

The Friend of Brother André



FALL 2023

THE CARILLON IS BACK IN FULL FORM

The carillon of Saint Joseph's Oratory is back home on Mount Royal after undergoing major restoration work by France's Paccard Foundry between 2019 and 2023. The 56 bells that were installed in 1955 have been cleaned, brushed and tuned, giving them back their original shine and proper tones.

Six new bells, including four cast by Paccard Foundry, were added as well, increasing the range of this distinguished instrument. In June, the bronze bells were blessed and then mounted in the new steel and glass bell tower overlooking what will soon be the new Reception Pavilion.

Andrée-Anne Doane has been looking forward to this day more than anyone else. As the titular carillonist, she closely monitored every step in the process of installing the restored bells. This has been a major event for the musician, who has been making the Oratory's bells sing since 2009. She knows each bell by name, note and how they harmonize with one another.

On September 5, 2018, for her final recital with the instrument before its restoration, she played "Je reviendrai à Montréal." The carillon delivered! It's now back in full form and with six new bells to boot, the largest of these—the bourdon—weighing 3,600 kg and delivering a beautiful B-flat. It's adorned with the likeness of Saint Brother André and honours the generosity of its benefactors.

"The restoration will enhance the carillon and allow people to fully appreciate its true value," says Andrée-Anne Doane, who is eager to master the new additions. "There will be more consistency across the keys. I won't have to press as hard to make the bigger bells ring!" She also highlights another significant improvement: "The place where I'll be playing is quieter, which will make it easier for me to hear each bell."



Photo: N. Dumas

Andrée-Anne Doane, carillonist titular of Saint Joseph's Oratory, rejoices the return of the bells in the new campanile.

This joy will emanate from the bell tower through the carillon's melodies, to the delight of the Oratory's visitors.

A musical gift

Andrée-Anne Doane's azure eyes shine with her passion for the carillon and music. It is a gift that runs in the Doane family. Her parents are mezzo soprano Marie Laferrière and tenor David Doane, who sang far more than lullabies to their three children thanks to their rich, powerful voices. The parents exposed their children to the true artistry of music: "Passing down our love of music and our faith is important to our family."

A decade ago, Andrée-Anne Doane became a member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America. Last June, her son Gabriel became the first student from the Vincent d'Indy music school to earn a degree in carillons. The next generation of artists is here and the future looks bright for the carillon of the Oratory.



THE PATH TO GOD

Music is a universal language, something which has its own uniqueness in each culture across the world! The act of singing or playing an instrument has a unifying effect among us; it brings people together and predisposes us to share with one another. It encourages listening and communication. It awakens feelings of commonality and peace. Music is a path to unity!

Attending one of the concerts at Saint Joseph's Oratory Basilica, I reflect on how much music nourishes and uplifts the soul. There is always a peaceful, contemplative atmosphere among the attentive audience as they listen to each piece played or sung. In whatever form, there is a sense of fulfillment upon hearing such music. Hearing it enables inner exploration and connection with something greater than oneself. Music is a path to communion with God!

That's why music and song are so important in our religious celebrations. The reflective chanting of the *Kyrie* and *Agnus Dei*, the joyful soaring of the *Alleluia* and *Sanctus*, the psalms and songs of thanksgiving give rhythm to our liturgies and allow us to express our faith in beauty. I'd also like to take this opportunity to highlight the exceptional artistic contribution of the cantors, organists and carillonists of Saint Joseph's Oratory, of the *Schola* and of course, of the *Maîtrise des Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*.

On your behalf, I thank them for guiding us along paths of unity, peace and beauty. And I thank you for supporting this artistic and spiritual vitality that unifies us and brings us closer in communion with God.

Michael M. DeLaney, CSC

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

How to donate

Did you know? The continuation of the Oratory and its activities are only possible thanks to your donations.

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal relies on the generosity of its benefactors to fulfill its mission. We do not receive any operating subsidies whatsoever—not from the government, the Church or the Vatican.

No donation is too small. Every donation counts. You express generosity according to your financial means and the type of donation that suits you best. You can make a **one-time** donation or join the **monthly donation** program, *Artisans of the Oratory*. If you wish to express condolences on the death of a loved one or honour the memory of someone special, the **In Memoriam** donation is for you.

As for the *Guardians of the Oratory*, they seek to bequeath their values to future generations by naming the Oratory in their wills. Be it through life insurance or a **planned donation**, they choose to use their will to make a difference.

Donations can be made at any time: in person at the Oratory, by mail, by phone, or through our secure website.

We are grateful for each individual action that allows Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal to continue to provide help, an attentive ear and support in the spirit of openness and hospitality.

Your support is essential!

ANNUAL RECTOR'S CIRCLE GATHERING

May 1st is an important date at the Oratory. Not only is it the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, but it is also the date of the annual gathering for members of the Rector's Circle. It is the perfect occasion to meet new Circle members and to highlight the commitment of those who have been with us for 5, 10, 15 and even 20 years!



