

THE FRIEND OF BROTHER ANDRÉ

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



André Charron

Thinking
of becoming
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Brother André?

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the spirit of Saint
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Saint Joseph's
ORATORY
of Mount Royal

Saint Brother André, more alive than ever!

January 6, 2012 is an important date in the shrine's calendar. On this day, 75 years ago, Saint Brother André went to heaven! Even though the founder of the largest church ever dedicated to Saint Joseph had just died, over a million people came to pay him a final homage during the funeral ceremonies, which lasted a whole week.

One of his colleagues left a journal in which he recorded the event, “*On the feast day of the Epiphany, Brother André, a religious of Holy Cross and founder of Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal, died at 12:50 a.m., in Notre-Dame-de-l’Espérance hospital in Saint-Laurent, aged 91 years and five months. The news of his death spread throughout North America like wildfire!*”

However, despite Brother André’s fame, did you know that after he died many of his close friends were worried whether the shrine and his mission would survive? What will become of the Oratory without its founder, they asked? Will Brother André, his work and his mission, be forgotten as time goes by? Everyone knows the adage “out of sight, out of mind.” It was as if these close friends of Brother André had forgotten what he told them, “*When someone does good on earth it is as nothing compared to what he could do in heaven....*”

This also reminds me of what Jesus said, “*If the grain of wheat does not die, it cannot bear much fruit.*” (compare to John 22:24)

From the perspective of seventy-five years, with over two million visitors to the Oratory each year, we can see how prophetic were the words of Saint Brother André and how full of truth were those of Jesus! Truly, Saint Brother



Charles McBride

André is more alive than ever now, and from heaven he continues to nurture the work that was entrusted to him. But he cannot do it without us – we are his arms and legs here on earth.

After Brother André died it took a lot of work to put up the Basilica and dome that are so familiar to us now. The faith of André’s friends was able to move, to transform the mountain! Today, with more and more pilgrims and visitors arriving, will we be able to meet the challenge of receiving them in suitable surroundings? This is a task for all of us together! ■

Father Mario Lachapelle, CSC

Joseph's faith

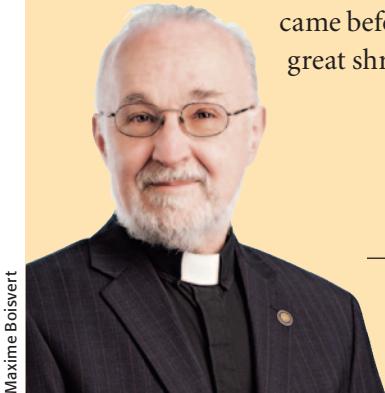
When Joseph learned that Mary, his betrothed, was pregnant, he suddenly felt his world crumble around him. This situation that could have no human explanation rose up before him like an impassable mountain. Then he had that dream in which a strange angelic message urged him to accept through faith that which reason could not apprehend. The angel asked him not only to believe, but to commit his whole life to a project that seemed beyond his strength. Joseph replied, not with words, but by turning his life around as the angel had requested. This completely changed his life. The child that Mary would soon bring into the world, would transform that world.



Joseph first wanted to respond as any honest man would, but his faith opened his mind to a completely different reality. Brother André had understood this message from his great friend, Saint Joseph, and like him was never content to do only what was prudent and reasonable; Brother André let his faith shape his life.

Brother André's great project on Mount Royal continues today because thousands of people are working together to preserve this haven in the heart of Montreal that demonstrates God's presence in our midst.

Joseph responded to the angel's summons with the faith of his ancestors; it is now our turn to respond to the summons to continue this worthy project by transforming ourselves through the faith of Saint Joseph, the assent of Mary, and the faith of Brother André and the thousands of women and men who came before us and established this great shrine on the mountain. ■



Father Claude Grou, CSC
Rector

Maxime Boisvert



A mountain that moves faith

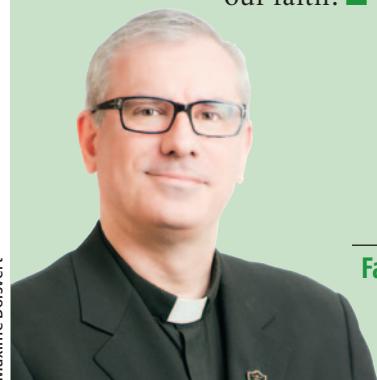
That title may seem surprising. Isn't the 2012 pastoral theme for Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal "A faith moves mountains"? It looks like the Director of the Associates of Brother André didn't get the message!

