



Press Release
For immediate distribution

ONLY A FEW DAYS REMAIN UNTIL BROTHER ANDRÉ'S CANONIZATION
A highly anticipated historic event!

Montréal, October 13, 2010 – As a delegation of 1500 Québec pilgrims will soon be heading to Rome to attend Brother André's rite of canonization on October 17, Saint-Joseph's Oratory of Mount-Royal prepares to celebrate along with the official Roman event.

"True to himself, Brother André continues to unite us: locals, as well as visitors from across the world, will have the opportunity to share in the unforgettable rise to sainthood by celebrating this exceptional individual," says Father Claude Grou, CSC, Rector of Saint-Joseph's Oratory of Mount-Royal.

A Friend. A Brother. A Saint.

Both visitors and pilgrims are invited to renew their faith and celebrate at the Oratory on October 16 and 17, when a special event will be offered to guide everyone toward this long-awaited moment. This event will include a prayer vigil held during the evening and throughout the night on Saturday, October 16, as well as Brother André's rite of canonization, which will be broadcast live from the Vatican at 4:00 a.m., on October 17 (Montréal time). A solemn mass will be held at the Basilica with the *Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal* at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 17. Starting October 15th, visitors will have the exclusive opportunity to visit a brand new exhibit at the Oratory Museum: "Brother André – The Saint of Mount-Royal". Furthermore, *Official Canonization Album of Brother André*, published by Fides, will be available in bookstores as of Saturday, October 16.

"A Rendez-Vous With Saint Brother André"

On October 29, 30 and 31, the Oratory will once again celebrate with several activities planned before and after the thanksgiving mass held at the Olympic Stadium. Guided tours, masses and prayer events will highlight these three days along with musical performances, such as organ concerts, chamber music and carillon recitals. A self-guided religious tour on the island of Montreal, organized in collaboration with the Montréal diocese, will also be offered. On Sunday, October 31, the 7:30 p.m. mass held in the Basilica will be followed by a procession toward the original chapel for the installation of a brand new Saint Brother André icon written by iconography specialist Elizabeth Bergeron.

The complete activity schedule for both celebratory weekends can be found at www.saint-joseph.org.

Following Brother André... in the age of social media

Saint-Joseph's Oratory invites Web surfers to experience Brother André's canonization live on dedicated Twitter and Facebook accounts. These sharing and discussion sites, found respectively at twitter.com/frere_andre and facebook.com/saintfrereAndre, will be regularly updated with photos, clips, videos and testimonials. During the weekend of October 16 and 17, live news from the canonization event in Rome will also be featured. Those wishing to join the discussions on Twitter are invited to use the **#frere_andre** hashtag. The Salt & Light network's blog (www.saltandlighttv.org/blog/brotherandre) will also offer a rich source of information, as well as opportunities for sharing, on all activities surrounding the celebrations of Brother André's canonization.

A must-see virtual experience!

A microsite dedicated to Brother André enables users to experience a virtual climbing of the steps of Saint-Joseph's Oratory, while discovering highlights of this great man's life. This fun, meaningful experience to be discovered and shared can be found at: <http://brother-andre.saint-joseph.org/en/>.

To the Stadium on October 30!

A veritable climax of the canonization celebrations, the breathtaking thanksgiving mass will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Olympic Stadium. An impressive crowd comprised of people from both near and far is awaited during this important event. Participants are invited to bring a white scarf or a white piece of material, so they can express their joy at various moments of the celebration.

"This will be a unique event; the opportunity to express our pride in knowing that the values and works of Brother André, a local man who remains close to us, are now held up as an example to the Universal Church," adds Father Claude Grou, CSC. He also highlights the key contribution of the government of Québec through such organizations as *Tourisme Québec*, as well as the government of Canada, through the Economic Development Agency of Canada, which enabled the event's organization and promotion. Contributors also include Desjardins and the Knights of Columbus (Québec, Canada and United-States).

Everyone is encouraged to use public transportation to reach the Stadium or the Oratory. On both sites, special attention and support will be given to people with reduced mobility.

Tickets can be purchased for the nominal price of \$5 through the Admission network at www.admission.com, or by dialing 514 790-1225 or 1 800 361-4595, as well as at the Olympic Stadium's ticket counter, located at 4545 avenue Pierre-De Coubertin, Montréal, and the Oratory Boutique.

Please note that media representatives planning to attend the event held at the Olympic Stadium on October 30, 2010 must first obtain special accreditation. To do so, they are asked to contact Elaine Mayrand, at 514 842-2455, ext. 24 or at emayrand@mfrp.com.

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Source

Luce Dion
514 266-8835 (cell)
ldion@osj.qc.ca

For more information (photos available upon request)

Danielle Decelles
514 733-8211, ext. 2711
514 264-1764 (cell)
ddecelles@osj.qc.ca