

The Friend of Brother André



SUMMER 2022

Little summer miracle

Nina Santillana-Carrios has a beautiful history with Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. "A memorable experience for my husband and I," says this monthly donor. A story full of life and gratitude.

"We got married in July 2014. From that moment on, we prayed to have children. I even traveled to the Philippines and prayed in several churches in my country. I wished so much in my heart to have a child!"

A defining visit

Summer 2017, a friend invites the couple to visit Montréal. He offered to take them to Saint Joseph's Oratory. It was August, the month of Saint Brother André... This visit was to be defining for Nina.

"I clearly remember that visit. They told us about the miracles that Brother André performed. We witnessed the crowd and many devotees the Oratory drew. We were blessed to experience the peacefulness and sacredness of the place. I cannot explain our feeling that day, but we knew we were happy to be there. We visited Brother André's tomb and whispered our hearts' desires. We offer up ourselves and our prayers."

A faith that can't be beaten

"We never despaired and continued to pray and strengthen our faith," writes Nina. And the long-awaited news came.

"On November 22 of that same year, I found out that I was three weeks pregnant. My husband and I were in tears! It was truly an answered prayer. We had been told by my doctor that the last thing we could try was *in vitro*.

Our son will soon be 4 years old. We had the opportunity to bring him to the Oratory after his first birthday and are looking forward to visit again over the summer, God willing!"



Nina had come to pray in August. It was this symbolic month that she chose to sign up for the monthly donation. Just like a child who grows day by day, her small monthly donation will become big!

And you, have you ever thought of opting for this type of giving?



PEACE to our human family

The World Meeting of Families to be held in Rome at the end of June will conclude the Year of the Family designated by Pope Francis. This gathering will be an opportunity to celebrate love, forgiveness, strength and faith that lives in the heart of the family and to reflect on its challenges of today.

We consider the extended community of Saint Joseph of which you are all a part of as a family, in the sense that we pray for each other and we share hopes as well as dreams — and of course, we wish the best for each and everyone!

As we close this special year, I offer my blessing to all your families, whatever they may be.

I take this opportunity to recall the importance of the human family throughout the world and wish it peace, healing and hope. In the name of our belonging to this great family, may God give us all the strength to share our love and concern for each other.

May all of our sisters and brothers who are suffering today from war or violence, poverty or isolation, sickness or despair find solace in our solidarity and compassion.

God bless you and may you have much peace.

Michael M. DeLaney, CSC

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector



Every donation counts, whatever the amount, and helps support Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

Your donation counts!

Throughout the Oratory's history, from the modest wooden chapel to the majestic Basilica, Saint Brother André's work has been able to evolve because of supporters' donations. Today, this prominent spiritual landmark has become a must-see destination in Montréal, welcoming visitors from all over the world.

The friends who were there in the beginning believed in the project of this visionary brother who attracted crowds to the Oratory. And today's friends continue to believe in it and watch over this rich heritage of millions of life stories where everyone can see a reflection of themselves.

It's easy to make a donation. Simply use the reply coupon inserted in the mailing of THE FRIEND of Brother André newsletter:

1) fill out the section "I'd like to make a gift" and 2) choose the payment method that suits you best: cheque, credit card or make an online donation on the Saint Joseph's Oratory website.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and your loyalty!

A survey to know you better

Many of you responded to the survey we sent out with the last newsletter. The results allow us to know you better! Highlights and the winner of the participation prize will be announced in our next issue. **THANK YOU!**

Contact us!

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www.saint-joseph.org/yoursupport

Photo: André Charon, CSC



LIGHT ON THE JOURNEY

Welcoming and providing spiritual care for pilgrims have been at the heart of the mission of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal since its origins in 1904. In itself, the Oratory is a sacred site and a space of beauty where believers feel closer to God, regardless of their faith and how they express it.

The pastoral team welcomes pilgrims and offers them spiritual support, respecting who they are and what they are seeking. Saint Joseph and Saint Brother André, CSC, are proposed to them as companions on their journey.

Your donations enable Saint Joseph's Oratory to offer a variety of services that are accessible at all times, 15 hours a day, 365 days a year. Among these, a counseling service creates a space where pilgrims can confide in someone and draw hope in order to continue their journey.

Thank you for your invaluable support!

Father Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC

Pastoral care aims to foster a spiritual experience that allows pilgrims to:

- Find meaning in what they are experiencing;
- Engage in a process of selflessness and giving of thanks;
- Live a faith founded on trust and not on fear or guilt;
- Discover a sense of prayer to God the Father who is close to them.

Accompagnement with God's grace

Several years ago, a Dominican colleague said to me: "At the counseling office, it must always be the same things that come up again and again ..."

On the contrary. Each person who comes to this meeting space is unique, marked by their family background, culture, and history; by what overwhelms them, what worries them, what they are looking for. The pilgrims who come to the Oratory or those who reach out to us by phone all come from very different worlds.

Often, their self-questioning is centred entirely around one specific question that prevents them from moving forward. Together, while we can't get to the bottom of everything, the very act of opening up, of talking about things, is already a release for them.

My experience has taught me just how important it is to listen carefully to the other person before responding. To discover the person in front of me. My having lived in several countries and being able to speak a few languages are certainly advantages that favour productive exchanges.

Lastly, the way the person feels received is very important. Grace is always at work, between what the person reveals about themselves, how I respond and what they retain from our sharing.

Some pilgrims come to thank me for the meeting we had, even months later. It brings me joy to know that our talk made a difference, gave someone the strength to go further or to reconcile with themselves or with others.

Father Bernard East, OP

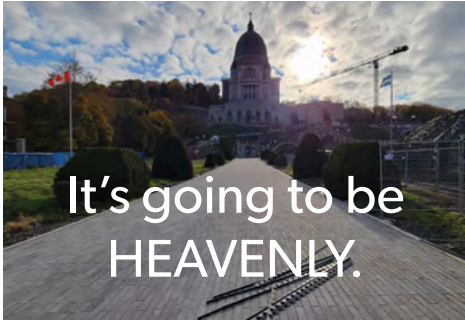


Photo: Pomerleau

The laying of the paving stones has smartened up the pedestrian walkway in front of the Oratory. With the current pace of construction, we expect to be able to open the new Welcome Centre in early fall of 2023. Our sincere thanks for your support of the major development project! Your contribution is immensely appreciated.

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ON THE SEASON'S CALENDAR

Solargraphy in the city

Virtual exhibition of the French artist-photographer Fabrice Lassort. Striking images of an intense blue captured from the Garden of the Way of the Cross and on the grounds of the Oratory. Original and amazing!
saint-joseph.org

An organist from Notre-Dame de Paris in concert



Photo: Klara Beck

Concert with Vincent Dubois, titular organist of the great organ of the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral.

In collaboration with the *Concours Prix d'Europe*.

Sunday, June 12, 2022 – Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Free (voluntary contribution)

Garden of the Way of the Cross

A meditative haven of beauty and peace. A well-kept secret in Montréal!

Open until October.

August: Let us celebrate Saint Brother André!



Photo: André Charron, CSC

Triduum followed by the anniversary of the birth of Saint André, August 9. Candlelight processional; concerts; open-air masses; pilgrimage to Mont-Saint-Grégoire.
A festive month not to be missed!

The Museum Collection The Crèches of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal



View more than 125 works of art that bear witness to the creativity of artists who have shaped their vision of the Nativity of the Lord.

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



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