



THE FRIEND OF BROTHER ANDRÉ

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

WINTER 2017-2018

Gathering Opportunities

Sunday Concerts

15:30, in the Basilica
Bach Festival

November 5 to December 3
Noëls at the Organ
December 10 to 31

Centennial of the Crypt Church

100th Anniversary Concert

Tuesday, November 21 at 19:30
Arvo Pärt's *St. John Passion*
in collaboration with the
Montreal Bach Festival
Tickets on sale at
www.festivalbachmontreal.com

Centennial Celebration

Sunday, December 17 at 19:30
Presided by Christian Lépine,
Archbishop of Montreal

Traditional Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17

15:30, in the Basilica
The Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal
and Vincent Boucher, organ

Exhibitions at the Oratory Museum

A World in a Crèche
Saint Joseph Likes Montreal

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www.saint-joseph.org



Saint Joseph's
ORATORY
of Mount Royal

Building with Saint Brother André

The Oratory's Crypt Church is 100 Years Old! The stone building with its sober and distinguished lines makes a good impression on the north side of Mount Royal. Inaugurated on December 16, 1917, it succeeded the Original Chapel, which had become too small to accommodate the increasingly numerous pilgrims.

Its opening is a significant milestone in the development of the work, modestly launched by Saint Brother André in 1904. It brings the Oratory into an age of modernity. In the years following its construction, the space was organized and equipped with access roads for pedestrians and vehicles, an entrance arch and flowerbeds designed with a regard

for beauty as a tribute to the patron saint of the place.

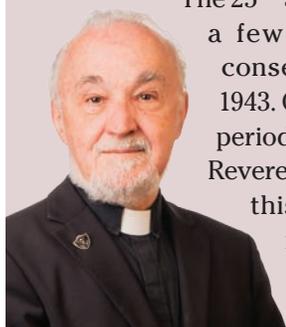
This was only the prelude to a monumental architectural complex which was to be completed a few years later by the addition of the Basilica, still unfinished upon the death of the founder. According to a witness at the time, Mr. Arthur Ganz, "Brother André was confident that the work of the Oratory would continue after his death. He said: Saint Joseph does not need me as a contractor!" Whatever he may say, it is always with Saint Brother André and with his inspiration that we continue to build and celebrate! (Souvenir photos of the Crypt Church on page 5)



The Crypt's Three Defining Moments

Among the many memorable moments that have punctuated the hundred years of the Crypt Church of the Oratory, I would like to highlight three most important: its official opening in December 1917, its consecration in August 1943 and its renovation in 1967, following Vatican II.

The great celebrations of 1917 mark a new beginning for Brother André's work. Saint Joseph now has his place well established on the flank of Mount Royal. In this dark time of war and violence, a place of prayer and peace opened.



The 25th anniversary (1942) was emphasized a few months later by the solemn consecration of the crypt on August 9, 1943. Once again, the event takes place in a period darkened by violence and war. Most Reverend Charbonneau, who presides over this consecration, notes: "At the very moment when in many countries many churches are destroyed,

others closed to worship, what consolation for us to be able to consecrate this temple." (*Les Annales*, October 1943, p. 295).

Fifty years after its opening, the renovation of the crypt meets the needs of a new era. The Second Vatican Council proposed a profound reform of the liturgy, changes that require major transformations in the churches. At the consecration of the new altar of the crypt, on June 29, 1967, the *L'Oratoire* magazine is entitled: "The new liturgy transfigures the Crypt."

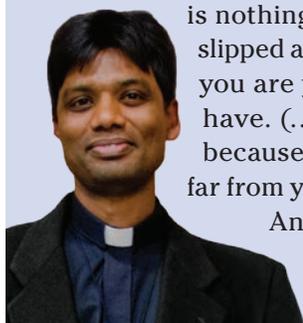
Today just as yesterday, the crypt remains an incomparable place of prayer where daily liturgical celebrations, personal prayer and spontaneous devotional gestures of the visitors come together. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to preserve the beauty of this place of prayer where Saint Brother André himself prayed for many years.

Father Claude Grou, CSC
Rector

Our Faithful Departed

Death is a heart-rending reality, which turns our world upside down and plunges us into the unknown. Without faith, it is unbearable; with faith we understand that it marks a passage to the infinity of God. Jesus presents us the resurrection as a new life where we will know the joy of being with the Father of Heaven. There await us those who are dear to us, assured of their immortality, but worried about our salvation. What a joy to know that one day we will be together again!