But there is some truth in that title. Just look at the number of visits made by the great reliquary of Saint Brother André, it hasn't stopped growing since he was canonized on October 17, 2010.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims living in the many dioceses of Quebec and Ontario have already welcomed this special visitor. In the autumn of 2012 it will travel to the eastern United States.

You may know that the reliquary is made up of three elements: the relic itself, (some fragments of Saint Brother André's heart inside a vial); a gilded medallion showing his profile on one side and Saint Joseph's Oratory on the other; and shards of rock from Mount Royal.

The fragments of the heart of Brother André, whose faith transformed Mount Royal, rest on pieces of rock from that same mountain! Those fragments are carrying a man's faith across the continent and calling every one of us to take part in the same transformation of faith, following the exemple of Jesus. Truly, just as faith can move mountains, this mountain can move our faith! ■



Father Mario Lachapelle, CSC
Director
Associates of Brother André

To answer all your questions...

Since I arrived at the Oratory in January 2011 I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you on Saint Joseph's feast day, at the Rector's Group meetings and the Sunday dinners in October. It is a privilege to be able to converse with you, hear your stories and witness your loyalty to the shrine. I am always happy to answer your questions on planned giving at these meetings. Since your questions are highly relevant, I thought I might share some.

What is a planned gift?

It is a gift that is part of a financial, tax or estate plan, designed to take the maximum advantage of tax credits. It often takes effect upon the donor's death.

What kinds of planned gifts are there?

The six most common kinds of planned gifts to the Oratory are: bequests, life insurance, securities, annuities, charitable trusts and no-interest loans.

What are the immediate advantages of annuities?

By endowing an annuity in favour of Saint Joseph's Oratory, you will receive a receipt for a donation equivalent to the excess of the capital over the cost of a similar annuity on the market. Such cost must correspond to at least 20% of the capital. For example, for a capital gift of \$5,000 to the Oratory in exchange for an annuity for life, you will receive a charitable receipt for at least \$1,000 that you can use as a deduction from your income for that year and/or the five following years, whichever is more advantageous for you.

Why is there so little tax to pay on annuities?

Because they are mainly made up of a capital reimbursement, which is not considered income and is therefore not taxable. The capital/interest ratio is calculated based on your age and life expectancy.

Why are the rates so high?

The rates are based on your age, life expectancy and the fact that you are giving away part of your capital.

Is it true that the older we get, the more advantageous it is to take out an annuity?

It is true that the rates get higher as donors age. But to understand how they work, the expected income should be calculated throughout the annuitant's life, not just in terms of annual income. For example: A man of 80 (with a life expectancy of 8 years) purchases an annuity for an annual amount of \$500. He can therefore expect to receive \$4,000 (\$500 x 8). A man of 65 (life expectancy: 17.2 years) with an annual income of \$400 would expect to receive \$6,880 (\$400 x 17.2).

Investing an annuity in the Oratory: it is safe?

The Saint Joseph's Oratory annuity program has been in effect for decades, and has a solid reputation. The Oratory

keeps the capital payments in a separate account so that it can secure its financial commitments.

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I hope I have answered your questions clearly, and I thank you for your confidence. For any other information, you can contact me in complete confidentiality and without any commitment. In the next issue I will have more questions and answers on this fascinating subject. And I am looking forward to seeing you all on the next Saint Joseph's feast day! Thank you! ■



Richard Gingras

Claudia Côté, B.A., LL.B.

