

The Friend of Brother André

2021
ANNÉE DE • YEAR OF
SAINT JOSEPH

SPRING 2021

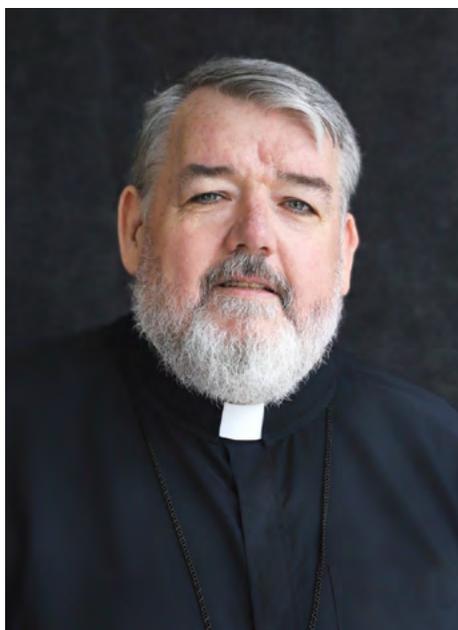
Michael DeLaney, CSC

NEW RECTOR OF THE ORATORY

A map of the world greets visitors entering the Rector's office. A quick glance around the room also reveals a collection of about fifteen small, brightly coloured flags on a nearby shelf. Father Michael DeLaney, CSC, carefully names each country, indicating the year in which the Congregation of Holy Cross was established there. The passion of this former geography teacher — and seasoned globetrotter and polyglot — is on full display. Father DeLaney lived in Chile for ten years before taking the helm of the Holy Cross Mission Center, an international organization of the Religious of Holy Cross.

In the spring of 2020, Father Michael DeLaney, CSC, packed his bags for Montréal, having accepted the invitation to become Rector of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. His position was made official during the Installation Mass presided by Father Mario Lachapelle, CSC, Superior of the Canadian Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

In the name of the Congregation and of the Church, Father Lachapelle conferred upon Father DeLaney the pastoral charge of the shrine, and went on to summarize the responsibilities



First Pastor, the Rector oversees the shrine, its management and the development of its activities.

of the role. "As First Pastor, the Rector is the guarantor of the liturgical functions and the other ministries provided at the Oratory, and of the hospitality extended to pilgrims and visitors of all affiliations," he proclaimed solemnly. "I also entrust you with overseeing

the shrine, its management and the development of its activities."

In a symbolic gesture, Father DeLaney received the key of the Oratory from the hands of the Superior.

Born in 1958, Michael DeLaney was raised in Skaneateles near Syracuse, NY. He was admitted to the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1981 and ordained in 1987. Father DeLaney is the 15th Holy Cross priest to hold this position at the Oratory since it was founded in 1904. He succeeds Father Claude Grou, CSC, who skillfully guided the sanctuary forward through more than three mandates over fifteen years, which were marked by several major events and emotionally rich experiences.

Many challenges and projects await the new rector during this four-year term, which began with an exceptional situation of closure and special measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has continued for a year.

On behalf of all pilgrims, friends and benefactors of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, we welcome Father DeLaney and offer him our full support.

Read his first message on page 2



WE JOURNEY TOGETHER

As the world's largest shrine dedicated to Saint Joseph, the Oratory plays an important role in promoting the life and mission of Saint Joseph, providing an example of profound faith for today's men, women, families and youth everywhere.

With the leadership of Pope Francis, Saint Joseph has gained a new prominence in the Church. Recently, the Holy Father gifted us with a beautiful Apostolic Letter, "With a Father's Heart," in his honour, and proclaimed the "Year of Saint Joseph," which will extend until December 8, 2021. In these uncertain times, it is no surprise that the Holy Father invites us to turn to Joseph for guidance.

We, at the Oratory, will continue to develop the spirituality of Saint Joseph in the world today. We will continue to open our doors to pilgrims and visitors seeking a welcoming home of healing and prayer, and a place to find peace and be filled with hope.

