



THE FRIEND OF BROTHER ANDRÉ

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

Gathering Opportunities

A Winter Tradition

Christmas concert

by Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal

Directed by Mr. Andrew Gray
Saturday, December 17, 2 p.m.
in the Crypt Church. Free

Christmas Masses

Saturday, December 24

In the Basilica: 6 p.m. Family Mass
9 p.m. and Midnight, with
Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal
(Pass required for those Masses:
available starting Saturday,
November 19)

In the Crypt Church:

4:30 p.m., 9:15 p.m. (in English)
and 12:15 a.m. (bilingual)

Sunday, December 25

7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.,
11:15 a.m. (in English),
12:30 p.m., 3 p.m. (in Spanish),
4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Masses

Saturday, December 31

Midnight Mass in the Crypt Church

Family Day

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Blessing of pilgrims and families
1 p.m. in the Crypt Church

...

www.saint-joseph.org



Saint Joseph's
ORATORY
of Mount Royal

From the Paccard's Foundry to the Oratory

Last spring, Philippe Paccard, president of the Fonderie Paccard in Annecy, France, came to inspect the carillon at Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. The majority of the carillon's 56 bells were cast by Mr. Paccard's predecessors. Representing the seventh generation of Paccard family bell founders, Mr. Paccard was able to assess the sound quality of the carillon and two large bells, which weigh approximately two tons each and were acquired by the Oratory over the past few years in efforts to enhance the instrument.

While the very first bells were originally intended to be used in a carillon next to the Eiffel Tower for the 1937 International Exposition, the instrument will soon begin a new chapter in its history. As part of the development project slated to begin in 2017, the Paccard carillon

will be transformed, restored and installed in a new tower overlooking the future Holy Family Plaza.

In addition to adding bells to the carillon, including the ones mentioned above, we are also evaluating the possibility of casting a new bell of over three tons. These enhancements will help to enrich and broaden the instrument's musical repertoire and represent another phase in the life of Quebec's only carillon.

With ten carillon concerts per week and several workshops for people of all ages led by our carillonist, the Oratory will continue to preserve this musical tradition. As was the case for the carillon's inauguration in 1955, we will rely on the generous donations of those who wish to support this initiative.

Sébastien Côté



Mathaie Dumes

Brother André, Patron Saint of Family Caregivers in Canada

Good news! At their Plenary Assembly, which took place in Cornwall, in September, the Catholic Bishops of Canada approved the devotional title for Brother André (Alfred Bessette) of Patron Saint of Family Caregivers in Canada.

“Following the humble example of Saint Brother André,” they stated, “caregivers continue to care for their loved ones, contributing to a culture that respects the dignity of each person.” The announcement concludes with these words, “The Bishops propose that this devotional title be a means of encouraging and sustaining families and friends who care for their sick and dying loved ones.”

This decision by the Bishops of Canada is the culmination a process that began in October 2010, a few weeks after the canonization of Brother André. Mrs. Caroline Vadeboncoeur,

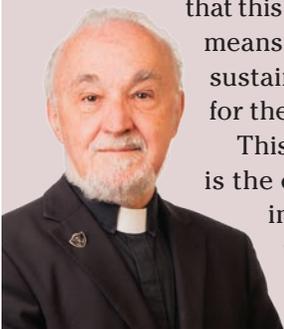
coordinator of the *Regroupement des aidants naturels du comté de L'Assomption* (RANCA) met with Father Mario Lachapelle, CSC, to discuss her wish that Brother André be known as the patron saint of family caregivers. She then started a petition to support the effort, gathering

thousands of signatures, many of them from pilgrims of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. The request was submitted to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

At the very beginning, Mrs. Vadeboncoeur stated, “When I was a family caregiver, I often confided in Brother André. He gave me the strength to carry

on.” The one who so often concentrated on the suffering of others can certainly impart strength and courage to the thousands of men and women who give generously of themselves to help their sick, handicapped and aging loved ones.

Father Claude Grou, CSC
Rector



Gabrielle, Nancy and Paul-Émile.

Photo: D. Miny

Saint Brother André, World Traveller!

Each year, over two million pilgrims, visitors and tourists come to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, founded by the humble Brother André. What a joy it is to see people of all nations climb this mountain and return down with graces and favours, peace in their hearts, the spirit of union and compassion for one another. The experience on the mountain encourages us to share our happiness with others and continue the work initiated by Brother André.

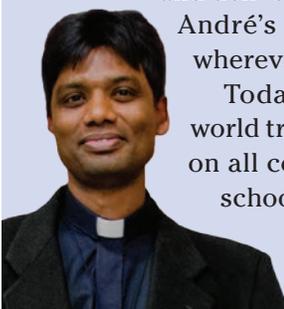
In his lifetime, Brother André often travelled in Canada and the United States, visiting friends and family. He went to the homes of people who sought healing and delivered a blessing or a prayer. Brother André's presence never went unnoticed, wherever he went.

