

The Friend of Brother André

2021
ANNÉE DE • YEAR OF
SAINT JOSEPH

WINTER 2021-2022

Monique Ho was looking for her soulmate, ideally a gentle humble man like Saint Joseph.

"A few years ago, I prayed to God through the intercession of Saint Joseph for a spouse and he had kindly interceded for me," confides Monique, newly engaged to a man named Ian.

The couple were eager to visit Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal over the Thanksgiving long weekend to give thanks to Saint Joseph.

There's more to Monique's story than a chance romantic encounter. Before Ian came into her life, she had travelled thousands of kilometres from Hong Kong to Toronto, and had gone through the journey of converting to the Catholic faith, wellspring of peace and hope, as a young woman.

Finding her way

"Before, I was only looking for awesome, brilliant men with successful careers and all that, but I ultimately realized that I was being self-centred in my quest for love," admits Monique.

"I started to pray to do the will of God." Once she had come to that realization, she put some serious thought into finding her calling and path forward.

Devoted in prayer, Monique questioned whether she was meant for religious life in a community or some form of celibacy.



"I love to love and I love to be loved," she said, adding that she felt that married life was a better fit for her. In her eyes, Saint Joseph, Mary's husband, was the perfect role model to help her find her way... and her sweetheart!

A blessing

After imploring Saint Joseph and making a novena, Monique's prayers were answered. For their first date, she asked Ian to go to church with her to enjoy an Advent Carol. "Lord, is he the one?" she whispered earnestly in prayer. She also confided in Mary and Joseph as their love for one another grew stronger by the day.

Although Ian didn't belong to Monique's religious denomination, she loved his open mind and profound respect for her beliefs. For her, without a doubt, their love was a blessing from God.

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GRATITUDE

At this time of year, we share the celebrations of Thanksgiving — filled with many traditions and when possible the gathering of friends and family. We also experience the change of seasons, the beauty of the leaves on the trees which provide us such richness and vibrant colors... it is a time to give thanks for the blessings which are ours.

I realize that I am blessed and privileged in ways in which many others in our world are not. I also know that there are so many in our world that has so little of material, human or earthly wealth, yet they live with what I would call a real sense of Gratitude.

They truly depend on the close and constant relationship with God's love and mercy in their lives. They may be rich in faith, in the love of family, and often in the darkest times, they have hope.

Those of us who have a *lot* have so much to learn from those who have so *little*. Their faith in God and their spirit of Gratitude for what they do have makes me realize that is the same for me. Every gift of friendship, family, and opportunity to serve in ministry, everything I have is from God. He has led me to appreciate each and every day of my life and I am grateful.

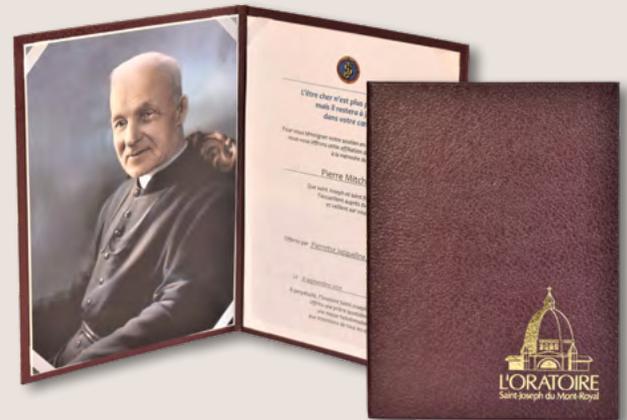
Pope Francis has shared that there are three things by which he lives: HOPE, JOY and GRATITUDE! Imagine starting and finishing each day of our lives recognizing the Hope, Joy and Gratitude we have in our lives. We would all be transformed.

Saint Joseph's Oratory is a place where lives filled with Gratitude cross the threshold each and every day. Our pilgrims and visitors very often leave with a new found sense of Gratitude in their lives for what the Oratory has offered them.

I hope and pray that these months of autumn provide all of us the transformation to live each day with Gratitude for what God has given us. Living with Gratitude changes our lives, our outlook, our attitudes and our future

Blessings to you in this time of Thanksgiving.

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector



NEW

Perpetual Affiliation

Send your condolences and associate a person to the prayers of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. In perpetuity, a daily prayer and a weekly Mass will be offered for the intentions of all affiliates.

Your expression of sympathy will be sent on your behalf to the bereaved family through a souvenir booklet. The burgundy hard cover booklet is simple and elegant with the gold signature of Saint Joseph's Oratory on the front cover. Inside, you will find on the right an inspirational image and on the left, the name of the deceased, a short thought and your name. You can personalize the booklet by choosing among 4 images and, if you wish, adding a short message to the family.

Offer a Perpetual Prayer Affiliation for \$120 via our website or by phone: 514 733-8216, ext. 2862.

This new perpetual affiliation booklet is an elegant way to offer your condolences, solidarity and support to the family and friends of the deceased.

REMINDER

Are you thinking of making a donation to the Oratory?

You have **until December 31** to do so and receive a tax receipt for the year 2021 in early 2022.