Women, men and children of all ages — Catholics and other Christians, people of different faiths, and those with no religious affiliation — will always be welcome in our shrine to appreciate the beauty of the place and to nourish their spirit. We know that we are created by the same God, and we journey together and come to know one another as sisters and brothers.

Together, we will continue to live the spiritual legacy of Saint André Bessette. Brother André saw the presence of God in each person he met. In return, these people believed in him because of the way he welcomed them, took care of them, and accompanied them in prayer. Many left healed and comforted. Saint André Bessette continues to watch over many works around the world that bear his name. The Congregation of Holy Cross takes great pride in its first saint, to whom we owe this remarkable sanctuary, a site rich with history and life ... your history, your life.

I was entrusted with leading this patrimonial ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and with serving the people of Montréal, Quebec, and many other places in the world. I will do my best to ensure that the Oratory remains true to its mission, and am committed to keeping this place of hope alive with your support and prayers.

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

At your service

Over the past few months, staff in some departments at the Oratory has remained on hand to serve you despite the temporary closure of the site.

The Annual Campaign team has been following up daily on correspondence from Recognition Program donors, magazine subscribers and others.

You can rest assured that each and every letter, cheque, change of address notice, prayer intention and requests of all kinds have been received and processed.

Online

A friendly reminder: various transactions can always be made online: donation, subscription, request for information, sending a prayer intention, votive candle offering, purchase at the store.

All orders to the online store are processed as they are received, allowing for quick delivery of products.

Only one website to remember

The Saint Joseph's Oratory website is the place to go to find out everything about the activities of the shrine. In this special year dedicated to Saint Joseph, new information is added every month.

And, if you haven't already done so, subscribe to the monthly newsletter to receive the latest news from the Oratory delivered straight to your inbox. Sign up at www.saint-joseph.org.

I GIVE
ONLINE



www.saint-joseph.org

Every donation is important

Contributions made to Saint Joseph's Oratory allow us to continue the work of Saint Brother André across time for the benefit of future generations.

“Pearls” is the name we give to these heartfelt testimonials excerpted from letters to Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal. They tell stories of rich lives and steadfast faith. The following is a letter from a new Grand Associate, received by Father Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, Director of the Associates of Brother André.

“I have always maintained my devotion to Saint Joseph and the Oratory”

I recently learned that I have been named a *Grand Associate of Brother André*. I am grateful to Heaven first and foremost, to Saint Joseph, and to Brother André, whom I first learned about from my father when I was 12 years old. In 1951, my father brought me from Lac-Saint-Jean to the Oratory, where I remember climbing the stairs with him on my knees. Throughout my entire life and on all my chosen paths, I have always maintained my devotion to Saint Joseph and the Oratory.

When I moved from Lac-Saint-Jean to Montréal more than 13 years ago, with my children and grandchildren coming along, I made a monthly or bi-monthly visit to Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal, making a donation whenever I could.

“I remain connected to this place where I regained strength with each visit.”

Nowadays, I rarely leave the house. I will try to attend the ceremony you mentioned in your message,* God willing; my daughter has offered to accompany me. To paraphrase one of Claude-Henri Grignon’s characters, “in due time...”

In my 43 years as a high school French teacher, I have learned to be patient and, “against all hope, in hope believe.”

Up until five years ago, I attended the annual October meetings, where I enjoyed meeting other Associates. In those days, I would take two buses, a five-stop subway ride and yet another bus (round trip), but the journey never tired

