

The Friend of Brother André



SUMMER 2023

A PROMISE HONoured

When Lucie Medeiros and her father Virginio made their way up to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, they carried the sweet memory of Maria Dos Anjos, mother and wife, with them. Their trust in Saint Joseph and in Saint Brother André is inseparable from the faith of this benevolent and beloved woman.

"When I was born, my mother carried me up the stairs in her arms to entrust me to Saint Joseph and Brother André," says Lucie. "The delivery was hard on her but thankfully, I was born healthy," she adds, with gratitude.

Shortly afterwards, Virginio was in a serious accident. The doctors' verdict wasn't good: he would no longer walk and would have to use a wheelchair. But Maria wouldn't let the news discourage her. "My mother brought my father to Brother André's tomb," says Lucie. "She prayed for his help so that my father would recover and be able to work to provide for his family."

To her prayer, Maria added a commitment: to offer a donation to the Oratory, every year, on March 19 the Feast of Saint Joseph. Her prayer was answered. Virginio was able to start working again and Maria always kept her promise.

Admirable Grand Associates

Originally from the Azores, the Medeiros' settled in Quebec in the spring of 1960 bringing some of their Portuguese traditions with them and their devotion to Saint Joseph. Their attachment to the Oratory is a happy extension



Grand Associates of Brother André and members of the Rector's Circle, Virginio Medeiros and his daughter Lucie participated in the Feast of Saint Joseph on March 19. A family tradition of great value!

of their roots. Their diligent participation in shrine masses and activities is admirable, as is their faithfulness as benefactors.

In 1986, Virginio and Maria were received as Grand Associates of Brother André, and their daughter Lucie followed suit in 2000. She had also been granted several favours through prayer. The call to support the work of Brother André is a family affair in the Medeiros household! They went on to become members of the Rector's Circle. Lucie emphasizes the importance of the annual benefactors' meetings: "Each year, we find that the Associates of Brother André are one big family and we exchange our testimonials and prayer requests with all its members."

Maria Dos Anjos passed away last fall, but Virginio and Lucie continue to honour her commitment to the Oratory with their presence and annual donations. In the name of love and gratitude.



PEACE *beyond our Lives*

When summer arrives, it is inevitable that I think of the time growing up with my family and friends, and the swimming, boating, picnics and relaxation by Skaneateles Lake in New York State. The name means “long lake” in one of the local Iroquoian languages, but the lake is also sometimes referred to as “the roof garden of the Lakes” because its altitude is higher than the other Finger Lakes.

Here at Saint Joseph’s Oratory, one can discover “the roof garden of the city!” The Garden of the Way of the Cross is a magnificently landscaped place on Mount Royal that invites you to meditation, to exterior silence and to inner peace.

Going to the mountain gives us access to a different perspective on the city. In the same way, going to the Oratory often allows us to reach the distance necessary to take a different look at our concerns and problems; at what discourages us or saddens us.

“Rarely have I found anyone who has come to the Oratory without leaving better, consoled, or without having received some kind of favour.” With this confidence, Saint Brother André expressed in a way what it means to receive the peace of God.

Take advantage of the summer to come to the Oratory. You could walk the paths of the Garden of the Way of the Cross, take a break on the terrace, admire the panorama, and be silent within yourself. This stop will lift you above the city, and perhaps even above your daily worries. The peace of God is offered to you.

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

A safe bet for the environment



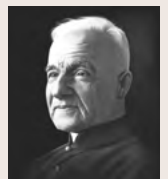
Did you know? Choosing the monthly donation has a greater impact on the Oratory and you’re contributing to protecting the environment.

By expressing your faithfulness through a monthly donation, you are an *Artisan of the Oratory!* At the heart of the Oratory’s mission, you provide ongoing support for the shrine’s priority projects and needs while making a positive impact on the environment. By contributing monthly, we only send a single tax receipt at the end of the year, saving on both paper and postage costs. In addition, your support provides a stable source of income for the Oratory and allows us to reduce the administrative costs of processing your donation.

Together, let’s be the artisans of an environmental legacy to be passed on to future generations. With a monthly donation of only \$15, you will reach the annual contribution of \$175 required for access to *The Associates of Brother André* recognition program.

Sign up for the monthly donation!

AN EVOLVING PROGRAM



Ever since Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal’s early days, Brother André surrounded himself with faithful friends who participated in expanding the shrine. It’s thanks to the generosity of benefactors who have continued the tradition of donating that the Oratory has been able to continue its activities and spread the legacy of Saint Brother André over time.

Since 1954, the Oratory has been thanking its benefactors with its *Associates of Brother André* recognition program, which includes the Grand Associates of Brother André and the Rector’s Circle. Each of the donor categories receives its own recognition.

In order to adapt to the reality of today’s philanthropic environment and to meet the needs of the Oratory, we are making changes to the contribution threshold required to access a higher status. Therefore, since January 2023, the minimum annual donation to become an Associate of Brother André is \$175.

Also, we remind you that Grand Associates are required to make an annual contribution. To be eligible for the recognition program, they need to have made their annual Associate contribution. The \$1,000 annual contribution for membership in the Rector’s Circle remains unchanged.

