



THE FRIEND OF BROTHER ANDRÉ

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



A faith that moves mountains

By Sylvie Bessette

Faith can move mountains; you've heard that. This well-known expression remains popular because of its evocative nature. It refers to individuals whose deep faith helps them attain goals they thought were out of their reach, resolve problems they thought were unsolvable, face illness, grief, sadness, pain, etc., anything in life that appears insurmountable.

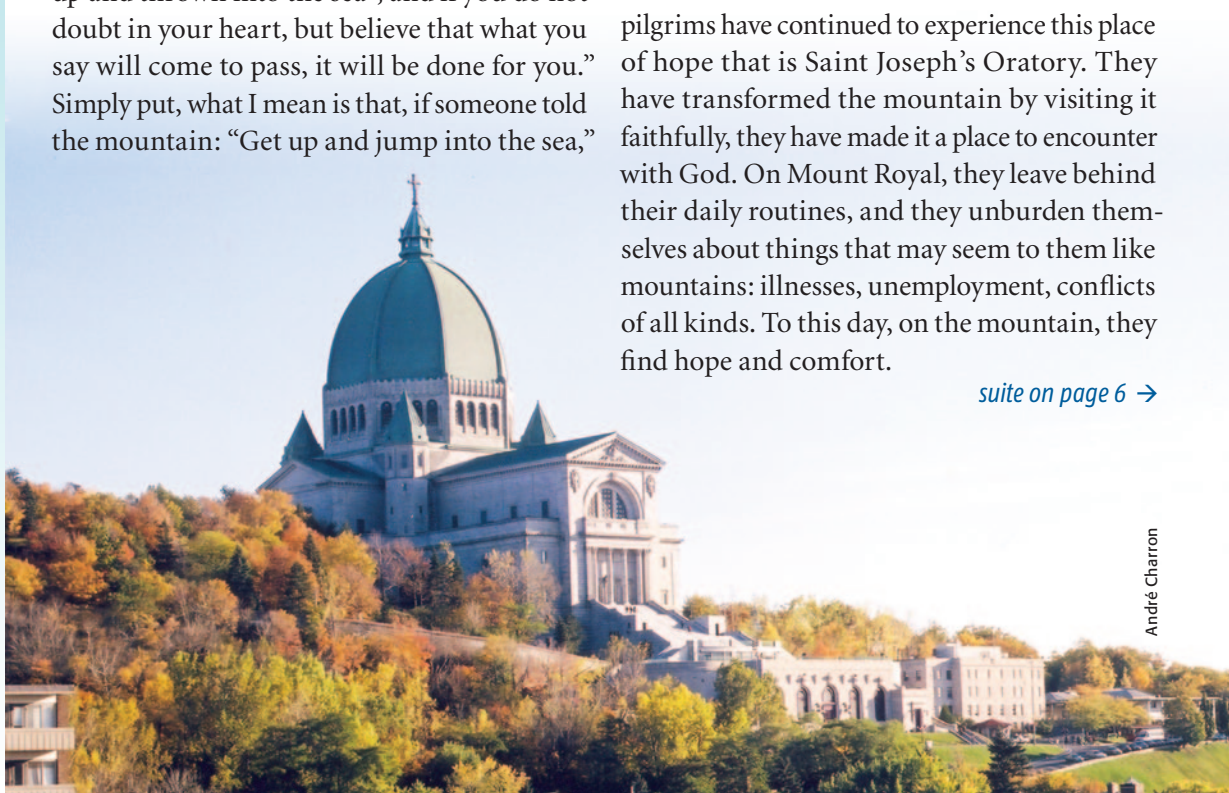
The theme of the Oratory's new pastoral year is a slight reworking of an expression from the Gospel according to Mark (11, 22-23): "Jesus answered them, 'Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and thrown into the sea", and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you.'" Simply put, what I mean is that, if someone told the mountain: "Get up and jump into the sea,"

and had no hint of doubt in his heart, then this would happen. During the 2012 pastoral year, what we will be talking about at the Oratory is: **A faith that moves mountains.**

This theme is a reminder that the Oratory was built on the rock of Mount Royal, whose aspect it has transformed since 1904. It is also a reminder of Brother André's deep faith, which transformed the mountain into a place of pilgrimage and welcome. Brother André, with his unshakeable faith in Saint Joseph and with the help of his many friends, made it a place dedicated to prayer and meditation. He also made it a refuge, where pilgrims can lay down their troubles.