Saint Augustine says: "Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away to the next room. I am me and you are you. Speak to me as you always have. (...) Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? In joy, I am not far from you." At the end of his life, Brother André asked the visitors: "Pray for my conversion, that I may dwell in God." The Church invites us



to pray for all those who have left us for the House of the Father, to give thanks for all that is beautiful, good, great in their lives. As Saint Brother André, they often left us a precious heritage. Their memory invites us

to live to work together to build a better world, more inspired by the spirit of the Gospel.

Every day, at the Oratory, we remember those who have left us. We also join through prayer all our benefactors who have been bereaved. Thanks to your support, Saint Joseph's Oratory continues to gather the faithful who come from all

over the world. In peace and joy, let Saint Joseph and Saint Brother André inspire your life and keep you in the love of the Father.

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

Love Stories

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Every year, the Oratory receives several thousand messages. Some are rich with anecdotes; all testifying to a sincere attachment to Saint Brother André and his work.

As a young woman, Lucille Laporte-Brisebois worked at the Oratory in the department where they reviewed, indexed and followed-up on the impressive correspondence addressed to the ministry. “I was fortunate enough

to work at the *Grand Secrétariat* of the Oratory, under the direction of Miss Rachel Larivière, from 1954 to 1967,” she wrote to us last February. She lead us to an article published in 2012 in *L’Oratoire* magazine, as part of a feature on the 100th anniversary of the publication, where a file photo showed her hard at work... a memory that she preserved preciously since its publication. “That is me, right here, activating the machine used to open the mail, for the needs of the cause (of Saint Brother André).”

For Lucille, “these are nothing but happy moments that I like to



remember.” In 1967, she left her service at the Oratory and married her beloved Gilles Brisebois. The following year, however, she would come back to help the team during the Novena to Saint Joseph, a period of great affluence where work was not lacking. “Later, our children were born.” This love story is still on going, “We were married on April 1, 1967, so this year is our 50th wedding anniversary,” she wrote us.

Over the years, Lucille Laporte and Gilles Brisebois have maintained a strong attachment to the Oratory, which they expressed in particular through the Associates program. In 2017, they both became Great Associates of Brother André.

Receive, dear Lucille and Gilles, our congratulations, our wishes for happiness, and our thanks for your support for the continuation of the work of Saint Brother André.



Ms. Lucille Laporte-Brisebois, here at work at the *Grand Secrétariat* of Saint Joseph’s Oratory

Meeting with Sister Raymonde Jauvin, CND An Educational Mission

► Why did you choose to get involved with the Oratory Foundation?

In the spring of 2017, members of Saint Joseph's Oratory management informed the Congregation of Notre-Dame of their wish to welcome their representative on the Board of Directors of the Oratory Foundation. Besides the major question of the restoration of buildings, this board wishes to revive its educational action of the Christian faith. How can I refuse such an invitation to continue my educational mission? It is without hesitation, and with enthusiasm, that I have agreed to make my contribution, however small, to the great project of the Oratory.

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

It is undeniable that Saint Joseph's Oratory occupies a very important place in society and the Church of Quebec. I was going to say a "unique" and far-reaching place that goes beyond Quebec, reaching all of Canada and North America. It is, in a sense, a "Church of the Nations," where people from all over the world, from different ethnic groups and from all walks of life, come together. In the future, its influence will only grow in Quebec and spread beyond our borders. The Oratory is an environment of peace, of communicative faith, of spiritual enrichment where one can find oneself, reflect and pray...

► What do you think is the heritage of Saint Brother André? What does it mean to Montrealers today?

Who would doubt the precious legacy he left us? He was a poor, humble person, with an undeniable faith in Saint Joseph, available to receive the destitute, the wounded of life, the sick. Even today, thousands of people turn to him with confidence. Saint Brother André welcomes them all, without discrimination, with respect and attentiveness to their prayers; he comforts them, supports them. A spiritual force always emanates from his person and he achieves true miracles.

Even today, Montrealers consider him a "Saint from our home" who does not forget them. People come to the Oratory to pay homage to him, to express their gratitude for the graces obtained through his intercession. It is with a great faith and a deep trust that so many of them receive a new lease on life and leave renewed in their faith, often reconciled with their sometimes difficult life.



► While many churches are closing, how do you explain that the Oratory continues to develop and attract many pilgrims and visitors?

Brother André's mission continues. A welcoming place, with its doors always open, the Oratory has an undeniable attraction. Believers find silence, genuine fraternal communion, various ways of expressing their faith, available priests, daily Eucharist and great liturgical celebrations several times a year. Like Saint Brother André, the vibrant spiritual atmosphere of the Oratory brings people together and helps them to grow in their faith, to have confidence in life, in God, in Saint Joseph and in the Church, a community of the disciples of Jesus.

