

# The Friend of Brother André



SUMMER 2020

## "WE NEED YOUR HELP!"

In the more than one hundred years of its history, Saint Joseph's Oratory has never been obliged to close its doors to pilgrims and visitors for an extended period. The coronavirus pandemic decided otherwise. However, as summer approaches, so does good news.

Inspired by its founder, the Mount Royal sanctuary is a place of unconditional welcome. It was so difficult to see the Oratory without its activities and the presence of those who are the reason for its existence. Thankfully, through our broadcast masses, our website and social media, we have been able to stay connected with you. There we have shared our hope and have welcomed your comments, concerns, worries and prayer requests.

What will we remember from this painful time? We will never forget the suffering and grief brought by this pandemic. However, this shared suffering has also generated an overwhelming amount of mutual support and generosity around us.

Businesses reinvented themselves, men and women came forward to work on the front lines; the entire population rallied around to help and support. Seeing all the gestures of solidarity, I thought of these words from Brother André: "Our Lord is our big brother, and as his younger sisters and brothers, we ought to love each other as family".

We understood how much we all need each other. Therefore, we must continue to combine our efforts, to work together to get back on our feet, because things are good... our hope will not have been in vain.

**"Place of expression of faith,  
prayer, healing and peace,  
the Oratory welcomes pilgrims and visitors  
in a spirit of openness and compassion."**

Your support is essential to the continuity of the sanctuary's mission. We need you in order to keep going!

Yes, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal will open its doors again, and you will always be welcome there. We look forward to seeing you!

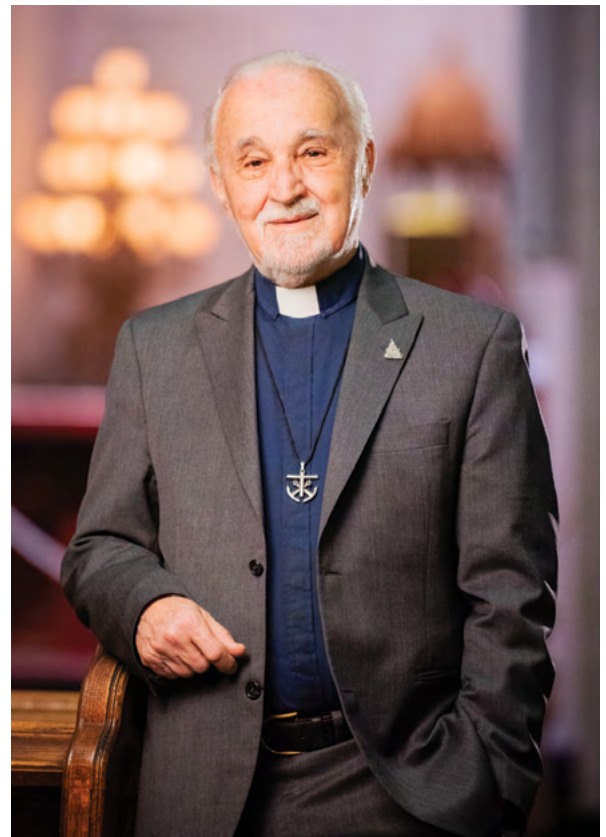


Photo: Maxime Boisvert

As Rector of the Oratory, I thank you for supporting this great work.

May Saint Joseph and Saint Brother André keep our hope alive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Claude Grou".

Father Claude Grou, CSC  
Rector

## UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION

Spring is usually a very busy and festive time of year at the Oratory. In March, we celebrate the Novena and the Feast of Saint Joseph, followed by Easter and its celebrations. On Sundays, sacred music concerts would comfort the soul, and religious tourism would resume with the good weather.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the public health emergency declared in March led to the closure of public places, something not seen before. As a result, all of the Oratory's activities were cancelled immediately. This represents more than 200,000 pilgrims and visitors who did not come up to the Oratory to celebrate these very special events.

Because of this extended closure, Saint Joseph's Oratory is experiencing an unprecedented shortfall. Without pilgrims and visitors, the sanctuary has been unable to rely on its usual revenues from collections, votive lights, museum admissions, guided tours and parking, as well as purchases from the gift shop and donations made on site.