Today, Brother André has become a world traveller. His presence can be found on all continents, within families, and in schools, parishes and other institutions that bear his name. His work transcends borders. He wants

to build a house of peace, practise mercy and help the less fortunate, the poor, and the refugees. At the same time, he is ready to help us. Don't be afraid to ask for help from our daily traveller. He wants to share his joy with his friends.

Thanks to your support, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is able to continue his mission and work. Saint André and Saint Joseph are always ready to travel; allow them to do so even more by filling your home and your corner of the world with their presence.

Father Thomas Xavier Gomes, CSC
Co-Director of the Associates of Brother André



The Gift of Life Insurance: Problem Solved!

Denise had been mulling over the idea of giving the gift of life insurance for a few months, but she wanted to go over her options. She had taken out a life insurance policy several years ago, and no longer saw the use in keeping it, though she continued to pay her annual premiums. When she came to meet with me, she brought an article I had written for *The Friend of Brother André* newsletter in 2012. “We need to revisit this topic, for everyone’s sake!” she said, laughing. Not wasting any time, she pulled out a list of questions from her bag. The best way to remember everything!

(For confidentiality purposes, the fictitious name Denise will be used in this article.)

DENISE First of all, I’d like to know, in general, how this is done. A friend told me that to make a donation through life insurance, you have to indicate it in your will. But I thought the best way to do it was to designate the Oratory as the beneficiary directly in your life insurance contract. Which one of us is right?

C.C. Actually, you’re both right. Neither answer is wrong. There are different ways to do it, and each one has its own advantages. Let me explain.

If no beneficiary is directly named in your life insurance policy, the life insurance proceeds will become an asset to the benefit of your estate and will be distributed according to your wishes, as specified in your will. You can then make a specific bequest to donate your life insurance proceeds, for example: “I bequeath to Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal the proceeds of the life insurance policy I hold with XYZ Insurance Company, bearing the number Abc1234.”

DENISE Okay... (taking notes)

C.C. If you choose to directly designate your beneficiary in your policy, they will receive the life insurance proceeds in the event of your death, independently of the distribution the estate’s assets. Just like in your will, the beneficiary designated in your life insurance contract can be modified if you wish, should your circumstances change, unless the beneficiary is designated “irrevocable,” in which case you would need their authorization first.

DENISE Um... what does “irrevocable” mean?

C.C. Yes. In general, a beneficiary named without special designation is automatically “revocable,” meaning that should your circumstances change, you can change the beneficiary by simply filling out a form and sending it to your insurance company. However, if you name an “irrevocable” beneficiary, then in order to change it, the beneficiary must



André Charron, CSC

first sign an agreement form. If the beneficiary refuses to sign, no change can be made.

DENISE Okay. So you really have to think carefully before making this type of decision.

C.C. Exactly.

DENISE What about donation receipts? Will Saint Joseph’s Oratory issue a donation receipt in both cases?

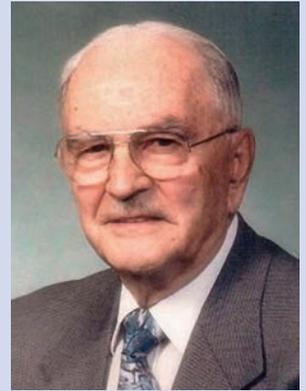
C.C. Excellent question Denise! Whether the Oratory is designated the beneficiary of your life insurance policy or the donation is solely mentioned in your will, in both cases, the Oratory will issue a donation receipt on behalf of the estate for the amount of the death benefit received. Your estate will benefit from tax credits for this donation.

DENISE Very good. I’ve also heard that I could get tax benefits in my lifetime. Is that correct?

C.C. Yes. There is a way to make a life insurance donation that gives you tax benefits during your lifetime.

Paying Tribute to a Builder

One of the chief builders of the Desjardins Group, Rosario Tremblay passed away at the Hôtel-Dieu de Lévis on December 8, 2015 at the honourable age of 105. He worked at Desjardins for over fifty years, mainly as head of the Inspections Department from 1942 to 1966.



He found that the cooperative organization's core values matched his own: humanizing capitalism for the well-being of members and their communities. In an interview with *La Presse* in June 2010, days before his 100th birthday, he said, "Cooperatives are the best way to build a just and equitable society... We need to learn how to help one another and find solutions together."

With his wife Hélène Duquette, Mr. Tremblay raised 14 children, into whom he instilled a sense of responsibility, spirituality, integrity and sensitivity to the needs of others. In middle age, he stayed in shape by practising different sports: skating, snowshoeing, tennis, swimming, and squash. In addition, his favourite hobbies included sport fishing and small game hunting.