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

Today, as yesterday, I am convinced that Brother André would respond with fervour and generosity to the invitation of Pope Francis, who invites us to join the people of the "geographical and existential peripheries of the world today," people who are searching for meaning and who are eager to receive God.

Interview conducted by
Sébastien Côté



The interior ornamentation of the Crypt Church magnificently highlights the figure of Saint Joseph both in the nave, by the stained glass windows made in 1919 by Perdriau and O'Shea of Montreal, and in the choir, by the great marble statue by A. Giacomini from Italy. (Above, the stained-glass window titled "The Holy Family in Nazareth").



Thanks to a \$3,800 donation received from Ms. Delphine Vanier Beaudry, the Casavant opus 708 organ was installed in 1917 in the rood screen of the Crypt Church. The instrument, which was restored on a few occasions, still accompanies celebrations today.

Production of the Crypt Church of Saint Joseph's Oratory

Seating capacity: 1000 persons

Architects: Dalbé Viau and Alphonse Venne

Building contractor: Ulric Boileau

Beginning of construction: May 1915

Blessing of the cornerstone by Mgr Paul

Bruchési: May 14, 1916

Official opening: December 16, 1917

Consecration: August 9, 1943



At the turn of the last century, the Crypt Church of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal became the gathering point for pious associations, groups of workers, families, schools, and religious communities. Thousands of people participate in the celebrations that are held there. (Labor Day, 1925).

The Holidays at the Oratory

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24

Crypt Church: 16:30, 21:15 (in English), and 00:15 (bilingual)

Basilica: 18:00 Family Mass; 21:00* and Midnight*, with the Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal

*Pass required: available as of November 18
(For reservation: 514 733-8211)

Monday, December 25

Crypt Church: 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 (in English), 15:00 (in Spanish), 6:30, and 19:30

Basilica: 11:00, with the Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal, and 12:30

New Year's Eve Masses

Sunday, December 31

Crypt Church : 19:30 and Midnight

New Year's Day Masses

Monday, January 1, 2018

World Day of Prayer for Peace

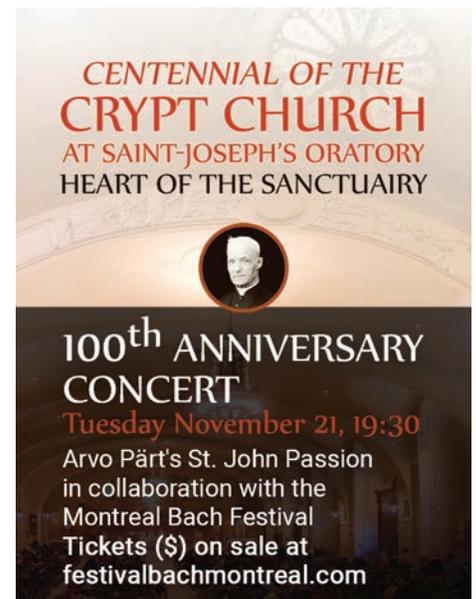
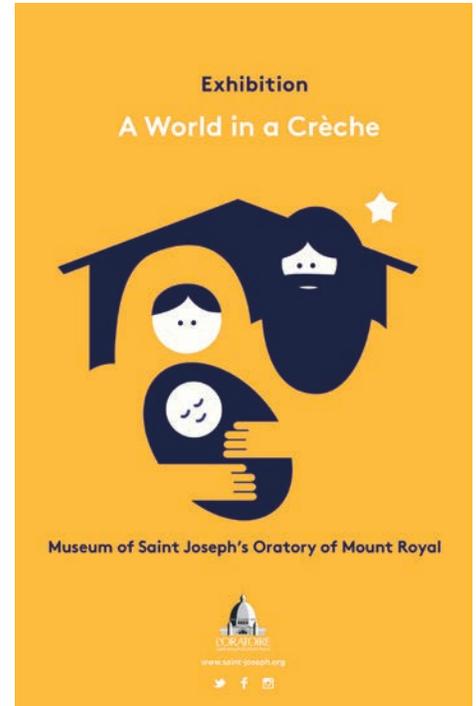
Crypt Church : 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 (in English), 15:00 (in Spanish), 16:30 and 19:30

Basilica : 11:00 and 12:30

Family Day

Blessing of pilgrims and families in the Crypt Church at 13:00

Free entrance to the Oratory Museum



Keep in touch with the Oratory throughout the year thanks to our monthly newsletter!

Register on our website: www.saint-joseph.org

