



PRESS RELEASE

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BROTHER ANDRÉ'S CANONIZATION: HISTORICAL EVENT, UNIQUE GATHERING

Welcome to the Olympic Stadium on October 30 2010

Montréal, May 7, 2010 – Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is preparing to welcome thousands of visitors and pilgrims making the journey to renew themselves and celebrate Brother André's upcoming canonization. Its preliminary activity program, borne of collaborations, namely with the Montréal and St-Hyacinthe dioceses, will culminate with a major Montréal-wide celebration at the Olympic Stadium, on October 30. *"Citizens and visitors from all over the world will have the chance to take part in an unforgettable rite to sainthood, and to proudly feel inspired by Brother André's values and works, by celebrating this truly exceptional man, who remains close to our hearts,"* says Father Claude Grou CSC, Rector of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

The Oratory live at the heart of the event

As an important Québec delegation on pilgrimage to Rome will have front row seats to the canonization rite, Saint Joseph's Oratory will match the Roman celebrations on October 16 and 17. A prayer vigil will begin on the evening of Saturday, October 16 (on the eve of the canonization ceremony). A special animation is being developed to accompany the hours leading to the long awaited event of Brother André's canonization rite and mass, which will begin at 4 a.m. (Montréal local time). In addition to the regular Sunday activity schedule, a solemn mass will be observed in the Basilica, featuring the *Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal* choir. A new exhibit dedicated to Brother André, prayer pilgrimages, an icon consecration, concerts and recitals will also be held, as the Oratory welcomes those who wish to be at the heart of this historic event over 70 years in the making!

The Olympic Stadium welcomes Brother André

On Saturday, October 30, the entire Montréal region will celebrate Brother André by welcoming visitors from across Québec, Canada, the United States, the Americas and several other regions of the world, during a grand religious ceremony starting at 2 p.m. at the Olympic Stadium. As this major event will draw a large crowd, seat reservations are required at the nominal cost of five dollars (\$5). Tickets are on sale now through Réseau Admission at www.admission.com or by calling 1 800 361-4595. *"The date is set on October 30! We invite all Montrealers, Quebecers and members of all Canadian dioceses to take part in a major celebration of faith, all in the spirit of prayer and joy, in honour of Brother André,"* adds Father Grou CSC.

Saint Joseph's Oratory will be abuzz with activity throughout the weekend of October 29, 30 and 31, as several activities will precede and follow the grand celebration at Olympic Stadium. The schedule of celebrations for the canonization event will be gradually released on-line at www.saint-joseph.org. For more information or to sign up for a pilgrimage or a guided tour of Saint Joseph's Oratory, groups are invited to contact the Visitor and Pilgrim Services Office at 514 733-8211 or pelerinage@osj.qc.ca

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Photos available upon request or in the "Media" section of the Saint Joseph's Oratory website

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