- *Alternatively, prepare the place for the image in front of the assembly; carry the image of Saint Andre in procession to the decorated place at the beginning of the prayer service.*

Introduction

LEADER:

Friends, Brother Andre has now been recognized among the saints of the Church. Assigned to serve as doorkeeper at Collège Notre-Dame, he received students, parents, and visitors, but his reputation for welcome and listening soon made him someone to whom everyone wished to confide their afflictions. He never turned anyone away. Today, we can consider him as our friend, our guide, and our model. We acclaim the marvels which God has manifested in Brother Andre in such a remarkable way and we honor him in song.

Song:

We sing to good Saint Andre,
Saint Joseph's faithful friend.
He welcomed those who sought him
Their troubled souls to mend.
When cures were claimed, he humbly said,
"It's God who never fails;
And those who suffer day by day
Are miracles themselves!"

He gathered on the mountain
The Shepherd's fervent flock.
For them he dreamt and founded
A great house built on rock.
When he meets pilgrims of today
Light heartedly he says,
(Just as he did in days gone by)
"How good the good Lord is!"

Tune: ST. THEODULPH, 76 76 D; Words: Anon.

LEADER OR CONGREGATION TOGETHER:

Prayer by Blessed John Henry Newman

Dear Jesus,
Flood my soul with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly
that my life may only be a radiance of yours.
Shine through me and be so in me
that every soul I come in contact with
may feel your presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!
Stay with me and then I will begin to shine as you shine,
so to shine as to be a light to others.

The light, O Jesus, will be all from you;
none of it will be mine.
It will be you, shining on others through me.
Let me thus praise you in the way which you love best,
by shining on those around me.
Let me preach you without preaching,
not by words but by example,
by the catching force,
the sympathetic influence of what I do,
the evident fullness of the love my heart bears for you. Amen.

The Word of God: John 15, 9-15

The Leader or another may offer a response to the Word.

Song

Sing we now to good Saint Andre,
Let his peace on us descend;
With our love and admiration,
Greet we Joseph's faithful friend.
Worthy deeds are his, and wonders,
Worthy of the fame he bore;
We, with joyful praise and singing,
Honour him for ever more.

Faith prevailing, hope unfailing,
Loving Christ with single heart,
Thus he, glorious and victorious,
Shouldered well the founder's part,
Brother Andre, turn to Mary,
Offer Joseph, ever true,
Our prayers and our petitions—
They your friends and so we too.

Tune: NETTLETON or IN BABILONE, 87 87 D; Words: Anon.

Intercessory Prayer

LEADER:

The Lord God bathes us in his light.
He made his Son the Light of the Nations.
Let us ask him to turn the shadows of the world into light.

READER:

Our response is...*Lord, let the light of your face shine on us!*

For those who acknowledge within Jesus
the light which God shone upon the world,
let us pray...

That those who hold reins of power
may grant food to the hungry
and solace to the afflicted,
let us pray...

That all who call themselves disciples of Christ
may allow themselves to be transformed
in the power of the Spirit,
let us pray...

That all those who serve in pastoral ministry
may be eager to introduce God's people to the Scriptures,
and help them make friends with the Gospel,
let us pray...

(Invite intentions from the assembly.)

Let us pray:

God, our Father, by your light we see light.
Blessed are you in your Son, Jesus—
whose nature is light,
and whom you raised from the place
of shadows and death.
May the power of your Spirit
make us burn with the fire of the Gospel,
now and forever and ever. Amen.

LEADER:

We are all aware of Brother Andre's devotion to Saint Joseph. For him, the carpenter of Nazareth and his wife Mary were models of following God's will. They remain powerful intercessors who listen to our needs. During his visit to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, on September 11, 1984, Pope John II prayed this prayer:

Prayer to Saint Joseph composed by Pope John Paul II

Saint Joseph, with you, we bless the Lord.

God chose you from among all men of that time
to be the chaste spouse of Mary.

You stood at the threshold of the mystery
of her divine maternity,
and with her, accepted it in faith
as the working of the Holy Spirit.

Because you became his father according to the Mosaic law,
Jesus was rooted in the line of David.

You constantly watched over the Mother and Child
with an affectionate care
which protected their lives
and freed them to fulfill their destiny.

The Savior Jesus submitted himself to your fatherly guidance
throughout his childhood and adolescence.