Photo: Julien Perron-Gagné

According to tradition, the reunion started off with Mass in the Crypt Church and was followed by a festive and friendly meal. Some have even taken home flower arrangements prepared by the Oratory's horticultural team.

Nearly 200 of the 677 members of the Rector's Circle have responded to the invitation to celebrate Saint Joseph as well as their own commitment to the largest sanctuary dedicated to him worldwide.



AN EXCEPTIONAL MUSICAL HERITAGE

Saint Joseph's Oratory seeks to provide pilgrims and visitors with a setting of beauty. The celebration of faith—the core of our mission—is supported and enhanced by an exceptional artistic heritage that you can see and hear.

A SHINING CARILLON

The return of the Paccard carillon bells in June generated a great deal of media attention and, understandably, sparked curiosity among the public. The carillon was loaned to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal for its Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1955, and it remained at the Oratory thanks to generous donors.

After major restoration work, the 56-bell carillon has returned from France bearing an additional six bells. Among those added, two of the larger bells increase the range available to the carillonists. The casting of these bells was made possible thanks to those who donated to the *Reaching New Heights* campaign. These bells are your bells. Their melodies will be your voice ringing out on the mountain.

A MAJESTIC ORGAN

The huge interior of the Basilica fills with the magnificent sounds of the grand organ Beckerath during celebrations and concerts. Created between 1958 and 1959, it is an impressive 5,811-pipe organ. Since its inaugural concert in November of 1960, famous organists have played on this incredible instrument.

Together, the Paccard carillon, the Beckerath organ and the Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal choir represent an exceptional musical heritage that is the pride of Saint Joseph's Oratory.

Sixty-two years later, another concert was held, this one marking the organ's restoration by Montréal's Juget-Sinclair Organ-builders between 2011 and 2012. The organ had never previously

undergone a restoration of that scale, making the instrument as good as, if not better than, it once was.

A FAMOUS CHOIR

The Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal choir school has gained worldwide renown. The choir offers a rich and diverse repertoire during concerts, international tours and, of course,

Sunday celebrations at Saint Joseph's Oratory. Since its founding in 1956, many Quebec artists got their start with the Petits Chanteurs.

ART THAT LIFTS THE SOUL!

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal cares deeply about the restoration, preservation and sharing of its artistic and cultural heritage.

- A museum renowned for its exceptional collection of Nativity scenes from all over the world.
- An outdoor Garden of the Way of the Cross that includes 42 unique sculptures that blend harmoniously into a natural setting filled with a variety of trees, shrubs and flowers.
- A collection of religious, historical and artistic works from Quebec and elsewhere.
- A traditional carillon that's the only one of its kind in Quebec.
- Dozens of concerts each year, some produced in partnership with cultural organizations and festivals that welcome artists from around the globe.

By attending a concert, a celebration or through your donations, you contribute to spreading a priceless artistic heritage that must be preserved to keep our place of culture alive. *Thank you and keep it up!*





Return of the exhibition on the life of Saint Brother André

The exhibition has been completely reconfigured, with a new time line extending along the 13 display cases on the 4th floor.

Using key dates as mile markers, visitors can learn more about the life of Brother André and all he represents today.

A selection of objects from the Oratory Museum collections links Brother André to both the Oratory and its visitors.

Every day – 4th floor
Free admission

Keep in touch with the Oratory thanks to our montly e-newsletter!
www.saint-joseph.org



The Garden of the Way of the Cross unveiled

The Oratory Museum team will present the garden through four overarching themes:

- What is the Way of the Cross?
- History of the site and analysis of the landscaping
- Challenges in the conservation and restauration of statuary
- A garden not quite complete: discover our collections in storage

Guided tours in French – 1 hour

Religious Heritage Days:
September 8–9 (Friday and Saturday)

Journées de la culture:
September 29–30 (Friday and Saturday)

Tours start: 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m.
Free admission



© Maxppp – Frédéric Dugit

Notre-Dame de Paris meets Saint Joseph

Philippe Lefebvre, organist titular of the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris

Concert in partnership with the Canadian International Organ Competition (CIOC)

Sunday, October 1 – Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Free admission (freewill offering)

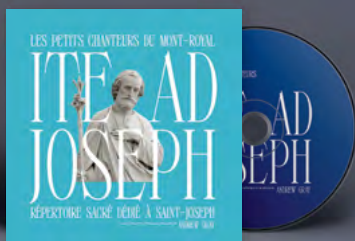
Remembrance Mass

Commemoration of the faithful departed

Thursday, November 2
Crypt Church, 7:30 p.m.

NEW ALBUM BY THE PETITS CHANTEURS DU MONT-ROYAL

Under the musical direction of Andrew Gray



23 sacred songs
from around the world
dedicated to Saint Joseph
A musical ode to discover!

Now on sale at the Oratory's Gift Shop | saint-joseph.org



Festival Bach Montréal at the Oratory

A tradition for more than half a century.

Concerts in partnership with Festival Bach Montréal

Sundays, November 19 and December 3 – Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Free admission (freewill offering)



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