

## Walking beside Brother André

**(Go up to the exhibit on the life and work of Brother André.)  
It is a unique experience, humanly and spiritually speaking, to  
encounter Brother André's heart.**

After welcoming him into a poor family of ten children, both his parents died. His childhood and youth consisted of bouncing around, working at a thousand and one odd jobs just to stay alive. Eventually he became a Holy Cross Brother. Now his saintly heart, literally, remains close to us.

After a few moments of meditation, move on to the three displays showing moments from the life of Brother André. You see him gazing toward Mount Royal from the window of his doorkeeper's cubicle at College Notre-Dame. A dream is taking shape within him. He visualizes an oratory dedicated to Saint Joseph. Next, in an office built for him he receives pilgrims and visitors: he is known as a friend to all. He dies on January 6, 1937. Among the final words on his death bed, he said:

***"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."***

From the small original chapel, to the Crypt Church, to the immense Basilica, Saint Joseph's Oratory grows and becomes a landmark for the city of Montréal.

***"For centered prayer, think of Jesus on the cross.  
Can you be distracted from prayer  
when you see your Brother being crucified?"***

***"The love that our Lord shows during his Passion  
throws in relief God's love for us."***

Thank God for the gift of the life and love of  
Brother André

Find one of the many statues of Brother André on site, and pray.

## André, 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 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*

## BEFORE TAKING YOUR LEAVE...

You and Brother André have gotten to know each other better during your walk around Saint Joseph's Oratory. You've had the opportunity to offer your prayers and your intentions to Saint Joseph, Brother André's great friend. Blessed Brother André has every confidence in you, that you now know how to connect your calm yet fervent prayer here at the Oratory, to the daily preoccupations of work and family. He invites you to come back to Mount Royal so that you can converse with him and with Saint Joseph. (And when you do, don't forget to say a prayer for his canonization!)



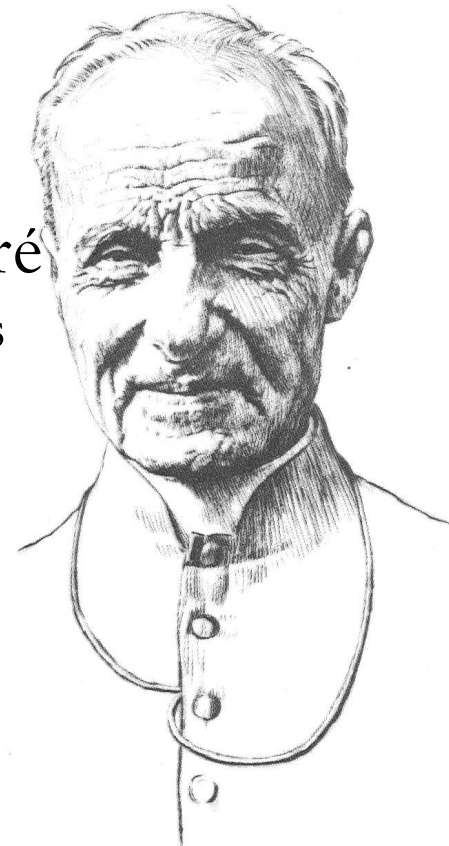
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## Pray with Brother André at Saint Joseph's Oratory



## PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

### Brother André will be my companion

People who came to meet Brother André frequently made specific requests: and they do so today. You have come to the shrine with your own prayer intentions. You hope that something will change in your life or in the lives of people around you. Sometimes, you are filled with joy and gratitude for what God has done and you feel the need to express that.

Well, this is the moment to take some time to speak to the Lord who has led you to Saint Joseph's Oratory

*"What do I need to do to be more at peace  
and more content by the end of my visit?"*

In the Crypt Church in front of his statue, I raise my eyes in prayer to Saint Joseph.

Joseph, with Jesus and Mary,  
you knew aches and pains, hunger, and uncertainty.

You turned your heart to God  
to lift up your needs and those of your family.

As life unfolded,  
you accepted the Father's response in faith.

Be with me today as I offer my requests to the Father.