You taught him the ins and outs of human existence,
and you remained part of his life, respecting its mysterious ways.

You are still at his side.

Continue to protect the whole Church,
the family which came into existence
through the salvation wrought by Jesus.

[Protect especially the people of Canada,
who have placed themselves under your patronage.]

Help the Church to come closer to the mystery of Christ
in that attitude of faith, and acceptance, and love that was your own.

Receive the spiritual and material requests
of all those who beg your intercession,
particularly families
and those who are needy — in every sense of that word.

Through you, they are certain to experience
the maternal gaze of Mary
and the hand of Jesus to assist them. Amen.

Prayer of Pope John Paul II at the tomb of Saint Andre

Saint Andre Bessette, doorkeeper at Collège Notre-Dame
and caretaker of the Oratory,
grant hope to all those who continue to seek your aid.

Teach them confidence in the power of prayer
to lead them toward a conversion of life,
and toward the sacraments.

Through you and through Saint Joseph,
may God continue to pour out his blessings
on the Congregation of Holy Cross,
on all those who come to the Oratory,
[on the city of Montreal,
on the people of Québec,
on the Canadian people,]
and on the whole Church. Amen.

LEADER:

Brother Andre seems to have known how to make friends instinctively. He had that quality about him that put people at ease. When they came to him seeking relief, the way he listened to them, the way he paid attention to them, made them feel welcome at his little shrine dedicated to his friend Saint Joseph. Most felt that they had become instant friends of his. And pilgrims who come today to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal still feel the affable presence of Brother Andre. His hope was that upon visiting the shrine, people would realize that, whatever their origin, they are God's friends.

Song:

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away,
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry;
We are the old, who yearn for your face;
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light-years away,
But here in this place, the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in, and hold us forever,
Gather us in, and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Tune: GATHER US IN; Words: Marty Haugen
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SAINT ANDRE BESSETTE, PRAY FOR US!

II— Brother Andre: our brother who witnesses to God’s Love.

Suggestions

- *Prepare a bowl or basket containing slips of paper on which are printed one each of the quotations of Saint Andre below. In front of the assembly, place a bust, a statue, or an image of Saint Andre, decorated with plants or flowers.*
- *Alternatively, prepare the place for the image in front of the assembly; carry the image of Saint Andre in procession to the decorated place at the beginning of the prayer service.*

Song:

Sing we now to good Saint Andre,
Let his peace on us descend;
With our love and admiration,
Greet we Joseph’s faithful friend.
Worthy deeds are his, and wonders,
Worthy of the fame he bore;
We, with joyful praise and singing,
Honour him for ever more.

Faith prevailing, hope unfailing,
Loving Christ with single heart,
Thus he, glorious and victorious,
Shouldered well the founder’s part,
Brother Andre, turn to Mary,
Offer Joseph, ever true,
Our prayers and our petitions—
They your friends and so we too.

Tune: NETTLETON or IN BABILONE, 87 87 D; Words: Anon.

LEADER:

Brother Andre loved to talk about God as a God who loves us. And, the way he listened to people who came to see him, Brother Andre concretely manifested that attentive love which God has for every single person, but especially for people who are in distress. Today's celebration will allow us to reflect on his words and example as revealing God's love.

Andre, my brother...

You knew how to pray...
in the midst of your tasks, in the quiet of the night,
deep in your solitude, or surrounded by friends.
Teach me the words that nourish my soul.

You knew how to welcome...
the rich and the powerful, the poor and the miserable,
the scholar and the illiterate,
especially the simple, often the wounded.
Teach me to love them all without exception.

You knew how to suffer...
to hope in the future,
without complaint, without fear,
to stand firm, to face life.
Teach me the meaning of suffering in silence.

You knew how to live...
for the God whom you served,
for his Son and for his Son's father and Mother,
to save what is lost, to free what is shackled.
Teach me to hope in God and his universe.

Jean-Guy Dubuc

A Litany of Brother Andre's Own Words

After each sentence, pray or sing this response:

Saint Andre, pray for us.

