

The Friend of Brother André



SPRING 2022

FROM SAINT-CÉSAIRE TO GRAVELBOURG

Cécile Martel French is grateful for all the blessings she has received throughout her life – a life that has been fulfilling. Her roots are in Saint-Césaire, in the Montérégie region, near Saint-Grégoire d’Iberville, the village where Saint Brother André was born.

In search of a better life, her parents left for Saskatchewan, in 1910, and settled in the town of Gravelbourg where many of their French-speaking compatriots were attempting to work the land. Many ordeals were faced with perseverance and faith, and great efforts were required!



A homegrown saint

Cécile speaks affectionately about how important Brother André, CSC, was to her family. “My parents couldn’t get over the fact that a saint had been born just 15 km from their own place of birth! They always believed that the Lord had blessed them by sending them someone from their area to watch over them,” she says. “Also, he helped us a lot in maintaining a connection with our homeland, Quebec.”

Seeking comfort

For this woman of faith, Saint Joseph’s Oratory has always been a place where she could find strength and healing, as Brother André had wanted it.

She has made many pilgrimages to the shrine in search of comfort. One day, overwhelmed by a painful experience, Cécile travelled across the country to seek solace at the Oratory, in Montréal. She found herself in tears in the Crypt Church.

“I cried so much as I tried to pray ... I felt that only Brother André could heal my broken heart.”

Thinking of others, she knows that the Oratory is a wellspring of courage that everyone can draw from in this difficult period of our history.

Looking to tomorrow

Cécile is dedicated to ensuring that the work of Saint Brother André will be there for the coming generations. “When one day they have a problem and find themselves at a loss, they’ll have the Oratory. The Lord is always there for us.”

This was what motivated Cécile Martel French to include a gift for Saint Joseph’s Oratory in her will. “It’s a way to give thanks for all that the Lord has given me.”



THE POWER OF LIFE

Just one more month of winter and then we'll find ourselves in spring, with all its inherent potential and renewal. Nature teaches us to hope. The buds on the trees and early-blooming flowers remind us that life is more powerful than death.

Times of despair and ordeal—our times in the desert and our own Station of the Cross—and nights of doubt all find their meaning on Easter morning. "I am the Resurrection and the Life," said Jesus. "The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." This is the good news at the heart of our faith, the words that we cherish and the light that shows us the way.

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is a significant site where the Christian faith is celebrated, where various religious beliefs are expressed and where the visitor's quest for the absolute is aroused.

To proclaim God, offer a space of light and peace, bring hope to the world: all of these goals forge our mission, our purpose, our action and ... your support. Thank you for contributing to this great mission!

Michael M. DeLaney, CSC

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

Artisans of the Oratory

A year-round commitment

As part of our large family of benefactors, we are fortunate to have over 800 Artisans of the Oratory—our group of cherished monthly donors. You can also choose this practical way to support Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal by spreading your gift over the twelve months of the year.

There are various reasons that our monthly donors choose to give in this way. For Ms. Nina Santillana-Carrios, making a monthly donation is an act of gratitude toward Saint Brother André and Saint Joseph. She made the commitment after the birth of her son, who was born following a visit to the Oratory where she had prayed for this small miracle.

Please join our large family of benefactors today! It's very easy to become an Artisan of the Oratory. By subscribing online with a credit card or sending us a void cheque, you can easily choose the amount and date of your monthly deduction.

Make your commitment through a small gesture that makes all the difference, ensuring that the Oratory's mission lives on and thrives for years to come... thanks to its Artisans!

Please contact the Annual Campaign team:

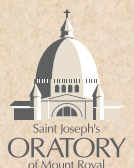
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www.saint-joseph.org/yoursupport

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.

Alexandrine Raczinski, Director
Planned Giving Program
514 733-8211, ext. 3142
araczinski@osj.qc.ca



YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT THE WORK

A very active Year of Saint Joseph

The Year of Saint Joseph, proclaimed by Pope Francis on December 8, 2020, was celebrated in grand style at the Oratory of Mount Royal. Over the months, various activities were held: the novena, webinars, songs by the Oratory's *Schola*, an exhibition, articles for reflection and more. On Sunday November 21, 2021, the solemn closing mass was presided over by Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J.



Photo: Marie-Joëlle Dionne

Preserving buildings thanks to you

Considerable funds are allocated each year to the preservation, renovation, repair and maintenance of our beautiful Oratory, which we all hold dear.

Whether it was to replace and reroute the original drain pipes from the roof of the Crypt Church, repoint the Basilica's stone walls, repair in kind certain architectural elements or maintain the grounds, over \$5 million has been invested to safeguard the Oratory's overall architectural structure.



Technical enhancements to better support celebration

The Oratory's team has used various means to connect with its large community by enhancing its pastoral services. In addition to supporting 50 masses each week, your contributions made it possible to install a video recording system in the Crypt Church so that the daily mass could be broadcast online. Also, at the request of many pilgrims, improvements have been made to the sound systems in the Basilica, the Crypt Church and many other areas on the site. On top of this, the Basilica's indoor lighting control system was repaired and made operable again. Investments of over \$700,000.

Safeguarding the heritage

The museum's closure is not a reflection of inaction. In preparation for the museum's reconfiguration during the last phase of the major development project, the museum's staff are busy photographing, documenting and carefully packaging the items making up the collections. All artworks will have to be moved and stored until the new showcase is ready.

Privilege of the magazine!

During the pandemic, The ORATORY magazine has continued to bridge distances and enter homes with no restrictions! This is a great privilege! The editorial team has provided readers with original and inspiring content in its three annual issues. Stories of wonderful people and beautifully crafted messages that served to uplift us!

Messenger of your wishes

An elegant booklet that lets you offer a *perpetual* prayer affiliation when a dear one is deceased is now available while the *annual* prayer affiliation cards have been renewed. The memorable moments in life can, in this way, be accompanied by the spiritual support of the Oratory team and its pilgrims.



March 26

The easing of public health measures for places of worship allows for up to 250 people to attend services.



June 21

The Oratory returns to its regular schedule, remaining open until 9:00 p.m., to the great delight of pilgrims and visitors.



November 23

Vaccination passport is required to open to full capacity and attend some masses. **December 31st**: places of worship in Quebec closed.

NOVENA AND FEAST
OF SAINT JOSEPH MARCH 10-19 2022

AT SAINT JOSEPH'S ORATORY OF MOUNT ROYAL

*Saint Joseph,
Mainstay of Families*



PREACHING
IN ENGLISH

Dr Barthélemy K. Defo
Mr. Robin Cheung, deacon
Mr. François Picotte, deacon

SOLEMN MASSES ON MARCH 19

10:00 a.m. Most Rev. Stephen A. Hero, Bishop of Prince Albert (Saskatchewan)
12:30 p.m. Most Rev. Scott McCaig, Bishop of Military Ordinariate of Canada
2:30 p.m. Most Rev. Christian Rodembourg, MSA, Bishop of Saint-Hyacinthe
7:30 p.m. Most Rev. Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montréal

* Follow us on social media and radio for live and webcasted Masses. *

SPRING 2022

Celebrating Easter at the Oratory

April 11 to 16 Holy Week
April 17 Easter Sunday *Alleluia*

For the Masses schedule at the shrine
and webcasted, please visit our website
or subscribe to our monthly newsletter.

www.saint-joseph.org

The holding of our events is subject to the health
measures issued by the Quebec Government.

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