Thank you for your support and generosity!



Farewells and Works



Photo: N. Dumas

THE STAIRCASE: A SITE OF FERVENT DEVOTION

September 13, 2021, saw a historic moment at the Oratory. The last two sections of the staircase in front of the Crypt Church were removed by the general contractor Pomerleau to allow for work to be done in this area.

An iconic site of the Mount Royal sanctuary, this staircase with its 99 wooden steps aroused both fervent devotion and popular curiosity.

"These steps that so many pilgrims have climbed on their knees, [...] these wooden planks have a soul, a life," wrote Katia, an employee at the Oratory. "They have heard so many stories, been drenched in so many tears, granted so many wishes! They are imbued with hope," she said in this touching testimonial posted on Facebook.

The construction of a new staircase is included in the plans for the major development project.

THE ROTUNDA: A WITNESS TO WELCOME

The "rotunda" was demolished at the end of September to enable the major development project to continue. This little octagonal building with the red roof used to be a landmark feature of the Oratory.

In April 1940 the Oratory Board approved the construction of a rotunda in front of the entrance to the Holy Cross' residence, which became known as the Pavillon Sainte-Croix. The role of this place is explained to the readers in the April 1950 issue of *The Oratory* magazine. The text started with an invitation: "**Enter without knocking.**" That was followed by: "a priest waits all day long in this office to welcome pilgrims ... **DON'T BE AFRAID** of disturbing him, he's there for you."

The rotunda was a witness to that ongoing effort by the Brothers and Fathers of Holy Cross to welcome pilgrims, as Brother André used to do. In the pavilion marked "General Office" people came to pay for masses and spiritual bouquets, make donations, ask for information or seek blessings for the objects they had bought in the gift shop.



Photo: Archives 051

Located at the foot of the stairs leading to the Pavillon Sainte-Croix, and at one time nearby the bus parking lot, the rotunda was a place all visitors could access easily. In the early 2000s this Information and Blessings Office was moved inside the Oratory, near the Votive Chapel. The rotunda was then used as a tourist information kiosk for a few years. And, one winter, it was even home to the Holy Family!



Photo: N. Dumas

continued from page 1 – A LOVE STORY

Over the last few months, in this year specially dedicated to Saint Joseph by Pope Francis, Monique and her fiancé Ian took steps to consecrate themselves to Saint Joseph. For 33 days, as suggested in the book by Father Donald Calloway, MIC, they called on Saint Joseph for help by reciting his litanies every day. “Some days, I was just too tired after work to pray,” she admits. “But Ian recited the litanies of Saint Joseph every night—without skipping a single day!” Why consecrate yourself to Saint Joseph? “To ask him to watch over us and so we can learn to listen to each other as he did,” says Monique.

A dream come true

Visiting Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal was a must to complete this spiritual journey devoted to Saint Joseph. “A few years ago, during a pilgrimage to the shrines in Quebec organized by my parish, we stopped by the Oratory. While visiting the Basilica, I saw a couple doing a photo shoot. It got me dreaming,” recalls Monique.

And her dream came true. Wearing her engagement ring, Monique visited the Oratory with her handsome fiancé. Together, they gave thanks to Saint Joseph, witness of their commitment and of their love.

Interview conducted by Céline M. Barbeau and Nathalie Dumas



The Year of Saint Joseph will soon come to an end, but the content developed in 2021 by the Oratory’s pastoral team remains accessible online: interviews, songs by the Oratory’s Schola, blog posts, images from the exhibition on Saint Joseph.

Visit saint-joseph.org to nourish your reflection on the Patron Saint of the Universal Church.



Before the Year of Saint Joseph ends on December 8, 2021, why not make a donation to your Oratory? In this way, you will contribute to the life of the largest pilgrimage site in the world dedicated to him. Use the coupon included with the newsletter. Your support is important! Let us pray for each other.

Prayer to Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph,
on earth you were a father to Jesus,
the spouse of the Virgin Mary,
and the protector of the Holy Family,
we bow before you.

Just Joseph,
all your life long
you were faithful to the will of God
even in its most difficult moments.
In this special year chosen by the Church
to glorify your name dear Joseph,
we turn to you,
as Saint Brother André often did.

During this adversity
as we seek to discern God’s will,
we appeal for your aid and your support.
Help us to keep in mind
the suffering of our sisters and brothers
and to draw closer to God
especially in time of hardship and disease.

God of Mercy,
listen with compassion to our humble prayer.
We call on you through the intercession
of your servant, Saint Joseph.
Amen.

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Illustration: Mosaic of the Basilica, artwork by Labouret. Photo: S. Martin



Photo: Michel Archambault

IN MEMORIAM GIFTS

THE GIFT THAT HONOURS OTHERS

Huguette baked the best cookies in the world! Every Thursday, when she visited her daughter Manon, she brought her a nicely decorated big box of them. She also put together some small gift packages for her daughter’s friends and neighbours. This lady was the spirit of generosity. She was all heart, and she had the gift of giving joy.