The annual Grand Associates recognition event in March and the Rector's Circle recognition event on May 1<sup>st</sup> were both cancelled. "We miss that precious bond that unites us and allows us to celebrate our faith together," wrote Fr. Claude Grou, CSC, and Fr. Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, in their message addressed to the faithful benefactors of the shrine.

Saint Joseph's Oratory, like most businesses, parishes, charities, tourist destinations, cultural venues and families, is suffering heavy financial losses. The sanctuary's team is working to implement creative and effective solutions to reduce expenses by rethinking the services that we offer and the programming of future activities.

**Would you like to help us?**

**Learn about various ways to support the Oratory: your Oratory!**

## Gifts in many forms



### ONE-TIME GIFT

Whatever the amount, every donation is precious and helps support the work of Saint Brother André. Throughout its history, from a modest wooden chapel to the majestic Basilica, the Oratory has been able to evolve into a prominent spiritual, cultural and natural landmark because of its supporters' donations. You can offer your gift by cheque, credit card or bank transfer, or join thousands of other donors who give online!



### MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Many people choose to donate a set amount each month through automatic deductions from their bank account or credit card. For you, this is a practical way to include a regular donation in support of the Oratory's work as a part of your annual budget. For the Oratory, your monthly gift represents a stable source of funds that we can count on in our financial planning. In choosing the monthly giving program, you become a member of the *Artisans of the Oratory*.



### IN MEMORIAM DONATION

A donation in memory of your loved ones is a way to pay tribute to them by supporting work that was important in their life. In the event of a death, the family can ask the funeral home to display donation cards from the Oratory for visitors to take. Each year, a *Remembrance Mass* is celebrated at Saint Joseph's Oratory in memory of our relatives and friends who have passed away.



### A STEP IN YOUR NAME

Purchase a step that will lead to the future observatory, at the top of the dome! Have your name inscribed on the step, or choose the name of a departed loved one. Steps can be purchased for \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$25,000 (to be paid in one or more installments), depending on where the step is located. The funds received will be added to those collected through the *Reaching New Heights* campaign for the major development project. Carve out your place in history!



### RECOGNITION PROGRAM

From the very beginnings of the Oratory in 1904 until he took his last breath in 1937, Brother André was able to count on many friends to help him transform his dream into reality. And this support continues today, with nearly 20,000 donors who make up the *Friends, Associates, Grand Associates of Brother André, Rector's Circle and Guardians of the Oratory*. Through their annual contributions, these dedicated individuals provide substantial support for the sanctuary and actively participate in its mission of welcoming pilgrims and visitors. If you are not yet a member of this great family of benefactors, join us today!

### For more information

**Please contact the Annual Campaign team:**

514 733-8211, ext. 2721 or 2852  
1 877-672-8647

donations@osj.qc.ca

3800 Queen Mary Road  
Montréal H3V 1H6

[www.saint-joseph.org/yoursupport](http://www.saint-joseph.org/yoursupport)

## Donor profile

# My second home, halfway around the world

**FILIPINA GOLDIN** grew up on a farm in the Philippines in a family rooted in traditional rural values and religion. As the youngest child, and only daughter, she was the apple of her father's eye.

After completing her university studies in accounting, Filipina went to work at a bank. The future looked promising for this young woman with big plans. She wanted to explore the world. Landing a job in Montréal at a bank affiliated with her employer was easier than convincing her father about the idea! But Filipina was successful on both accounts, and in 1965 she found herself in Canada.



### Safe haven

Living thousands of miles from her family and her country, the young woman was sometimes overcome with boredom. She showed a great deal of courage when facing the many challenges that often arise for newcomers. At times the city seemed so big to her, and she didn't always feel comfortable there. But the day she discovered Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, she knew she had found her safe haven.

Moved by the story of Saint Brother André, and finding comfort in the natural setting and the gardens there, Filipina came to think of the Oratory as her favourite place and her new home. Although her life, her career and her new country have brought her great joy over the years, the Oratory has remained a special place for reflection and celebration.

### First, the Oratory

In the 1970s, Filipina met her future husband. After dating for four years, they got married in accordance with their respective religions: he was Jewish, she was Catholic. Knowing how much the Oratory meant to his wife, Mr. Goldin liked to accompany her to the holy site. After moving to Toronto in 1980, the couple would return to Montréal regularly to visit family. The Oratory was the first stop on every visit. It was also the first place where Filipina took her mother when she came to visit her in Canada, twenty years after Filipina had left the Philippines.