Mount Royal was transformed by Saint Brother André's faith. Since then, millions of pilgrims have continued to experience this place of hope that is Saint Joseph's Oratory. They have transformed the mountain by visiting it faithfully, they have made it a place to encounter with God. On Mount Royal, they leave behind their daily routines, and they unburden themselves about things that may seem to them like mountains: illnesses, unemployment, conflicts of all kinds. To this day, on the mountain, they find hope and comfort.

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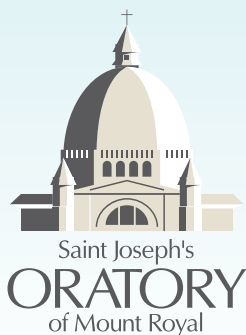
André Charron

A Classical Noël at the Oratory with Marc Hervieux, the Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal and an instrumental ensemble

Only one show in the Basilica of Saint Joseph's Oratory
Saturday, December 17 at 8:00 p.m.



The tenor Marc Hervieux





A meal with friends

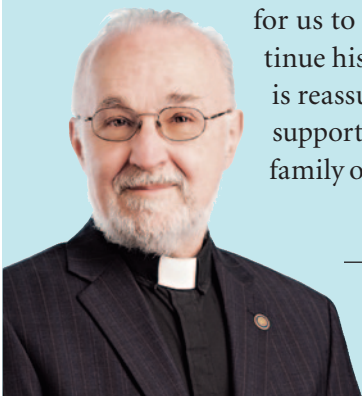
Each year, the Sundays of October are an opportunity for us to welcome some 2,000 associates, who come to share with us a prayer and a friendly meal.

Men and women from all over the country and even the United States come together as a big, happy family. Each one has at some point encountered that friend to all, Saint Brother André, and agreed to get involved in the extraordinary work he started. They reaffirm their commitment to supporting the mission that Brother André began and which continues today to sustain hundreds of thousands of pilgrims. People who have never before met, come together around the same table, and recount how they learned about Brother André's work and why this work remains important to them.

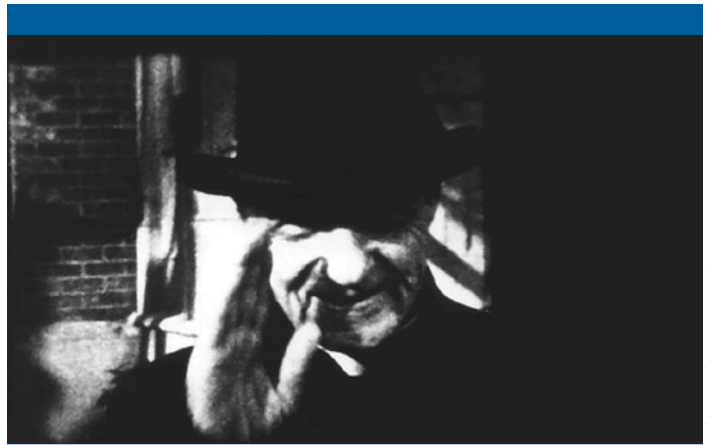
However, these October Sunday gatherings are more than just a group of friends coming together. For each one, this is an opportunity to feel the strength that radiates from the thousands of pilgrims who visit the site day after day, who come to reaffirm their faith and trust in Saint Brother André and Saint Joseph.

These gatherings with associates help renew and strengthen my commitment to the mission we have inherited from Saint Brother André. We know that

Brother André's canonization is a call for us to renew our efforts to continue his work and mission, and it is reassuring to know that we are supported by the prayers of a large family of friends and associates. ■



Father Claude Grou, CSC
Rector



Let's support the Oratory's mission together!