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



Roussel

GATHERINGS AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

MARCH 2012

March 10 - 18

Novena to Saint Joseph

Show me your faith

preached by Doris Lamontagne, p.f.m.
homilies at 2 p.m. in the Basilica and 7:30 pm*
in the Crypt Church

*with *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*

Bilingual Masses

March 13 and 15 at 7:30 pm

English Masses

March 11 and 18 at 11:15 am



Monday March 19

Celebration of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of Mary

Solemn Masses in the Basilica,
with Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal
10 am Msgr Gilles Lussier, bishop of Joliette (bilingual)
2:30 pm Msgr André Rivest, bishop of Chicoutimi
7:30 pm Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, archbishop of
Montreal

Celebrations in the Crypt Church

7 am, 8 am, 9 am, 11:30 am, 12:30 pm (in English),
2:45 pm, 4:30 pm and 8 pm (in English)

Banquet for the Grand Associates of Brother André in Joseph-Olivier-Pichette Hall (by invitation)

APRIL 2012

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, April 1

Blessing of palms

Masses at 7 am, 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am*, 12:30 pm,
4:30 pm and 7:30 pm in the Basilica

* procession and solemn chanting of the Passion of Christ
with *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*

Masses at 11:15 am (in English) and 3 pm (in Spanish)
in the Crypt Church

Holy Thursday, April 5

Mass commemorating the Last Supper of the Lord
at 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm in the Crypt Church

Good Friday, April 6

The Passion of Our Lord

at 3 pm in the Basilica

Solemn Way of the Cross

at 7:30 pm in the Crypt Church

Holy Saturday, April 7

Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection

with *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*
at 7:30 pm in the Basilica

Easter Sunday, April 8

Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord

Masses at 9:30 am, 11 am*, 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm
in the Basilica

*with *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*

Masses at 7 am, 8 am, 11:15 am (in English), 3 pm
and 7:30 pm
in the Crypt Church

MAY 2012

Tuesday May 1

Feast of Saint Joseph, the Worker

Masses at 7 am, 8:30 am, 10 am, 11:30 am,
12:15 pm (in English), 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm
in the Crypt Church

Rector's Group meeting

Mass and meal to honour emeritus donors to the Oratory
(by invitation)

Schedule subject to change

Please visit our website for the complete
program of events:
www.saint-joseph.org

Faith in Saint Brother André – a sharing of values

" (...) my husband had confidence in Brother André. He also had great confidence that Saint Joseph's Oratory would administer that pension, and wanted me to have a guaranteed income for the rest of my life."

Mme Gagnon welcomed me with open arms last December 1. She was generous with her time and her travel stories, and I passed a lovely afternoon in her company.

She was unfortunately a recent widow. Her husband, M. Hébert, had died in October at the age of 97. I had met them both a year earlier, so we were able to exchange happy memories.

M. Hébert had taken out an annuity with Saint Joseph's Oratory for the benefit of his wife. She explained, "My husband believed in Brother André and had confidence in him. He also had confidence that Saint Joseph's Oratory would administer that pension, and wanted me to have a guaranteed income for the rest of my life. The capital of \$15,000 that he invested brings me an annual pension of \$1,500, which I get twice a year in non-taxable instalments that are guaranteed until my death."

I remember that when I met M. Hébert he said "...an annuity will bring in a good rate of return and also contribute to the work that is so dear to us. It's a win-win situation for all of us."

I asked Mme Gagnon to tell me a bit about herself and her husband. Although she usually prefers to stay in the background, she agreed to talk about her husband so as to pay tribute to his memory. She told me, "That way I will feel I am also doing my bit."

CC – Tell me about your husband. What did he do?

MG – My husband worked in construction. He was a carpenter. He's the one who built this house, which has four units. He started by working for other people, but not for long. After that he was always on his own. He built a house in LaSalle but we were expropriated for the construction of the Mercier Bridge, so then he built this one. He retired at 65, but he went on working as a taxi driver. He worked until he was 75 and never had an accident.

CC- When did you get married? What was your home life like?

MG- We were married in 1953. I was 30 and my husband 39. Mutual friends introduced us. Since I couldn't have children, we adopted a 6-month old girl a few years after we got married, in 1956. (Mme Gagnon went on quite emotional). Sadly, she died in a car accident ... a freak accident ... she was 20 years old. (She showed me beautiful photos and continued). My daughter married young. She had a baby who was one-and-a-half when she died. Both grandmothers raised that baby girl, and now she visits me regularly. She lives nearby with her partner and her little boy. They're like my daughter and my grandson! (And she proudly showed me photos, talking about how well he is doing in hockey).

