

The Friend of Brother André



WINTER 2023-2024

OUR MODEST CONTRIBUTION

Moved by a sense of gratitude, Jennifer and Trevor Anderson decided to contribute to the Oratory's major development project. They shared their story with us, which is a testament to their attachment to the Oratory.

Our first memories of Saint Joseph's Oratory go back to the mid-60s when we first arrived in Montréal as new immigrants. We were simply amazed that such a grand and imposing structure honoured Saint Joseph, the chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and head of the Holy Family.

At the time, we were frequent visitors to the Oratory, but we had little to give besides our Mass offerings. We were not familiar with Brother André though we knew that he was a devoted disciple of Saint Joseph and that by his vision and from his humble little chapel on the hill, great and grander plans were set in motion.

GUARDIAN OF OUR FAMILY

Our own faith in the power of Saint Joseph as intercessor and guardian of our family started in Jennifer's family under the most careful tutelage of her mother, a faithful devotee. Thus it was natural for us, as we raised our own family, to turn our eyes and petitions to Saint Joseph and his faithful servant Brother André.

A transfer moved us out of Montréal. Several years went by, and upon our return to that beautiful city, we found a dwelling place a stone's throw from the Oratory. Once again, we became frequent visitors. We noticed some changes but mostly we were moved by the number of immigrants—some of whom were clearly of other faiths—who attended services at the shrine. Their devotion to the most loving Saint Joseph was evident.



In tribute to Saint Joseph, guardian of their family, Jennifer and Trevor Anderson chose to support Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal and its major project.

TO EXPRESS OUR THANKFULNESS

When the opportunity arose through the major development project of the Oratory, we thought that it was the perfect time to make a modest contribution. We have received so much for which we are grateful and in some small way we wanted to express our thanks to God through Saint Joseph, Saint Brother André and on behalf of the many millions of pilgrims whose intercessions have been lifted up and whose prayers have been heard.

We pray that the restored edifice dedicated to this most illustrious saint be a place of reflection, prayer and peace and may all pilgrims who visit this holy shrine return home with joy in their hearts. May Saint Joseph and Saint Brother André continue to pray for us.

A Beacon of Hope



Who could have predicted that the little wooden chapel dedicated to Saint Joseph in 1904 would become a monumental achievement in both material and spiritual terms?

A pilgrimage site that would bring together Catholics and believers from a variety of faiths? A Montréal landmark? A jewel of its religious, artistic and architectural heritage? A beacon of hope visible for miles around? An international shrine?

For 120 years, the Congregation of Holy Cross has looked after this unique heritage, continuing to carry out Saint André Bessette's mission of hospitality and compassion.

We couldn't do it without the support and donations of people like you, who believe that the Oratory still holds a very special place today.

The testimonials we've heard confirm that the Oratory is a privileged place to find peace, light and hope. We have a duty to preserve this magnificent place, to ensure its continuity and to keep its wonderful history alive.

As we approach Christmas, I wish you Peace, Light and Hope, and I extend the same wish to the countries and peoples of the world that are in great need of it. PEACE to all of you!

Michael M. DeLaney, CSC

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

Preserving our built heritage, *A collective responsibility!*

Preserving built heritage is essential to safeguarding a society's history, culture and identity. At Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, the buildings erected over the years bear witness to architectural expertise from a variety of eras. They tell stories, reflect artistic styles and represent the evolution of our great work. Conservation of these buildings is crucial if future generations are to benefit from them.

However, preservation requires ongoing commitment. Conservation, restoration and education efforts are needed. This special care means that architectural features, original materials and artistic details are respected and enhanced during renovations and restorations.

Donors play an essential role in our collective responsibility to preserve the shrine.

By working together, we can make sure the marvel that is Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal continues to enrich our present and inspire our future.

OUR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Notes of gratitude

As part of the transformation of our recognition program, the Associates and Grand Associates of Brother André were invited to a private reception at the Basilica on October 1. The reception was followed by a presentation of the Beckerath organ by Vincent Boucher, titular organist at the Oratory. The event concluded with a public concert by Philippe Lefebvre, titular organist of Notre-Dame de Paris Basilica, accompanied by the *Schola de l'Oratoire*.

Special delivery

November brought another novelty: a special gift arrived for active Associates and Grand Associates. It's a locally made Christmas ornament inspired by both the carillon bells and our Nativity scene collection. What's more,



we know that the Associates and Grand Associates are committed to promoting the legacy of Saint Brother André. Which is why we've also sent them five beautiful cards to send their best wishes to their loved ones. And, who knows, maybe these cards will encourage them to visit the Oratory. That's our wish!

"WE'RE ALMOST THERE!"

