

The Friend of Brother André

FALL 2022



Shaped by Saint Joseph's Oratory



Photo: Caroline Lesser

Gloria Lesser's emotion is palpable as she recalls her special connection with Saint Joseph's Oratory since 1941, and why she is a proud donor supporting the shrine. She has a warm attachment to the Oratory overlooking part of the mountain and to the interior decors that she and her brother Michael had walked through since childhood.

"Rachel — our nanny — introduced us to the signs, symbols and rituals of Catholicism, such as the sign of the cross, the kneelers and kneeling steps of the Oratory's stairways, and the sculptural array of crutches on display in the Votive Chapel, decorated with bas reliefs by the sculptor Joseph Guardo."

A beacon of spirituality

For Gloria, "the Côte-des-Neiges borough remains a beacon of spirituality personified by the Oratory. Touched by the piety of the site, visitors from many cultural communities consider it a pilgrimage destination." She herself is particularly sensitive to this, having grown up in a Jewish family during the post-war period.

An artistic heritage

A Concordia University graduate in art history and having taught the subject at Champlain College in Saint-Lambert, Gloria eloquently expresses how the Oratory's architectural composition and the works of art on display awakened her on a profound level to the "spiritual dimension," particularly in relation to the religious

icons of the Latin and Eastern rites on which she still focuses her research, and her intellectual and spiritual curiosity. Her passion for art history found its reflection in her generosity.

She has contributed to the enrichment of the artistic landscape of Saint Joseph's Oratory, in particular through her gift to the Oratory Museum of religious ceramics made by Quebec ceramists and enamellers.

A place of refuge

With quiet simplicity, she describes how in all the difficult and challenging moments of her life, such as her brother's death, Saint Joseph's Oratory served as a place of refuge and steadiness for her.

Gloria's story also reveals how the Oratory has, in turn, nourished her and given back to her in kind, shaping her interior and spiritual landscape.

And you, in what way have you been touched by Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal?

“The philanthropists of Mount Royal”



The Oratory has become what it is today in large part due to all of you, our donors. Even as the vision was shaping in Brother André’s mind, certain individuals were already taking initiatives to help transform the dream into reality.

Through your contributions to keep Saint Brother André’s work alive, not only are you helping us pursue our activities, but you are also, above all else, showing that you care for others and that the well-being of the pilgrims and visitors is important to you.

For us, and for all those seeking a sanctuary for prayer, replenishment, healing and blessing, you are helping to provide a beacon of hope.

In the May 2, 1961, issue of *The FRIEND of Brother André*, a donor said: “We have been called the philanthropists of Mount Royal, a title of which we are very proud.” We could not have said it better. As the Oratory receives no government grants, our operations depend essentially on the generosity of our donors.

Whether it is through an annual or monthly gift, a donation dedicated to a specific project or activity, or a bequest for the Oratory in a will, your commitment ensures the continuation of our pastoral care—masses, sacrament of reconciliation, blessings, guidance—and our ability to offer programs to pilgrims and visitors, such as welcoming students who are learning about Saint Brother André, accommodating the sick who come to pray to Brother André for healing and supporting immigrants who visit the Oratory to give thanks to Saint Joseph for the new life they are embarking upon.

Here at Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal, we are grateful to each one of our donors and we remember you and your good deeds in our daily prayers.

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

Survey 2022 RESULTS

Here are the results of the survey sent out with the February 2022 newsletter. Over **3,000** people answered our call to allow us to get to know you better. This level of participation is a clear indication of how important the Oratory is to you.

In 2020, **74%** of the Oratory’s revenue came exclusively from the gifts of our benefactors. Your support is therefore essential to the continuation of our mission. ***The Oratory receives no grants for its operations.***

On behalf of the staff of the Oratory, I thank you for helping us continue the mission of Saint Brother André. It has been a pleasure to welcome you to the world’s largest shrine dedicated to Saint Joseph for over 100 years.

Carole Lemieux, CPA, CMA
Director, Philanthropic Development

Survey Highlights

28%

would like the Oratory to give special attention to those who are suffering.

66%

of donors feel no need for recognition, and would like to be remembered in prayers and to receive a thank-you letter with their tax receipt*. Only 34% of donors indicated an interest in objects and banquets of recognition.

43%

of respondents prefer to see information in their newsletter about the Oratory’s current and past activities (historical facts).

15%

of benefactors make their donation online and 46% by mail.

91%

believe that the frequency with which we send communications is sufficient.

* Note: To ensure that your gift is directed to the mission and not administrative fees, tax receipts are issued for donations over \$20.

QUEBEC DONOR PROFILES

S

SENIORS (76+)

- Those whose health was most affected by COVID-19
- Born between the two great wars, they respect authority and religion
- 70% have made or plan to make a donation in 2021 (Canada: 73%)
- Donate to 5.1 organizations (Canada: 5.9 organizations)

Bb

BABY-boomers (56-75)

- Retired or close to retirement, they were less affected by the financial impact of the pandemic
- Their life has been marked by prosperity, full employment and a belief in progress
- 67% have made or plan to make a donation in 2021 (Canada: 67%)
- Donate to 3.5 organizations (Canada: 4.8 organizations)

X

Generation X (41-55)

- Caught between supporting their children and their aging parents, they are concerned more than ever about saving for their retirement
- They are "down to earth" and impacted by major economic shocks and waves of unemployment
- 51% have made or plan to make a donation in 2021 (Canada: 54%)
- Donate to 3.2 organizations (Canada: 3.3 organizations)