Thank you for being part of a community that is committed to sustaining our beloved shrine overlooking Mount Royal.

ECO-FRIENDLY project

To benefit the environment, the Major Development Project for Saint Joseph's Oratory includes the addition of green spaces, flower gardens and green roofs. But there's more! Some of this project's eco-friendly assets can't be seen with the naked eye.

The construction of the new Reception Pavilion was driven by sustainable development principles with the aim of qualifying for the **LEED® Silver® certification**. The materials were chosen wisely. Locally extracted and processed materials with a high proportion of recycled content and FSC certified lumber were preferred. This also includes paint types and air filter quality. No stone was left unturned in prioritizing the health and well-being of users.

The future pavilion will be heated with **geothermal energy**, essentially drawing heat from the ground. Very deep wells were drilled and, thanks to a closed loop glycol system, heat from



Illustration: Lemay, Architecture and Design

This major project bears the seal of sustainable development.

the ground will be captured and moved into the building using heat pumps. Geothermal heating will significantly reduce energy consumption.

We also emphasized **responsible management of waste** generated by construction. The concrete, metal and wood removed from the site are almost entirely reused or recycled.

When the walkway in front of the Oratory is reopened, its horticultural and landscaping design will have been transformed into the **Garden of**

Saint Joseph. Vehicular traffic will have been eliminated to promote the safety of pedestrians. In this enchanting and welcoming setting, visitors will be able to wander in peace.

Fresh, green spaces will line the parking lots, which will be equipped with several **electric charging stations** and spaces for bicycles.

Continue to support the Oratory in sustainable and environmentally responsible building!

DIVINE BEAUTY!

At Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, we're aware that the natural environment we protect and conserve is priceless.

- Over 900 trees, deciduous and coniferous, of 20 different genres of more than 26 species as well as about 30 genres of shrubs grow on site.
- The Garden of the Way of the Cross alone is home to approximately 380 trees and many shrubs. It's a place where plant and stone are in harmony.
- The Père-Louis-Trempe Nature Reserve aims to protect the four natural woodlands behind the Basilica.
- Thousands of annual and perennial flowers are chosen, arranged and maintained with great care by the Oratory's horticulture team.

Through your donations, you contribute to the preservation of the natural environment of the Oratory site; to the maintenance and embellishment of this place where divine beauty is made manifest. Thank you and **keep it up!**





Photo: A. Charron

SAINT JOSEPH BY LALIBERTÉ: 100 YEARS!

“ITE AD JOSEPH.” For 100 years, this Latin inscription engraved on the Monument to Saint Joseph at the entrance of the shrine has been attracting passers-by and welcoming visitors to Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal.

A masterpiece by Quebec sculptor Alfred Laliberté, the monument was unveiled on June 10, 1923, to a large crowd. The artist attended the event with the architect Alphonse Venne, who designed the plans for the project.

The monument consists of a principal bronze statue depicting Saint Joseph and the Infant Jesus. Its white granite base is decorated by four angels symbolizing the Church, the Homeland, Science and Work.

“We have to admit that the monument is a success. Through sobriety and elegance, it successfully passed the test of time,” commented Odette Legendre, biographer of the artist, in *Alfred Laliberté, sculpteur* (Boréal, 1989). This work has been photographed many times and has been a great ambassador for the Oratory over the last century. A landmark work.

Organ Concert

Didier Matry, titular organist,
Saint-Augustin Church, Paris
*In collaboration with the
Concours Prix d’Europe*

Sunday, June 11, 2023
Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Free (voluntary contribution)



Garden of the Way of the Cross

A place of peace, a meditative
haven of beauty.

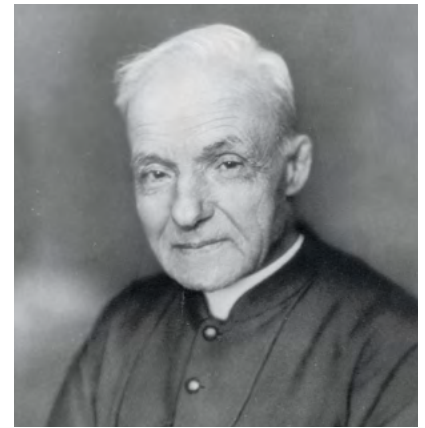
Open daily until mid-October – Free



The Museum Collection

The Crèches of Saint Joseph’s
Oratory of Mount Royal

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



AUGUST

Month of Saint Brother André

Consult the www.saint-joseph.org website for a complete schedule of events for this festive month!

August 6, 7, 8

Triduum of Prayer

August 9

Birthday of Saint André

(born Alfred Bessette in 1845)

- Mass for the Sick
- Concert “*La musique au temps de saint frère André*”
By La Schola de l’Oratoire Choir
Original Chapel – Free

Pilgrimage to Mont-Saint-Grégoire

A joyful return to our roots.
Mass followed by a festive lunch.
Guided prayer at Brother André’s
birthplace.

Sunday, August 27

Information: 514 733-8211, ext. 2793

*Keep in touch with the Oratory
thanks to our montly e-newsletter!
Register right now on our website:*

www.saint-joseph.org



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Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal is a
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