- *"You pray to God, the way you talk to a friend."*
- *"How good the good Lord is! He always dotes on us!"*
- *"We should always have God's thoughts inside our head."*
- *"God loves us so much, infinitely in fact, and he wants us to love him back."*
- *"Put yourself in the good Lord's hands; he never lets anyone down."*
- *"Do not seek to be free of trials; rather pray God for the grace to bear them."*
- *"The love that our Lord shows during his Passion throws in relief God's love for us."*
- *"If there were more prayer, this would be a better world.."*
- *"God the Father sent his Son on earth out of love for us; so we should render him love for love."*
- *"When you've done all you can, you have to put your trust in God."*
- *"An artist creates the most beautiful paintings using the smallest brushes."*
- *"Don't be grumpy. Laugh once in a while!"*
- *"Whenever you're in trouble, call on the Holy Spirit."*
- *"When I die, I'll live in heaven, so I'll be much closer to God than now, and I'll be able to help you even more."*
- *"When the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph are both praying for you, that's some powerful prayer!"*
- *"If you were in my shoes, Saint Joseph, what would you want somebody to do for you? Well then, please do that for me."*

Song

Come now, and praise the humble saint
Of David's house and line,
The carpenter whose life fulfilled
Our gracious God's design.

Saint Joseph, God has chosen you
To keep his church from harm.
So hold the church as once you held
The Christ Child in your arms.

Saint Joseph, when you pray for me,
Pray to the Three-in-One;
But talk in human words with him
Who let you call him son.

Tune: MORNING SONG or LAND OF REST, CM 86 86; Words: G. W. Williams

The Word of God: Luke 8, 19-21

The Leader or another may offer a response to the Word.

LEADER:

Andre, Our Brother

Many ordinary people of Quebec have viewed Brother Andre as a brother with whom they can identify; he was and remains one of their own. However, the event of his canonization cannot help but raise once more the question of the vocation of the brother in the Church. A vocation not always recognized and understood except in comparison with the vocation of the priest — an approach which usually ends up reducing the brother to second-class. But with the canonization of Brother Andre, such categories and boundaries fade to the periphery. Something else comes to the fore, apparent to the eyes of the questioner.

Quite apart from any consideration of status or ministry, the religious brother is called to incarnate, by the example of his life, the surprising rejoinder of Jesus to his own relatives who wanted to see him: “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and put it into practice.” (Luke 8, 21) By the grace of God, the religious brother first and foremost responds to Jesus' call to personify what it means to *be brother*, to be a brother in Jesus, and thereby, be a brother to all. A brother is recognized not so much by his doing, but rather his manner of being, in relation to others.

Behind the immediately obvious countenance of wonderworker, Brother Andre was a man of acceptance and compassion. His entire life was given over to the service of others who needed comforting in a brother's arms. -Brother Gerard Dionne, CSC

Intercessory Prayer

LEADER:

God gives ear to those who are lowly.
We share the same faith and the same charity,
Let us partake of prayer with a humble heart.

READER:

Our response is...*Lord, save your people.*

- For the sick,
particularly those of our community (one might mention names),
let us pray to the Lord...
- For those who serve others by working behind the scene,
for those who work with the needy, the sick and strangers,
let us pray to the Lord...
- For those who are still seeking for someone
who will show them God's love,
let us pray to the Lord...
- For those who hunger for forgiveness,
who thirst for unconditional acceptance,
let us pray to the Lord...
- That we might be authentic witnesses
to God's love and compassion,
let us pray to the Lord...
- For people who have been so wounded by life
that they are unable to sense others' love and compassion,
let us pray to the Lord...
- For those who search for light,
who struggle along the road
of faith, hope and love,
let us pray to the Lord...
- For those who feel lonely and abandoned,
let us pray to the Lord...
- For this community,
that we might reveal the face of God to others,
let us pray to the Lord...

LEADER:

God our Father,
your son Jesus calls us to follow him.
Give us the grace to respond to his invitation
in the joy and confidence
bestowed by our intercession of St. Andre Bessette.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
who is our Lord, and your Son,
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever.

- *Participants come forward, and remove from the bowl or basket a piece of paper containing a quotation from Brother Andre.*

LEADER:

Good Saint Andre,
we celebrate your presence among us.
The friendship that you developed with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
was so intense
that you became a powerful intercessor with God.
It was compassion which linked your words
directly to God's heart,
and by which healing and comfort were bestowed.
Because of you, God places his ear
close to our lips, and listens to our requests.
This is how we come to participate
in this salvific mission accorded you by God,
in a spirit of prayer, compassion, and humility.
Amen.