### Meaningful gifts

Mr. Goldin passed away a few years ago, and his wife decided to honour his memory by purchasing one of the steps that will lead to the summit of the Basilica's dome. She will have his name inscribed on the step so that the memory of her husband will remain forever in the city where they met, at this site that they visited so often.



As a long-standing donor, Mrs. Goldin is committed to contributing to this place that changed her life. She recently arranged a gift in her will for Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. When asked what motivated her to do this, she replied:

**"At some point I may no longer be able to make regular donations as I do now. By setting up a bequest in my will for the Oratory, my second home, I can be sure the sanctuary will receive a final gift from me, no matter what happens."**



### A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

If you would like to know about the various types of bequests or receive guidance on how to include Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal in your will, feel free to contact me, with no obligation or commitment on your part. I will be pleased to answer your questions and discuss the options with you.

Marie-Anne Desjardins  
Director  
Planned Giving Program

514 733-8211, extension 2523  
madesjardins@osj.qc.ca

Public figures have agreed to share their attachment to Saint Joseph's Oratory in support of the fundraising campaign for its major development project.

## The Oratory seen by...



“There’s something very unique about this site. The Oratory is unlike any other place of silence, or any other garden; it’s a magnificent creation. The Oratory is one of Montréal’s great institutions that bears the name “Mont-Royal” engraved in its stone. The donors who made the Oratory’s construction possible came from all over North America. It’s a remarkable creation and an iconic heritage site. With The Garden of the Way of the Cross, it is not only an architectural landmark, it’s also an alluring landscape and a treasure in the landscape. We can only wish that the garden will be better appreciated and visited more often; that the public will take more advantage of it, for the silence it offers, the various concerts that are held there, or the moments of contemplation and peace it affords in the midst of a bustling city. Join me in helping to preserve this heritage gem.”

**DINU BUMBARU** – Policy Director at Héritage Montréal

View the video of this testimonial and others at [oratory360.com](http://oratory360.com)

## Work on site restarts

Work on the major development project at Saint Joseph’s Oratory finally resumed on May 11 after a forced interruption. The entrepreneur DECAREL can thus continue the construction of the new reception and service facilities that will give access to all the pavilions from street level. Would you like to know more about this major project? Visit [oratory360.com](http://oratory360.com) and take a look into the future.



## A light shines for you

### Would you like to light a votive candle at Saint Joseph’s Oratory?

The Oratory has received many requests over the past few months, and now offers you the possibility of lighting a votive candle via its website.

A member of the pastoral team will light the votive lamp for your intentions in the place of your choice: the Votive Chapel where more than 10,000 lamps and votive candle burn before Saint Joseph (wax), the statue of the Virgin Mary placed near the very rock of the Mount Royal (electronic lamps) or the Saint André Bessette Chapel in the Basilica (electronic lamps).

The offering to be paid is \$2, \$5 or \$6 depending on the size and type of votive lamp. This gesture of devotion may express your gratitude or any request made in faith. The flame that shines becomes the symbol of your presence, the sign of your prayer and the expression of your solidarity with the people you are praying for. [www.saint-joseph.org](http://www.saint-joseph.org)

## Towards the reopening

At the time of going to press, Saint Joseph’s Oratory was still waiting for the green light to reopen its doors to pilgrims and visitors. With the deconfinement well underway in several spheres of activity in Quebec, we can only hope that the places of worship will reopen very soon. In addition to the general protective measures already in place, a sanitary protocol will be added for the conduct of Church celebrations and sacraments. The schedule of our regular Masses and activities remains to be determined.

## ONLINE STORE NOW OPEN!

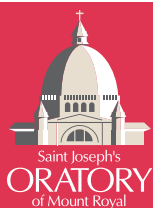
Orders are being processed



[www.saint-joseph.org/giftshop](http://www.saint-joseph.org/giftshop)

## Socially yours

Follow the Oratory into the social universe! Like our two official Facebook pages: [osaintjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/osaintjoseph) and [saintfrereandré](https://www.facebook.com/saintfrereandré).



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