A devout Catholic, Mr. Tremblay began each day by attending Mass. He had a special devotion to Saint Joseph, in whom he saw the characteristics of a model father: loving, protective and nurturing. He also expressed his fondness for Saint Joseph by becoming a benefactor of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

In May 2014, I had the chance to meet him at the annual dinner of the Rector's Group, which he attended as a "Builder" member. Mr. Tremblay confided in me that he had pledged a donation to the Oratory in his will to continue his support... and he kept that promise.

We are very grateful to Mr. Tremblay for his contribution to the work of Brother André. Our deepest condolences to his family.

Claudia Côté

*This text was written in collaboration with Ms. Lucille Landry, Mr. Tremblay's daughter.
Thank you!*

You can choose to donate an existing policy, or take out a new policy and make Saint Joseph's Oratory the owner and beneficiary. You will have to meet with an insurance agent to make this type of transfer. A few forms to fill out, nothing complicated.

If this policy has a cash surrender value, you will receive a donation receipt from the Oratory for that value, and if there are premiums to pay, and you continue to pay them, you will receive an annual donation receipt from the Oratory for the value of the premiums you paid.

DENISE So, we could use the life insurance policy I've had for a long time that I pay \$100 annual premiums for.

C.C. Absolutely. We could make the transfer; the Oratory would then become the policy owner and beneficiary of the death benefit. You would continue to be the insured who pays the annual premiums. Each year, your insurance company would confirm to me the amount you paid, and the Oratory would issue you a donation receipt for that amount.

In the event of your death, your donation would be substantial and in your lifetime you would have benefited from a tax credit of approximately \$50 per year, thereby reducing the cost of your annual premium.

DENISE Excellent! I understand much better now. Thank you very much!

C.C. Thank you, Denise, for all the time and effort you've spent on your charitable project for Saint Joseph's Oratory.

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After our meeting, Denise made an appointment with her insurance advisor. The project she had been wanting to do for so long could finally be accomplished.

Thank you to all benefactors for your heartfelt contributions to support the mission of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal!



Claudia Côté, B.A., LL.L.

Attorney and Legal Advisor
Director, Planned Giving Program
514 733-8211, ext. 2523
or (toll-free) 1-877-672-8647
ccote@osj.qc.ca

Interview with Sister Nicole Fournier, SGM

Trust in God's Work

Why did you decide to get involved with Saint Joseph's Oratory?

It started with an invitation from the rector, Father Claude Grou, CSC to come join the board of directors. For me, there were also several connections between the Grey Nuns and the Oratory. Marguerite d'Youville, our founder, and Brother André were the first Canadian-born saints.

My path led me to the Oratory because of this trust in the work of God that serves even the least among us. People come here seeking comfort, just like at the Accueil Bonneau, where I worked for many years.

In your opinion, what place should the Oratory have in today's society? How do you envision its future?

For me, the Oratory is an important place of welcoming and spiritual enrichment for everyone, rich and poor, a sacred space that fosters contemplation and harmony with nature.

Quebec has become a multi-faith society, and, at the same time, it promotes secularism. This is a chance for the Church to go back to its roots — meaning families, lay people — because the Church's future relies on them.

It's important to distinguish between religion and faith. Religion falling to the wayside is one thing, but

Christian faith is another. It's part of our heritage, and part of what keeps us going. I am confident in the future of the Oratory as an agent in the work of evangelization among families.

What do you think Saint Brother André's legacy is? What does it mean to Montrealers today?

Above all it's the path of prayer, and prayer is the confidence that allows us to draw near to God without

fear, an absolute trust in God's goodness, which is freely bestowed. Then, of course, there are the large gatherings that take place at the Oratory. It's great when a community celebrates its faith together, and we find that here as well. The Oratory is a sacred place right in the heart of the city.

If he was alive today, how do you think Saint Brother André would reach out to others?

Brother André talks about unconditional acceptance, listening, and respect.

In these tumultuous times, I think he would encourage us to use our faith as an anchor from which to open ourselves up to others with peace in our hearts.

