



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate publication

A Remarkable Spirit Surrounds the Canonization of Brother André **Saint Joseph's Oratory celebrates its 90th Novena dedicated to Saint Joseph**

Montreal, March 10, 2010 - A jubilant spirit surrounds the opening of the 90th novena dedicated to Saint Joseph on Mount Royal in the heart of Montreal. Under the theme "*Called to Love!*" Father Yoland Ouellet, OMI, Vice-Rector of Pastoral ministry at the Shrine of Notre-Dame-du-Cap will preach to the pilgrims who are expected to gather in greater numbers following the recent announcement of the upcoming canonization of Brother Andre, on October 17.

"Brother André invited those he met to confide their suffering to Saint Joseph. To him, the preparatory Novena to the Feast of Saint Joseph was a time of intense prayer, as thousands of people joined him each day to pray to this great saint. As during Brother André's time, pilgrims come to lay their suffering, their hopes, and those of the entire world at Saint Joseph's feet," said Father Claude Grou, CSC, Rector of the Oratory.

New this year

This year the Oratory will present a concert with prayer in English, featuring the singer-songwriter Catherine Joanne. Centered around Saint Joseph, the concert organized by *The Oratory* magazine's team will take place on Sunday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the Crypt Church. Admission is free.

Celebrations and special Blessings during the Novena

In addition to the regular mass schedule (7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m in English, 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., all in the Crypt Church) there will also be celebration of the Eucharist with a special daily preaching at 2:00 p.m. in the Basilica and 7:30 p.m. in the Crypt Church. Also, a first this year which should appeal to pilgrims from all horizons; following the evening mass around 8:30 p.m., Father Ouellet, along with members of the pastoral ministry of the Oratory, will offer special blessings. Visit the www.saint-joseph.org for a list of the groups to which those benedictions will be proposed.

The Novena culminates with the Feast of the patron of the Oratory and of Canada on Friday, March 19. On that day the Basilica will see three special celebrations: at 10:00 a.m. with Mgr Paul-André Durocher, Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall; at 2:30 p.m. with Mgr André Gaumond, Archbishop of Sherbrooke; and at 7:30 p.m. with Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, Archbishop of Montreal. The choir will be composed of *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*, accompanied by organist, Philippe Bélanger.

Meeting the World

As it has become a tradition, hundreds of pilgrims from across Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, the United States, and even from Latin America and Europe will join those from the greater Montreal area, amongst which the Haitian, Vietnamese, and Italian communities are also expected to be well represented as the Novena and the Feast of Saint Joseph have a very special meaning for them.

For information, pilgrimage reservations, and requests for prayer leaflets call 514 733-8211. Visit our website at www.saint-joseph.org and click on the *English* button. Scroll down until you see the poster entitled *Called to Love!* Click on the words “Novena and Feast to Saint Joseph” beneath it.

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Photos and documentation upon request

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