Song

We sing to good Saint Andre,
Saint Joseph's faithful friend.
He welcomed those who sought him
Their troubled souls to mend.
When cures were claimed, he humbly said,
"It's God who never fails;
And those who suffer day by day
Are miracles themselves!"

He gathered on the mountain
The Shepherd's fervent flock.
For them he dreamt and founded
A great house built on rock.
When he meets pilgrims of today
Light heartedly he says,
(Just as he did in days gone by)
"How good the good Lord is!"

Tune: ST. THEODULPH, 76 76 D; Words: Anon.

SAINT ANDRE BESSETTE, PRAY FOR US!

III — Pray with Brother Andre in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament

- *The Blessed Sacrament has been exposed, and there has been some quiet time for personal prayer.*

LEADER:

Prayer was at the heart of Brother Andre's life. He prayed for the afflicted and with the afflicted. He invited the pilgrims who came to see him to be reconciled to God and receive the Bread of Life.

Of course, Brother Andre prayed with the members of his religious community, and with pilgrims to Saint Joseph's Oratory, but he spent much time in personal prayer. Before the Holy Eucharist was one of the special places that Brother Andre loved to pray. With him at our side, we acknowledge God here present.

LEADER:

Lord Jesus, you have drawn your Church
from the four corners of the horizon.
You have made of us your people;
the city of God in the midst of humanity.
Help us to discover the gift of your love
within each person whom you claim as your own.

You came among us to march with us
toward a new world,
a city of justice, love, and peace.
Give us the wisdom to perceive you today
and the joy to walk with you.

You send us into the world
as witnesses to a new creation.
You incorporate us into one body
to make your face known to the world.
Show us your love which brings us together
as we gather around you.

You open a new future before us.
Responding to your call,
we place ourselves into your hands
and our eyes see by the light of your message.
Free our hearts to understand your gospel,
and to live in our world of today.

Saint Joseph lived and worked beside you every day.
Teach us to appreciate, as he did,
all the blessings you shower upon us.
With him, we pray:
make of us that people of whom you said,
“I will be your God, and you will be my people.”
Amen.

The Word of God: Luke 11, 1-4

The Leader or another may offer a response to the Word.

Song

Sing we now to good Saint Andre,
Let his peace on us descend;
With our love and admiration,
Greet we Joseph’s faithful friend.
Worthy deeds are his, and wonders,
Worthy of the fame he bore;
We, with joyful praise and singing,
Honour him for ever more.

Faith prevailing, hope unfailing,
Loving Christ with single heart,
Thus he, glorious and victorious,
Shouldered well the founder’s part,
Brother Andre, turn to Mary,
Offer Joseph, ever true,
Our prayers and our petitions—
They your friends and so we too.

Tune: NETTLETON or IN BABILONE, 87 87 D; Words: Anon.

Prayer to Saint Andre Bessette

Saint Andre,
you instinctively understood
how the love of God
is expressed by loving others.

Help us to receive those who are suffering
with the same sensitivity you did.

Teach us to act compassionately
in the face of their pain and affliction.

Teach us to listen to them
with undivided attention,
and to speak to them a word
which lifts them up.

Teach us to be examples of
how to move forward confidently
in the company of Saint Joseph and Mary, the mother of Jesus,
and God our heavenly Father.

Your intense love for God
can be seen in your resolve
to establish a space for prayer on top of a mountain.

You yourself spent hours before the Blessed Sacrament,
and you continually urged those coming to you seeking favours,
to pray in the Eucharistic Presence.

At the side of Saint Joseph,
now, greet all who come to the Oratory.

Plant within them faith in God who loves them so much
and who wishes wholeness for every human being.

Open their heart
to recognize the graces God has poured upon them,
confident of the future that God opens before them.

Help them to realize the importance of prayer in their life
and to be a loyal friend to those who count on them.

Good Brother Andre, now in glory with the Saints,
your prayer is powerful with God.

Continue those works which you accomplished
when you were still on earth.

Heal both body and soul.

To adults, give the dignity of employment;
to the elderly, hope in their future.

To youth, give the grace
of living out their lives as solid Christians;
in marriage,
in religious life,
as ordained pastors.

Above all, teach us to live our human life
the way the human Jesus did.

Amen.

- *Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament may continue in the usual fashion.*
SAINT ANDRE BESSETTE, PRAY FOR US!