CC- And you, Mme Gagnon, tell me about yourself?

MG- During the war years – 1942-1944 – I worked for the government in Ottawa, at the National Printing Bureau. Then I took a nursing course. When I got married I was working at the Ottawa General Hospital. After that I worked in other Montreal hospitals



until the LaSalle Hospital opened. I was there until I retired. I delivered the first five babies in that hospital, including one to a very famous local actress.

CC – I see your eyes light up – that must have been your passion in life!

MG- I adore babies, and I have loved obstetrics since my first nursing job; I have always worked in that field. Have I delivered babies! You know, I celebrated my 90th birthday last summer (2011) in Norway with a woman who has been my travelling companion since my husband stopped being able to travel with me. We have travelled a lot.

Of course I miss my husband.... but everyone's turn has to come, and since he lived to be 97, I console myself by thinking what a good life he had. He was never ill, and that's why he was grateful for life and wanted to give something back. He left as he wanted to, peacefully and without suffering.

...

Before I left, she showed me her collection of thimbles from all the countries she has visited. "I must have at least 150!" she said.

We hugged goodbye, and she made me promise to come back for another visit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >

NEWS IN BRIEF

> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

CC- That's a promise, I will personally bring you the next issue of *The Friend of Brother André* magazine!

...

Thank you, Madame Gagnon, for sharing your story so generously!

We are also very grateful to the late Paul-André Hébert for his generous donation which helps us continue Brother André's mission. This is a legacy of the value of sharing that informed your whole life.

My sincerest condolences to the family, loved ones and friends of M. Hébert. ■

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

A mausoleum named in honour of Saint Brother André

The Repos Saint-François d'Assise cemetery, in the east of Montreal, inaugurated its Saint Brother André mausoleum on October 31. In honour of the new saint, a lime wood statue of Brother André by an artist from Saint-Jean-Port-Joli was unveiled. There was also a painting representing Brother André with Saint Joseph's Oratory in the background and a symbolic stained glass window. Bishop Christian Lépine, auxiliary bishop of the Montreal archdiocese blessed the premises in the presence of many guests, including Father Claude Grou, CSC, Rector of the Oratory, and several members of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

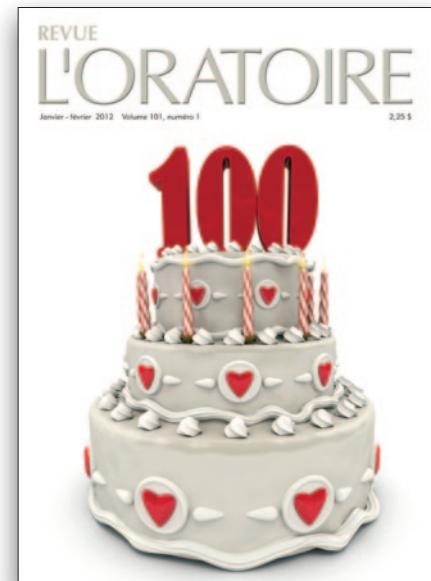


L'Oratoire magazine is 100 years old!

An exhibition called "La revue *L'Oratoire*... Cent ans d'histoire" (*L'Oratoire* Magazine ... One Hundred Years of History) will be on display at Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal from May 18 to October 8, 2012. It will celebrate the founding of the magazine that was initially called *Annales de saint Joseph*, but in 1944 became *L'Oratoire*. Through its close connection to the shrine where it was created, this publication has the inside track on everything that goes on.

The exhibition will offer the public a look back at a century of reflection, testimonials and creation. The magazine's history will be told with the help

of archival material, photographs and works of art, some of which have never been seen before. The focus will be on the people who created the magazine, the different stages in its life and its main subjects: devotion to Saint Joseph and the Holy Family, the life and works of Saint Brother André, and issues affecting society. Texts, images and objects will give visitors a chance to discover – or rediscover – a magazine with an original and little-known (or forgotten) take on life in Montreal and the province from the beginning of the twentieth century until now.



Visit our section "Planned Giving Program" to learn more about all our programs
www.saint-joseph.org