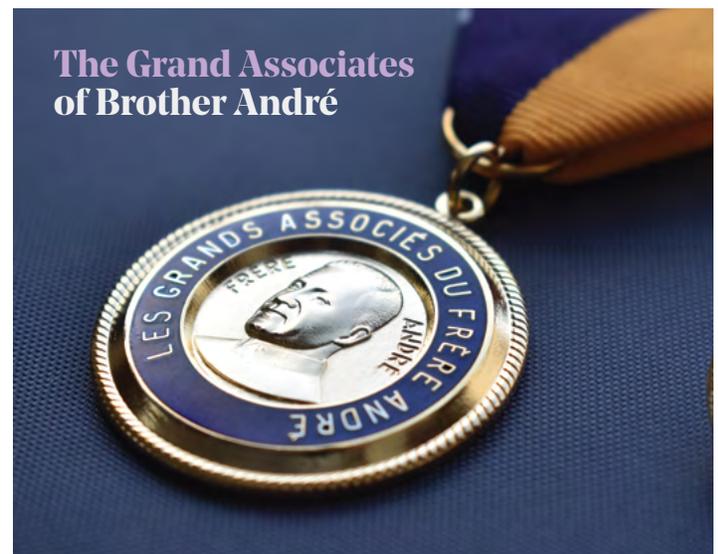
*The benefactor is referring to the invitation to the March meeting at which new Grand Associates are inducted.

me; this too has changed. I received notice that this infernal pandemic had forced a shift in this beautiful tradition.

I still receive (as well as my old cousin whom I have subscribed to) my much appreciated magazine and also messages from the Oratory via the Internet. So I remain connected from afar to this place on the mountain where I regained strength with each visit.

I pray that Heaven may protect and bless you, Reverend Father. May the storms, tsunamis and earthquakes that are shaking the Church inspire you to keep spreading the Gospel message that is so needed in today’s world.

Yours in Saint Joseph,
Monique D.



Did you know?

The newsletter THE FRIEND of Brother André and its French version are sent three times a year to more than 60,000 benefactors of Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal who are committed to supporting this great work founded by Saint André Bessette, CSC.



A SPECIAL YEAR UNDER THE CARE OF SAINT JOSEPH

2021
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SAINT JOSEPH

Photo : André Charron, c.s.c.

On the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as the Patron Saint of the Universal Church, last December 8, Pope Francis announced that a special year will be dedicated to him, which will extend until December 8, 2021. The same day he issued an Apostolic Letter on Saint Joseph titled *Patris corde*, meaning *With a Father's Heart*.

"What wonderful news for the Church and for our shrine, which has been encouraging and supporting the devotion to Saint Joseph since 1904," said Father Michael DeLaney, CSC, rector of the Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal! "As the largest pilgrimage site in the world dedicated to Saint Joseph, we welcome this special year and the Apostolic Letter with great joy," he added.

The reflections of Pope Francis will colour and certainly enrich the pastoral life of the Oratory over the next coming months. "In different ways," mentioned Father DeLaney, "we will invite the faithful — here at the Oratory and those at home — to join us in deepening our understanding of this letter, in which is highlighted the 'extraordinary figure' of Saint Joseph, who is 'so close to our own human experience,' as the Holy Father reminds us."

The Novena to Saint Joseph last March, under the theme "Joseph, Strength and Tenderness of the Father," launched this special year. Due to the health measures in effect in Montréal because of COVID-19, the Oratory was unable to welcome the usual crowds to this annual event which precedes the Feast of Saint Joseph, Spouse of Mary, celebrated on March 19.

The reality of the pandemic is the background of Pope Francis' personal reflections given in his Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde*. He writes: "We experienced, amid the crisis, how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked." Making a direct link with the figure of Saint Joseph, the Pope goes on to say: "Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.

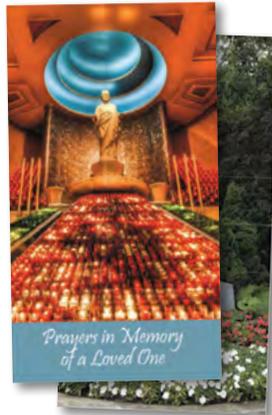
To the invitation of Pope Francis to "go to Saint Joseph" and to entrust to him the care of our lives, is added the recommendation of Brother André: "Pray Saint Joseph, he will always be your father and your guide."

On the monument to Saint Joseph located at the pedestrian entrance, an inscription recalls that Pope Pius IX solemnly declared Saint Joseph the Patron Saint of the Catholic Church on December 8, 1870. Since its installation in June 1923, the work of sculptor Alfred Laliberté has welcomed millions of visitors to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

“We will pray for you at the Oratory”

A new version of the Oratory’s fellowship of prayer cards, formerly known as spiritual bouquets, is now available. Offering someone a fellowship of prayer is akin to saying, “We will pray for you at Saint Joseph’s Oratory!” This gesture can be made to express condolences at the passing of a loved one or to celebrate a major life event, such as a birthday, wedding or anniversary, or simply as a token of friendship.



