

The Friend of Brother André



SPRING 2023

LAND OF WELCOME AND KINDNESS

The Petrucha family's life was threatened by the civil unrest in their country. The idea of leaving Angola seemed the best thing to do for Constantino, Maria and the safety of their six children. But the trip was risky, demanding and, above all, very expensive. How would they do it? And how would they be received on the other side of the ocean?

In prayer, Constantino entrusted his concerns to Saint Joseph. "You must leave now," understood the father of the family, who also knew that he did not have the money for such an expedition. "Saint Joseph helped me find the money to leave the country. Saint Joseph is everything to me," said Mr. Petrucha.

With mixed feelings of sadness, anxiety and hope, the family bid farewell to the African continent leaving everything behind. The long journey to freedom began. And so, on December 25, 2019, the Petruchas arrived in Quebec. On this Christmas Day, they received as a gift a land of welcome and the hope of being able to stay there.

A decisive meeting

Constantino and his wife had no idea of the other gifts that awaited them... The meeting with one of the generous volunteers contacted by the Montreal YMCA where they resided upon their



The Petruchas, Maria de Fatima, Constantino and their six children, left Angola and saw their lives transformed by the welcome they received in Quebec.

arrival would change their lives. "She provided us with clothes, food, furniture, a residence, everything! She helped us register the kids in school... She did everything for us," Constantino says gratefully. "This woman is the kindest person in the world! How can I repay her for all she has done for us?", he says with emotion in his voice. "She is the one that God has sent us," he adds with conviction.

In his own way, the man of faith wants to be able to help and give back. This is what he does by supporting Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal with occasional donations. "We love this place! We prayed to Brother André to be officially accepted in Canada," says Constantino whose prayers were answered!

When he looks to the future, what does this father wish for his children? "May they grow up with a good heart like Brother André. And may their lives be carried by honesty, integrity, respect, generosity, gratitude and love."



JOSEPH, MY FRIEND

Friendship is one of the greatest gifts we have in our lives. A few words we might use to describe a good friend are loyal, honest, respectful, dedicated and faithful. But, we know that friendship is much more than words. Friendship is a meeting of hearts and souls, when we are transformed.

I am blessed with the friends in my life; they are really like family to me. From many different backgrounds and places, their presence and many years of friendship sustain me today.

In this light, I think our theme of the Novena, **Joseph, My Friend** shows the closeness with him. We find it to be profound and enriching — and one with which each one of us can connect personally.

Brother André said, “When you pray, you talk to God the way you do to a friend”. He would always recommend us to turn our hearts to Saint Joseph, so it is thus in the same way for us to talk to Saint Joseph — as a friend.

Saint Joseph is a comfort, is humble, is dedicated to the Holy Family, cared for the poor, dedicated in his work and his craft, treated all people with dignity and respect, valued the gifts of women and men alike, and believed deeply in God and the direction that God had for his life!

When we spend time praying to him, and talking with him — we come to see the great influence he has on each of us in our lives as the closest of friends.

I invite you to take some time to get to know Joseph. To imagine his life and how he lived it. He had all the virtues and values that any one of us would want to have in a close friend. Take the time to pray to and talk to Joseph! I hope that you will find, as I have, the making of a great friendship.

As we prepare for his Feast and the Novena in March, may Saint Joseph be in your heart and may you grow in your friendship.

PEACE!

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

Welcome and Thank You!

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Father Patrick Vézina, CSC, as Director of Associates within the philanthropic development team. He will succeed Father Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, who held this position with dedication over the past eight years.

Father Vézina served as Director of Liturgy at the Oratory from 2004 to 2014 and as Vice-Rector for Pastoral from 2014 to 2019. This in-depth knowledge of the Oratory, its pilgrims, visitors and donors will enable him to develop relationships with our faithful benefactors of the Associates’ recognition program.



Fr. Patrick Vézina, CSC, the
new Director of Associates

Photo: Maxime Boisvert

We thank Father Aumont for the attention, the time and the pastoral approach brought to our benefactors. The special relationships he has developed make a great difference to those who are going through difficult times or who wish that Saint Brother André and Saint Joseph would protect them. You will have the opportunity to see him again as he continues his pastoral work at the Oratory.

Please join us in congratulating Father Vézina on this new mandate and in thanking Father Aumont for his great contribution to philanthropic development and to Saint Joseph’s Oratory.

UPDATE OF THE RECOGNITION PROGRAM



As with our major projects, the *Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal’s Benefactor Recognition Program* will be gradually renewed over the next three years. Expressing our gratitude to the benefactors who support the mission of Saint Brother André remains our priority. The changes will ensure proper, fair and tax compliant recognition of Canada Revenue Agency regulations, while accommodating the needs of all donors. You will be kept informed throughout the process.

A PROMISING PROJECT!

The news is good on the Major Development Project. Work is well underway and the exterior framework of the new Reception Pavilion is nearing completion.