"We're almost there! It's not just a dream anymore, but a reality, following in the footsteps of Saint Brother André's great dream," enthused Denis Poirier, Vice-Rector, Planning, Administration and Resources, during a presentation on work carried out on phases A2 and A3 of the major development project at Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

At the end of October, the Vice-Rector estimated that work on this major project, carried out by contractor Pomerleau, was almost 90% complete. The new Reception Pavilion, designed by Lemay architects, is well on the way to completion, as is the outdoor redevelopment of the location.

Executing such a project involves "a degree of complexity, a number of details and particularities of work," highlighted Denis Poirier.

All over the site, specialized workers are busy with their tasks: building formwork and steel reinforcements;



The major development project has often been presented in sketches and plans. This time, a photo taken on November 4, 2023 gives a glimpse of the redeveloped site. What was once a project is now a reality! – Photo: Devisubox

pouring concrete; installing lighting, sprinklers, ventilation and heating systems; laying drywall; plastering, sanding and painting; paving roads and parking lots; without forgetting planting and green roofs.

The new building will include vast spaces designed to welcome visitors, as well as practical services such as a restaurant, boutique and rest area. A delivery dock will be integrated into the pavilion, as will offices and staff rooms.

This major project involves "a degree of complexity, a number of details and particularities of work."

To make the carillon functional, the system for connecting the bell clappers to the keyboard is currently being installed. Glass panes were added to the upper structure of the bell tower, protecting the restored set of 62 bells.

For the past five years, Saint Joseph's Oratory has continued to welcome visitors and carry out its activities, surrounded by the construction fences of its major development project. But soon, the doors of its new main entrance will be wide open!

AN EXCEPTIONAL HERITAGE!

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is the guardian of a unique material heritage. We have to maintain it in good condition through regular and meticulous interventions of various kinds:

- Maintenance and cleaning
- Redevelopment
- Renovation and repair
- Identical reconstruction and restoration

Through your donations, you contribute to the preservation of this exceptional heritage site. Through your affection for Saint Brother André and your commitment to the work he built, you are keeping this heritage alive and relevant today!

Thank you and keep it up!



Christmas concerts

in co-production with our partners

Handel's Messiah

Orchestre classique de Montréal
Jacques Lacombe, conductor
A quartet of renowned soloists
Les Filles de l'île, choir
Les Chantres musiciens, choir

December 13-14, 7:30 p.m., Crypt Church
Tickets [\$]: orchestre.tuxedobillet.com

Christmas concert

Clavecin en concert Ensemble
Luc Beauséjour, organ,
harpsichord, conductor
Louis-Charles Gagnon, tenor
Les Voix d'Elles, choir

December 15, 7:30 p.m., Crypt Church
Tickets [\$]: lepointdevente.com

Concert by Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal

Festive repertoire of traditional songs from near and far
Andrew Gray, conductor

December 17, 3:30 p.m., Basilica
Free admission

Schedule, activities and more to discover:

www.saint-joseph.org



Artwork by André Bergeron, RCA

Celebrating the Holidays!

Christmas Masses 2023

Sunday, December 24

4:30 p.m. – Family Mass, Basilica

7:30 p.m. (in English)

9:00 p.m. and Midnight, with Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal (Pass required for these Masses: available at the Oratory)

Monday, December 25

7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.,

11:15 a.m. (in English),

12:30 p.m., 3 p.m. (in Spanish),

4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Masses

Sunday, December 31

7:30 p.m. and Midnight

New Year's Masses

World Day of Peace

Monday, January 1st, 2024

7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.,

11:15 a.m. (in English),

12:30 p.m., 3 p.m. (in Spanish),

4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Blessing of families and pilgrims, 2 p.m.

Free entrance at the Museum all day

2024 CALENDAR

SAINT JOSEPH AND HIS SHRINE IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

+ Liturgical feasts and important Oratory dates



Order it now!
boutique.saint-joseph.org

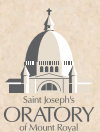


Perpetuate your devotion:
A legacy for our shrine

Your commitment to Saint Joseph's Oratory is an inspiration to us all. Today, we invite you to consider a timeless way of supporting this sacred place that has touched so many lives. Have you thought of a legacy gift?

May your legacy continue to shine in the hearts of all who pass through the doors of our shrine.

Ellen Morin, Planned Giving Program
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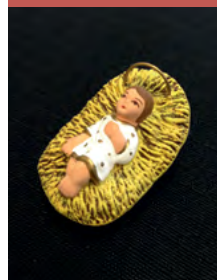


The Museum's collection

The crèches of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal

Contemplate over 125 works testifying to the creativity of artists who, using a wide variety of materials, shaped their vision of the Nativity.

Daily, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. [\$]



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Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is a
ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross



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