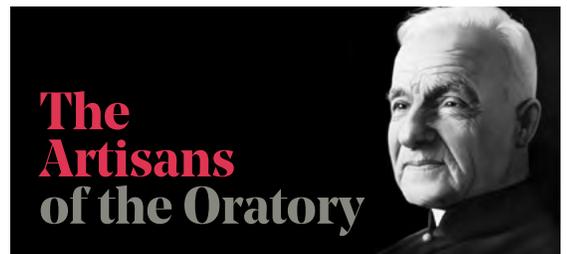
The Oratory has issued two card designs: the first contains a message of Christian hope; the second, a message of joy and thanksgiving. You may obtain these cards by contacting the annual campaign team. When you offer a fellowship of prayer, you must send to the Oratory the coupon-form duly filled out with the offering in the suggested amount of \$10. For one year, a daily prayer and a weekly mass will be dedicated for the intentions of all persons enrolled in a Fellowship of Prayer.

GET YOUR FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER!

secr@osj.qc.ca | 514 733-8211

Practical and Popular: Monthly Giving Program

Over the past year, more and more of you have opted to donate a set amount each month. This way of supporting Saint Joseph’s Oratory is simple and practical. You decide on an amount that fits your budget and it is automatically collected each month from your bank account or credit card. “It’s easier for me to donate a small amount several times during the year than a large amount once a year.” said one donor. For the Oratory, monthly donations represent a stable source of income on which it can rely to pursue its mission. In choosing the monthly giving program, you become a member of the *Artisans of the Oratory*.



DID YOU GET YOUR STEP?

Purchase a step that will lead to the future observatory, at the top of the dome!

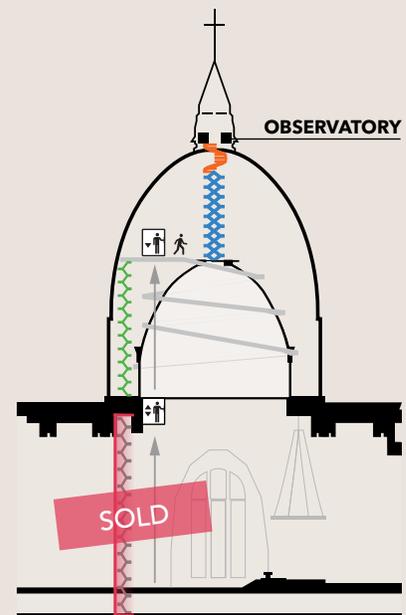
Have your name or your family’s name inscribed on it, or make a gesture in memory of a loved one.

This unique offer has proven to be so popular with friends of Saint Joseph’s Oratory and the general public that new steps are now available for \$2,500. These new steps are located between the observation gallery and the oculus.

The other two sets of steps leading to the future observatory which will be built in the final phase of the major development project are available at \$5,000 and \$25,000.

Your donation can be made in one or more installments over a five-year period.

In this year dedicated to St. Joseph, carve out your place in the history of his basilica!

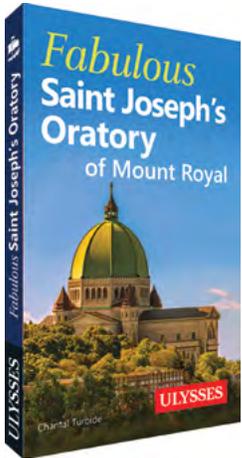


FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact us:

514 733-8211, ext. 2721 or 2862 | 1 877-672-8647
 donations@osj.qc.ca | www.saint-joseph.org/yoursupport

-  **\$2,500 STEPS** between the observation gallery and the oculus
-  **\$5,000 STEPS** between the oculus and the highest steps
-  **\$25,000 STEPS** leading to the observatory in the lantern