Joseph, let me recognize God's will  
as I open my hands to accept

what God bestows in loving kindness.

So tenderly God fills creation with life and love.

Open my eyes to the wonders that God works without ceasing.

Let me learn the true meaning of my request

so that I may discover within myself  
the lowly one that God commends.

I meditate on the gospel

Jesus said:



*"Come to me, all you who are weary  
and find life burdensome, and I will  
refresh you. Take my yoke upon your  
shoulders and learn from me, for I am  
gentle and humble of heart.  
Your souls will find rest, for my yoke  
is easy and my burden light."  
(Matthew 11, 28-30)*

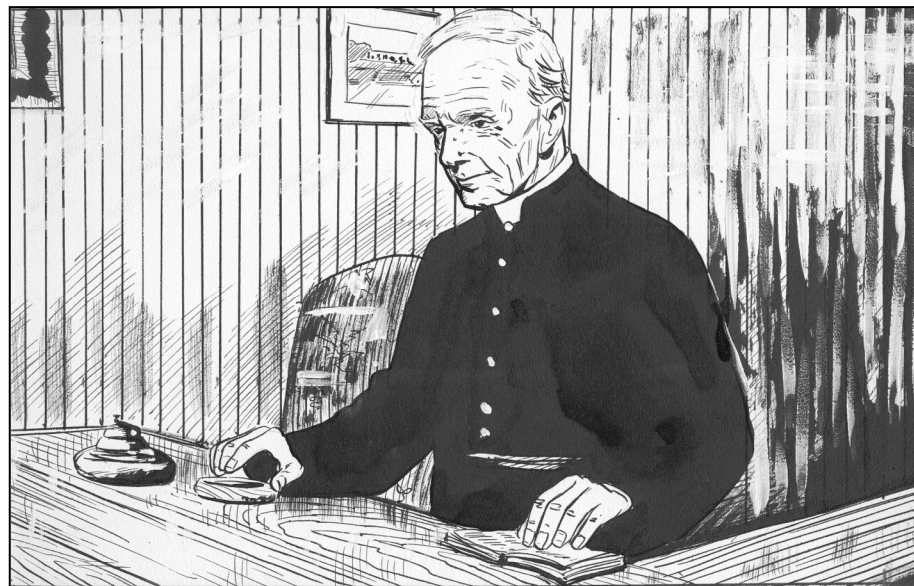
## SETTING OUT ON THE JOURNEY

I meet Brother André at his tomb, and he encourages me...

***"When you pray to God, it's like  
having a conversation with a friend."***

***"Time flies when you're talking with God."***

***"Put yourself in God's hands;  
he never lets anyone down."***



***"People get excited over trifles. When they really need it,  
help will come according to God's time and place."***

***"How good God is; he's always thinking about us."***

***"When you've done all you can,  
you have to put your trust in God."***

Brother André leads you to Saint Joseph



As you leave Brother André's tomb, you are drawn to the statue of Saint Joseph overlooking the basin of oil. The words of Brother André echo in your ears.



***"Pray to Saint Joseph all the time.  
Some people pray when they get  
sick, yes, but that's not enough; pray  
to him all the time."***

***"Go pray in front of the statue of Saint Joseph and ask him, 'If you  
were in my shoes, Saint Joseph, what would you want somebody to do  
for you? Well then, please do that for me.'"***

Brother André starts a conversation  
with the Virgin Mary

You walk to the foot of the statue of the Virgin Mary by the large fresco painted for the 50th anniversary of the shrine's foundation (near the entrance to the Crypt Church, next to the escalator). A quiet communion takes place many times a day in front of this statue where thousands of pilgrims have prayed since 1909.

Brother André often expressed a sincere love for Jesus' mother.

***"The Blessed Virgin  
is our mother in heaven."***

***"The Blessed Virgin will  
help us obtain from God  
all the graces we need."***

***"When the Blessed Virgin  
and Saint Joseph  
are both praying for you,  
that's powerful prayer!"***



Pray with Brother André.

***"O Mary, my tender mother and mother of my gentle  
Savior, look upon me and come to my aid."***