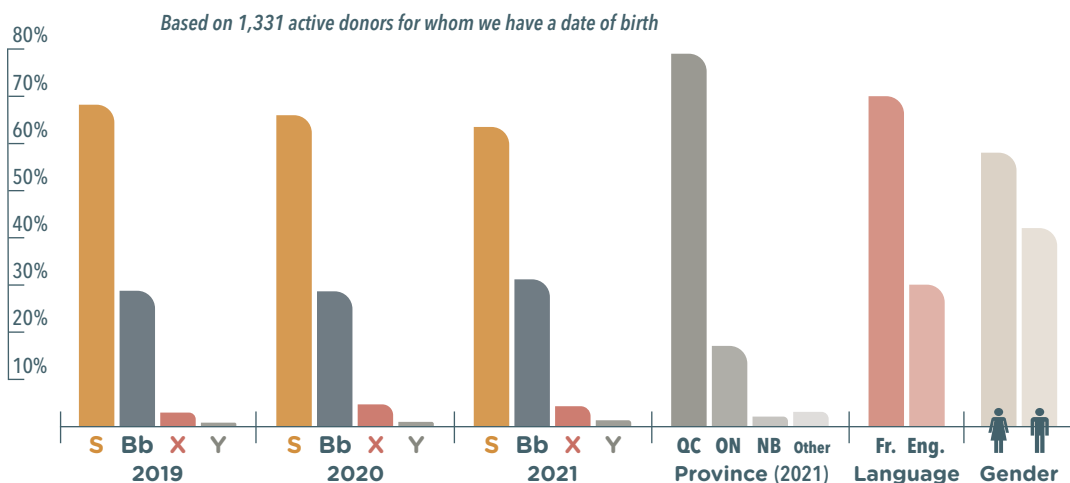
Y

Generation Y (25-40)

- Also known as "millennials," they have grown up with the Internet and are known for their independence
- They will be impacted throughout their lives by the significant economic consequences of the pandemic, but also by the major crises that have marked the early 21st century
- 47% have made or plan to make a donation in 2021 (Canada: 48%)
- Donate to 2.4 organizations (Canada: 2.8 organizations)

Source: *Mise au point philanthropique 2021, étude sur les tendances en philanthropie au Québec* – Author: *Épisode, philanthropie & investissement communautaire*

ORATORY DONORS



PROVINCE	
QC	\$87
ON	\$100
NB	\$64
Other	\$190

LANGUAGE	
French	\$89
English	\$93

GENDER	
Female	\$76
Male	\$111

Average age	
Female	78 year-old
Male	77 year-old

Average gift by source

	2019	2020	2021
General	\$85	\$90	\$96
Direct-mail solicitation	\$104	\$111	\$124
Mail	\$97	\$112	\$121
Telephone	\$127	\$259	\$191
On site	\$94	\$133	\$135
Online	\$160	\$136	\$132

	2019	2020	2021
Y	\$179	\$110	\$105
X	\$65	\$97	\$73
Bb	\$87	\$98	\$104
S	\$98	\$108	\$106



Father Claude Grou receives the *Prix du Mont-Royal 2022*



Photo: Daniëlle Decelles

On June 10, during a ceremony at the Basilica of the Oratory, Caroline Bourgeois, Executive Committee vice-chair and responsible for large parks, Mount Royal, sports and recreation, Espace pour la vie, Jean-Drapeau Park and the East End of Montréal, and Peter A. Howlett, C.M., president of Les amis de la montagne, were pleased to award the Prix du Mont-Royal 2022 to Father Claude Grou, CSC, rector of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal from 2005 to 2020.

As rector of the Oratory, Father Grou distinguished himself by his outstanding contribution to the protection and enhancement of the Westmount summit of the mountain. He also guided the planning and implementation of the Oratory's major development project. He is also a founding member of the Table de concertation du Mont-Royal. "I am touched by this recognition, which is also addressed to the entire team of the Oratory who, for many years, have wanted to make the Oratory a place of pilgrimage, but also a place that would play its part in a broader effort to make Mount Royal an exceptional place of which everyone would be proud," said Father Claude Grou, CSC. Congratulations!



Closing recital of the Organ Festival of the Canadian International Organ Competition (CIOC)



Daniel Brondel, organist of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York

Sunday, October 23, 2022
Basilica, 7:30 p.m.
Free admission – voluntary contribution

Tribute to Kenneth Gilbert

Music by Bach, Scarlatti and Couperin

With Luc Beauséjour, Hank Knox, Josée April and Catherine Todorovski

Françoise Davoine, host

Presented in partnership with the Festival Bach Montréal

Sunday, November 20, 2022
Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Free admission – voluntary contribution

Return of the pilgrimage to Mont-Saint-Grégoire!



Photo: Nathalie Dumas

Sunday, August 28, 2022

Mass at the parish church: 11 a.m.

Lunch at La Goudrelle: 12:30 p.m.

Prayer at the Memorial: 2:30 p.m.

Bus transportation package (departure from Saint Joseph's Oratory) and meal: \$30

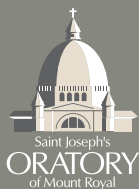
Reservations and information: 514 733-8211, ext. 2795

It's a date!

Garden of the Way of the Cross

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

Open until October 11



3800 QUEEN MARY ROAD
MONTREAL QC H3V 1H6
514 733-8211
WWW.SAINT-JOSEPH.ORG



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



Production: Communications Office
Caron Communications graphiques | Transcontinental