Integrated into the hillside and equipped with a green roof, this pavilion will allow interior access to all facilities from the Queen Mary Road level and will offer better accessibility for families and people with reduced mobility. From the Oratory's terrace, one can also see the tower that will house the restored carillon. Let's bet that this new structure will become the focal point of the future Reception Pavilion!

Built into the hillside with a green roof, this pavilion will allow interior access to all facilities.

During the winter months, workers were busy inside the building setting up the infrastructure for the reception and food services as well as the Gift Shop. In addition, the construction of the long corridor that will link the pavilion and the shrine is well underway.



The concrete structure of the future Reception Pavilion is taking shape on several levels to the west of the Sainte-Croix Pavilion. In the center, a steel structure will receive the bells of the restored carillon. – Photo, November 2022: André Charron

It is promising to see the speed at which the work is progressing. The inauguration of the new Reception Pavilion is scheduled for the fall of 2023. Take advantage of your next visit to Saint Joseph's Oratory to see the progress!

Continue to support with your donations this great development project for better accessibility and a greener site!

YOUR GIFTS IN FERVENT ACTION!

Thanks to your donations, many people benefit every day from wonderful places to express their faith. In the Basilica and the Crypt Church of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, 52 masses are celebrated each week: in French, English, Spanish and sometimes in Creole and Tamil. At the heart of this vast site, the Votive Chapel is a place of fervent prayer to Saint Joseph and Saint Brother André, CSC. The flames of the lanterns that shine in the darkness testify to the intentions entrusted to them by the pilgrims. Afflicted hearts find an attentive ear with the pastoral team: in confession or during counselling. Couples dare to have a spiritual experience during the weekends of the Marriage Preparation Service. In short, thanks to you, life, love, faith and hope find their expression in this sacred place. **Thank you for contributing to the life of the shrine!**



WONDERFUL HONOUR!

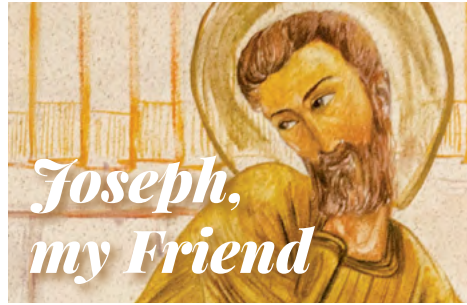
For the 40th anniversary of the magazine *Continuité*, its online community selected Saint Joseph's Oratory as one of the seven wonders of Quebec's built heritage, which were unveiled last fall. A great honour!



The exclusive list also includes the Maison Drouin on Île d'Orléans, the Grande Ferme in the Côte-de-Beaupré region, the Maison de la prune in Kamouraska, the Paspébiac National Historic Site, the Hôpital général de Québec monastery and the town of Arvida. All of these heritage sites have been illustrated in works by visual artists.

For his work representing the Oratory, Hassan Zahreddine used copper engraving (aqua fortis and mezzotint) and watercolour. His work was selected for the cover page of the anniversary issue of *Continuité*, Winter 2023, featuring a section titled "Raconter le Québec." Wonderful!

Keep in touch with the Oratory thanks to our monthly e-newsletter! Register right now on our website: www.saint-joseph.org



Novena to Saint Joseph March 10 to 18

Preaching in English:
Father Nicolas Sengson, SVD
12:15 p.m. – Except on
Sunday, March 12, at 11:15 a.m.

Preaching in French:
Most Rev. Yvon Joseph Moreau, OCSO
Most Rev. François Lapierre, PMÉ
Most Rev. Christian Rodembourg, MSA
2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
(see detailed schedule on our website)

Feast of Saint Joseph March 19

**Solemn Mass in English
in the Crypt Church:**
11:15 a.m. – Father Vijai Amirtharaj, CSC

**Solemn Masses in French
in the Basilica:**
10:00 a.m. – Most Rev. Christian Rodembourg, Bishop of Saint-Hyacinthe
2:30 p.m. – Most Rev. Frank Leo, Archbishop of Toronto
7:30 p.m. – Most Rev. Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montréal

Concert on the theme of the Resurrection

Organ and voice
With Pierre Rancourt, baritone

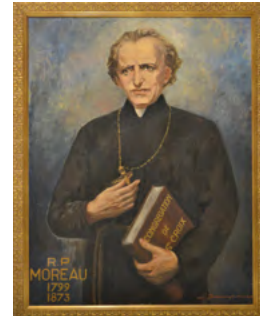
Sunday April 9 – 3:30 p.m.
Basilica – Free admission
Contribution at discretion



Holy Week and Easter

Visit our website to learn about our activities and the schedule of celebrations.

April 2 to 9, 2023
www.saint-joseph.org



The Legacy of Blessed Basile Moreau in Canada

Exhibition organized by the Fathers, Brothers and Sisters of the Congregation of Holy Cross with the collaboration of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal

The year 2023 marks the 150th anniversary of the death of Blessed Basile Moreau (1799-1873), founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The exhibition is a tribute to his work and aims to present the spirituality of Father Moreau and the legacy he left to Canada through the lives and works of the women and men who followed him.

January 20 to July 1, 2023
Level 4 – Free



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Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is a
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