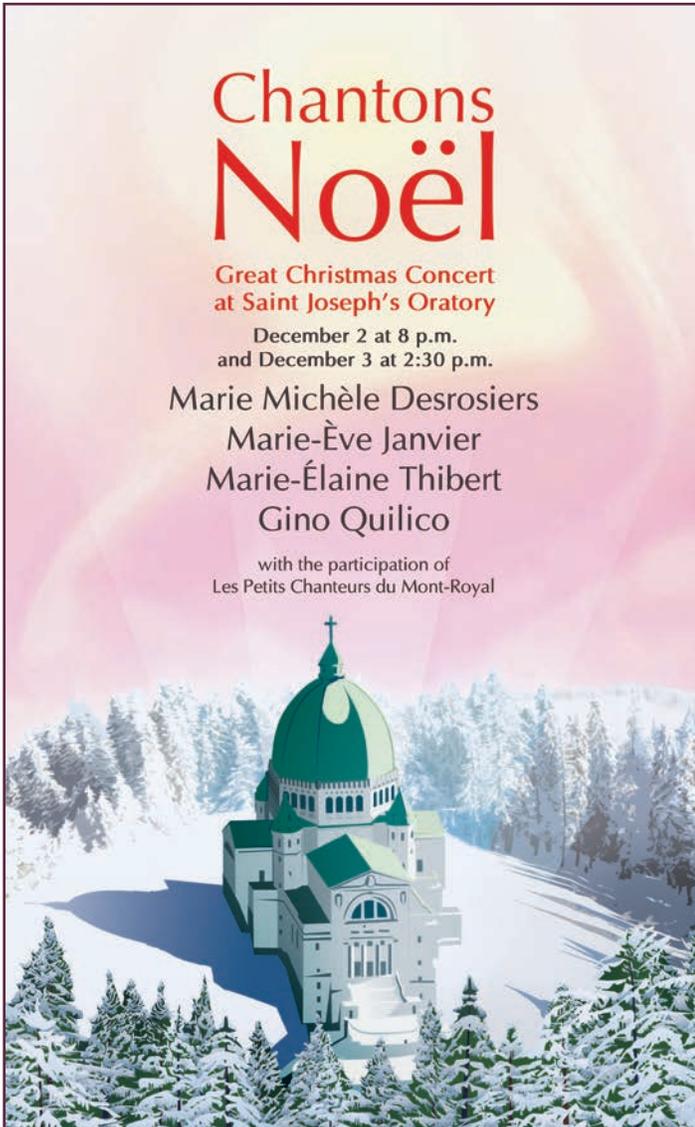
Interview conducted by Sébastien Côté



Family Ties

There are several connections between the Grey Nuns of Montreal and Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. One of them is the family tie uniting Saint Marguerite d'Youville, SGM, founder of the Grey Nuns, to Saint André Bessette, CSC a religious of Holy Cross and founder of the Oratory. Both were descendants of Gaspard Boucher, who came to Quebec in 1634 with his five children, two of whom were named Pierre and Marie. Marguerite was the great-granddaughter of Pierre Boucher, and Alfred Bessette descended from Marie, Pierre's sister. A real family affair!





Chantons Noël

Great Christmas Concert at Saint Joseph's Oratory

Friday, December 2, 2016 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 3 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets (reserved seating) \$35, \$40, \$50

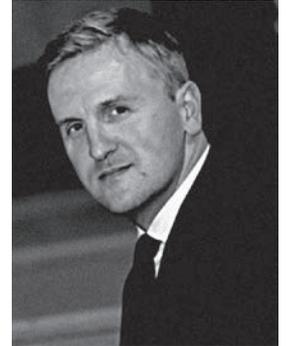
Privilege Tickets \$175 (Friday only: reserved seating, post-concert cocktail with the artists)

Admission Network: 514 790-1245

www.admission.com

A New Conductor!

The Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal began the 2016 school year with a new musical director. Andrew Gray has extensive experience with choral singing, having started at age 6, in England's Durham Cathedral. Extensive travel has led him to work with renowned conductors, many vocal ensembles and artists of varying styles.



Since his arrival in 2010, Andrew Gray has rapidly established himself on the Montreal musical scene as a choral director and choral trainer.

He will lead the Petits Chanteurs during religious celebrations at Saint Joseph's Oratory and at all their concerts. Welcome Mr. Gray!

Museum: Temporarily Closed

The Oratory Museum closed its doors in September for remodeling. The team is already hard at work preparing new exhibitions which will begin in Spring 2017. In the meantime, do not forget to visit the display on the life of Saint Brother André at your next visit of the shrine. Also, in December, a few of the most beautiful creches of the Museum's collection will be displayed on various floors of the Oratory.

Bach and even more Bach

"The Complete Organ Works of Bach" series will conclude with two concerts presented in connection with the Montreal Bach Festival. Luc Beauséjour will play the Beckerath organ on Sunday, November 20 and from Germany, Jens Korndörfer on Sunday, November 27. Tickets are available for purchase for \$15 at the door of the basilica or the festival's website.



A concert (which is not part of the series) will be presented by Vincent Boucher, on Sunday, December 4. He will perform the *Sonata in B Minor* by J. S. Bach and *Via Crucis* by Arvo Pärt. The titular organist of Saint Joseph's Oratory will be accompanied by Andrea Tyniec (violin), François St-Jean (percussion), and Jacques Boucher (organ). Finally, the series "Noëls at the Organ" will complete the year's musical activities.

In the Basilica, 3:30 p.m.