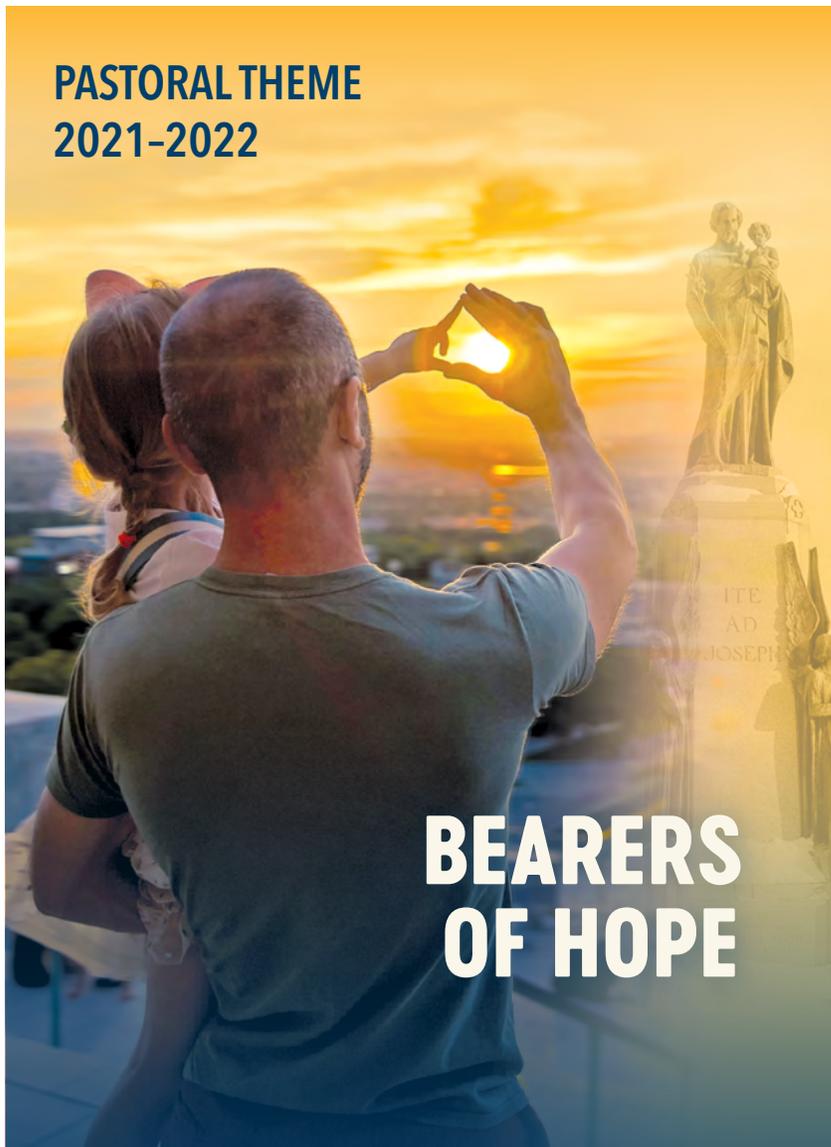
AVAILABLE SOON!

A new guide to explore the Oratory

The **Fabulous Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal** Ulysses Guide is a detailed, lively tour of this unique Montréal holy place, one of the greatest pilgrimage sites in North America. In-depth descriptions, splendid colour photographs, and fascinating archival images, combined in a handsome layout, reveal the historical and artistic treasures of this iconic religious building, which welcomes millions of visitors every year.

Chantal Turbide, Curator of the Museum and Artistic Heritage of the Oratory invites you to an exploration of this must-see destination. — Available soon at the Oratory Gift Shop

To be published shortly!



PASTORAL THEME
2021-2022

BEARERS
OF HOPE



SAINT JOSEPH YEAR
The Oratory Gift Shop offers you: statues, medals, cards, votive candles and a new range of exclusive products.

Online shopping:
boutique.saint-joseph.org
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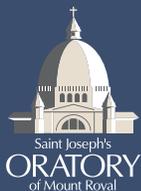
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