One September morning, Huguette died suddenly. Manon’s friends helped her through that ordeal. They also wanted to pay homage to her mother, whose goodness had inspired them so. “My mother loved Brother André so much, let’s light votive candles at the Oratory for her!” suggested Manon, thinking about all those times when she went with her mother to mass, to the organ concerts and the annual meetings of the Associates of Brother André.

The group of friends went up to Saint Joseph’s Oratory and symbolically lit 85 candles — one for each year of Huguette’s life. They also made a donation to the Oratory in her memory, because it had been such a special place for her. Manon was so grateful for those delicate and meaningful gestures, signs of her friends’ sensitivity and generosity.



A donation in memory of a loved one is a way to pay tribute to them by supporting a cause that was important in their life.

Your donations will keep Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal alive and help it fulfill its mission.

Think about making an In Memoriam gift!

“The door to Heaven is the heart of Jesus. The key to this door is prayer and love”.

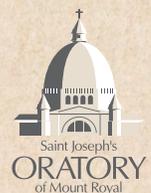
– Saint André Bessette, CSC



YOUR WILL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every year, many people include a donation to Saint Joseph’s Oratory in their will. Regardless of the value of your estate, you can continue to walk in the footsteps of Saint Brother André. Leave your mark on Saint Joseph’s Oratory.

Carole Lemieux, Director
Philanthropic Development
514 733-8211, ext. 3131
clemieux@osj.qc.ca



SAVE THE DATE

MUSEUM WILL OPEN FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The Museum Collection

– The Crèches of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal

Contemplate more than 125 works that bear witness to the creativity of artists who, using a wide variety of materials, have shaped their vision of the Nativity of the Lord.

Starting November 28, 2021
Open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. [\$]

THE MUSIC IS BACK AT THE ORATORY

Handel Meets Bach

With the *Schola de l'Oratoire* choir conducted by Adam Wills Begley
Vincent Boucher, organ

Sunday, December 5, at 3:30 p.m.
Open admission – voluntary fee
Reservations mandatory at festivalbachmontreal.com

Handel's Messiah

The Orchestre classique de Montréal conducted by Boris Brott and Xavier Brossard-Ménard

Jacqueline Woodley, soprano
Marie-Andrée Mathieu, mezzo-soprano
Antoine Bélanger, tenor
Neil Craighead, bass-baritone
Les Rugissants Vocal Ensemble

Enjoy this performance in-person or via web broadcast

Tuesday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets [\$] : orchestre.ca

Great Christmas Concert

Marie-Josée Lord, soprano
Stéphane Beaulac and Benjamin Raymond, trumpets
Vincent Boucher, organ
Luc Beauséjour, organ and harpsichord

Sunday, December 19, at 3:30 p.m.
Tickets [\$] : clavecinconcert.com

All concerts are in co-production with Saint Joseph's Oratory.

Vaccination passport is required to attend concerts.

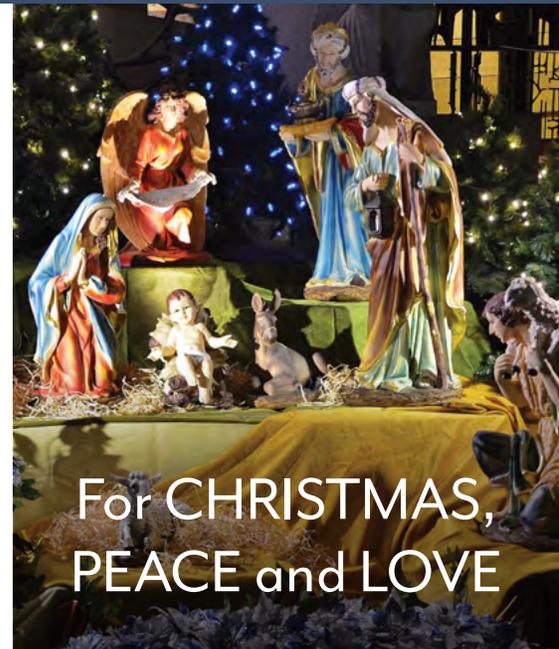


Photo: A. Charron

For CHRISTMAS, PEACE and LOVE

The Christmas Season Masses

Visit our website for the schedule and current health measures.

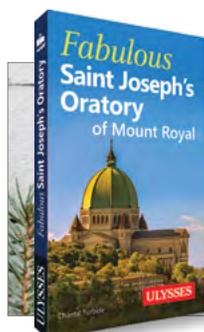
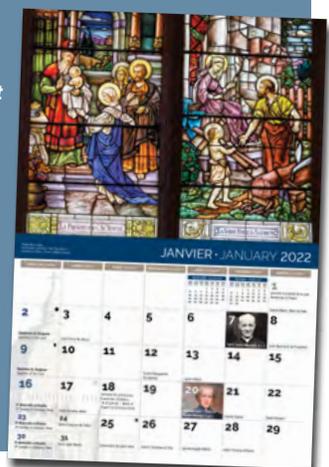
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ORDER IT NOW! 2022 CALENDAR

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