In its May 23, 1982 issue in Italian, the Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano* described Brother André as the person who, through his life and his words, would reveal to the world Saint Joseph's kindness and power of intercession. It declared that Brother André's mission was to remind us of Saint Joseph's role in the mystery of salvation, to show everyone that one of the best ways to know Christ is through Saint Joseph.

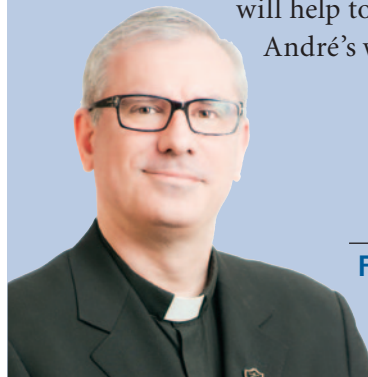
Brother André was undoubtedly one of Saint Joseph's great modern apostles. His mission is far from over... on the contrary, it is just beginning.

But, how can we continue it without your support?

Welcoming pilgrims, celebrating the merciful word of God, lifting heart and spirits by means of beauty, encouraging devotion: these are just some of the challenges that the Oratory's religious and lay staff have committed to undertake, following in Brother André's footsteps.

Can they do it? It all depends on you.

Saint Joseph's Oratory has grown in pace with the efforts and initiatives of God's people. Your donation will help to breathe life into Brother André's work! ■



Father Mario Lachapelle, CSC
Director
Associates of Brother André

Making a bequest to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal... Within everybody's reach!

More and more people are considering the Oratory's planned giving program because it is a great way to help the shrine continue its mission for years to come. However, some people still think that making a bequest is only for the rich or the unmarried.

Even though of modest income, a person is deemed to have disposed of all his or her property at fair market value at the time of death. This may lead to significant capital gains, which are taxable. So, it is important to always consider the tax impacts of how you dispose of your assets at the time of your death, to determine which option is most advantageous for your heirs.

The story of a kind-hearted lady with good foresight

Mrs. Gagnon is a 65-year-old widow; she retired this year and wants to review her will. Saint Joseph's Oratory holds an important place in her heart, and she would like to make a planned donation in order to help preserve this wonderful shrine. However, out of concern for her children's well-being, she wants to make sure her philanthropic gesture will not deprive them of a large portion of their inheritance. She wonders about the tax burden her children would have to shoulder upon her death. Her tax bracket is 48.2%.

Mrs. Gagnon has \$200,000 in her RRSPs that she doesn't think she will use because she has few expenses and has a pension that allows her to live comfortably. She vacations at her cottage, which she purchased over 20 years ago, and this allows her to spend time with her children. This cottage has a market value of \$150,000. Because she bought it for \$75,000, she will have earned capital gains of \$75,000 upon her death, 50% of which will be taxable. She also owns a home evaluated at \$335,000 (with no mortgage), which she inherited from her parents and wishes to pass on to her children. In summary:

ASSETS	VALUE	TAXES PAYABLE	NET INHERITANCE
RRSP	200 000	96 400	103 600
Cottage	150 000	18 075	131 925
Residence	335 000	–	335 000
Life insurance	50 000	–	50 000
Total	735 000	114 475	620 525

Ms. Gagnon wonders what would happen if she named Saint Joseph's Oratory as the beneficiary of her life insurance policy. The impact would be as follows:

ACTIFS	VALUE	TAXES PAYABLE	NET INHERITANCE
RRSP	200 000	96 400	103 600
Cottage	150 000	18 075	131 925
Residence	335 000	–	335 000
Life insurance		–	don
Receipt = less taxes and more cash in hand		(24 100)	24 100
Total	685 000	90 375	594 625

Mrs. Gagnon quickly realized that, in addition to generating significant tax savings, this donation would benefit a charity that is close to her heart. The real net cost of a \$50,000 donation, i.e. the difference from the net inheritance, is \$8,633.33 for each of her three children. Moreover, taxes payable to the government are cut by \$24,100.

In conclusion

Whether you choose to leave Saint Joseph's Oratory a life insurance policy, a percentage of your assets, a residence or your RRSPs, your donation will have a positive impact not only in terms of the taxes payable upon your death, but for the continuation of this wonderful sanctuary and Saint Brother André's mission. In the short term, you will feel good about yourself and will set a wonderful example for your children.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best during this beautiful Christmas season. May peace, happiness, joy, love and especially health be with you every day in the New Year. And thank you for your generosity.

Do not hesitate to contact me for more information. ■

Claudia Côté, B.A., LL.L.

Director
Planned Giving Program
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or (toll-free) 1-877-672-8647
ccote@osj.qc.ca

Follow me online for other information blogs on planned gifts at: CotcClaudia.blogspot.com

GATHERINGS AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

November 2011

In the Oratory Museum

Les crèches du Québec à l'honneur

**Exhibition of 200 nativity scenes
from over 100 countries**

Admission fees; schedule and special prices for families and groups available via registration at Visitor and Pilgrim Services at 514 733-8211 or at pelerinage@osj.qc.ca



Work of art: Rose-Anna Monna
Photo: Alexandre Genest

December 2011

Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m.

Communal celebration of forgiveness in the Crypt Church

Saturday, December 17 at 8:00 p.m.

A Classical Noël at the Oratory with Marc Hervieux and *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*

Benefit concert to fund our major renovation and restoration project

Only one show in the Basilica

Tickets \$35, \$50, \$100, \$200

Privilege Tickets \$250 (post-concert cocktail with the artist and income tax receipt)

Admission Network: 514 790-1245 - www.admission.com

Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Christmas concert with *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*

In the Crypt Church

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Masses

6:00 p.m.: family mass

9:00 p.m. and midnight; with *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*

Organ concert preceding masses

Pass required for the 9:00 p.m. and midnight Masses:

available as of Saturday, November 26 from the Information and Blessings Office

Saturday, December 31

11:30 p.m.: prayers, followed by midnight mass in the Crypt Church; with the Haitian community

January 2012

Sunday, January 1

New Year's Mass – *World Day of Prayer for Peace*

7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.,

11:15 a.m. (in English),

12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 1

Blessing of pilgrims and families

at 2:30 p.m. in the Crypt Church

Saturday, January 7

First Official Feast of Saint Brother André

Solemn high mass at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 22 at 7 p.m.

Celebration for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Basilica

February 2012

Wednesday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Mass and Anointing of the Sick on *World Day of the Sick*

March 2012

March 10 to 18

Novena and Feast of Saint Joseph

Show me your faith

with Doris Lamontagne, p.f.m.

preaching at 2:00 p.m. in the Basilica and 7:30 p.m. in the Crypt Church

Monday March 19 at 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Feast of Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary

Solemn Masses in the Basilica

with *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*

Schedule subject to change

Please visit our website for the complete program of events:

www.saint-joseph.org

Gratitude to Saint Brother André!

At age 57, André Richard, who retired in 2008 from the electrical supply industry after 30 years, is still very active and still thinks about others.

He agreed to meet with me at the Oratory to tell me about his attachment to this wonderful sanctuary and to Brother André.

He told me about his philanthropic project and why he has chosen to make a bequest to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

He explains, "(...) In 2009, I was deeply betrayed by certain friends, which led me to question several aspects of my life.

(...) I got up one morning and decided to get back to basics, so I prayed to Brother André because I remembered that he is the reason why I can walk today. I decided to make him a bigger part of my life. If I needed someone, I would turn to him."

I asked him to tell me his story.

He was born with a bone malformation in both legs. On the recommendation of his doctor, his parents consulted specialists at the Children's Hospital. His case was extremely rare, and required exploratory surgery because the doctors didn't know what else to do. The doctors recommended a second surgery, but they all thought that his chances of ever walking were slim. His father refused the second surgery; he didn't want his son to suffer unnecessarily.

Mr. Richard told me his parents were strong believers in Brother André, which is why he is named André, instead of Fernand, after his godfather. "My mother is a Bessette. I remember that my maternal grandfather loved



M. André Richard

telling us about this connection, and about his memories of Brother André.

(...) My parents turned to prayer; my father, my mother and my grandmother prayed every day to Brother André. I would see them go into the church next to the hospital, and I often went with them." He told me that, as he grew up, the bones in his legs slowly healed, and, although he walked much later than most children, he had no lasting ill effects.

Since his crisis of faith in 2009, since he started praying again, he told me his life has improved on many levels.

"Before, I wasn't a happy person, not very sociable, closed in. Now, since turning to Brother André, I'm a changed man. I go for two-hour walks every day, I help others, I am more open to people and more positive.

I realize that maintaining and renovating the Oratory is expensive, and

that's why I want to make a substantial donation upon my death to pay homage to Brother André and to thank him."

Mr. Richard is convinced that, once again, praying to Brother André has helped him.

He continued, "(...) I identify with Brother André because he persevered in his life and believed in his dreams. He is an example to follow."

Mr. Richard prays at the Oratory as often as he can. And this avid biker never misses the blessing of the motorcycles each May, and takes that opportunity to light a candle.

In conclusion, "I was there on October 30 at the Olympic Stadium and I am extremely happy that his work and his miracles have finally been recognized."

For these reasons, André Richard has chosen to donate a significant portion of his estate to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

I would like to thank André Richard for his moving story and his generous act!

Thanks also to all our generous donors, who help to ensure the continuity of Saint Brother André's mission and Saint Joseph's Oratory.

If you would like to pay homage to Saint Brother André in a special way, I would be pleased to discuss it with you. ■

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

Visit our section
"Supporting the Oratory"
at www.saint-joseph.org
to learn more about
all our programs

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A faith that moves mountains

When Saint Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant without having relations with him, he may have felt like he had come up against a mountain. But, he turned that mountain into a place where he could get in touch with God. His faith levelled the mountain that stood in his way. In our daily lives, we may experience difficulties that appear to be as insurmountable as a mountain. So, why not let faith move that mountain? ■



New things to see at the Oratory Museum

Since October, visitors to the Oratory have been admiring the displays featuring Brother André's life. The first phase of the renovations to the permanent exhibit was unveiled during the novena to Saint Joseph, in March. It highlighted the steps leading up to Brother André's canonization. This time, the focus is on his childhood, emigration to the United States, admission to the Congregation of Holy Cross, work at Collège Notre-Dame and construction of the Oratory. The exhibit also includes photographs showing the devotion of an entire people to this man, who was at once a friend, a brother, a saint.

During the Christmas season, the Oratory Museum will present an exhibit of nativity scenes showcasing Québec artists and artisans. Works in wood, ce-



ramic, glass, paper and a variety of other materials will demonstrate the diversity and wealth of originality in their representations of the Nativity. There will be new additions for 2010-2011 and nativity scenes from over 100 countries around the world, for a total of 200. The exhibit opened on Saturday, November 5, 2011 – a wonderful outing for the entire family!



The Holy Land: a tradition for the Oratory

Considering the success of the first trip, the *Voyage Hone* travel agency, in collaboration with Saint Joseph's Oratory, invites you again on a pilgrimage – *Sur les pas de Joseph, Jésus et Marie* – to the breathtaking country that is Israel, also known as the Holy Land. You will be profoundly touched by the holy places visited on the south-to-north itinerary of the Holy Land. This pilgrimage to the most revered sites in Christianity, includes, among others, stops in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and Galilee. Pilgrims on this tour, scheduled for March 2012, will be accompanied by a member of the Oratory's pastoral team. For information and to register, contact *Voyage Hone* at 514 878-1000 or at www.voyagehone.com.



A travelling statue

An element familiar to visitors to Saint Joseph's Oratory has finally found a permanent home. A beloved statue of the Virgin Mary has now been erected on the very rock of Mount Royal itself, next to the Votive Chapel, near the elevators. This location, evocative of the Lourdes grotto, highlights this antique statue donated in 1909, before which Saint Brother André often prayed. Initially located next to the original chapel, the statue then embellished the front of the Basilica during its construction, and later welcomed pilgrims at the top of the main stairway. Before moving to its new home last spring, the statue of the Virgin spent some time at the foot of the Oratory's 50th anniversary mural.



Jomon Kalladanthiyil